

Church & Village News

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

December 2022 + January 2023



Corpusty Church in The Snow

Photograph by Roger Last

Newsletter Team

Editor Michael McMahon
mjmc25@gmail.com

Copy Date third Wednesday of the month
18 Jan no issue in January

Design, Advertising + Treasurer

Karen Hall 577547
karen@karenhall.co.uk

Distribution Heather De 577271

Print Barnwell Print Ltd, Aylsham 732767

Postal Subscriptions

£15 per year Corinne Youngs 577263

To download previous editions visit:

www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk

Parish Council Chairs

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

Parish Council Websites

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

Village Websites

www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk
www.baconthorpe.org



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

Carbon Balanced Paper. One of the most sustainable forms of communication that will reduce your carbon foot print and promote CSR. www.carbonbalancedpaper.com

Village Correspondents

Baconthorpe hazel.merlin1@gmail.com	Hazel Martin 07879 414577
Barningham Winter s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk	Sara Buxton 577207
Edgefield richardpeaver@gmail.com	Richard Peaver 587486
Hempstead dianaspalton@talktalk.net	Diana Spalton 711117
Matlaske duncan.wood@cantab.net	Duncan Wood 570293
Plumstead harrietwormald@hotmail.com	Harriet Rossi 577239
Saxthorpe with Corpusty birchalljc@aol.com	John Birchall 584290

District Councillors

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

Church People

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

Safeguarding Officers
Catherine McMahon
01263 577357 / cmcmahon161@gmail.com
Lawrence Williams
01263 577292 / trustlawrence@hotmail.com
Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team
safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

What's On

DECEMBER

Fri 2	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up	Village Hall
Sat 3	10.00am	Hempstead Christmas Craft Workshop	Village Hall
Sat 3	10.30am	Corpusty Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Sun 4	7.00pm	Matlaske Christmas Party	TBC
Sat 5	6.00pm	Edgefield Fuel Fund	Village Green
Thur 8	3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Fri 9	10.00am	Baconthorpe Quiz Night	Village Hall
Sat 10	6.30pm	Edgefield Festival Evening	Village Hall
Sat 10	7.00pm	Hempstead Christmas Party	Village Hall
Mon 12	10.30am	Matlaske Christmas Wreath Making	The Stables, Barningham Hall
Tue 20	5.30pm	Plumstead Christmas Celebrations	St Michael's Church
Fri 30	6.00pm	Baconthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

JANUARY

Fri 6	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up	Village Hall
Thur 19	3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Fri 27	6.00pm	Baconthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

Clash Diary

Feb 4 Hempstead Table Top Sale
May 20/21 Edgefield Open Gardens
Contact Corinne Youngs to add your event
577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com

Post Offices

Baconthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 10.00am Village Hall
Corpusty Stores 587726
Monday-Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon
Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

Local MP

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

County Councillor

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

Mobile Library Van

22 Dec / 19 Jan / 16 Feb

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

15 Dec / 12 Jan / 9 Feb

Hempstead	3.40	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
Baconthorpe	4.05	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
	4.20	NR25 6LG	Old Post Office
	4.40	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows

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

Holt Library

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

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.

Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All

I would like to tell you a story about a cross, not about 'the cross', although this story, I believe, has parallels to the crucifixion and to the birth of Jesus.

It is thought that over 40 years ago the brass cross from St Andrew's Church in Saxthorpe was stolen. It was lost for some time, and while it was lost, those in the church commissioned the new wooden cross which you can see at the high altar.

Eventually the cross was found. It was found in a rubbish heap, desecrated: the beautiful glass ornaments representing the five wounds of Christ (hands, feet and side) had been wrenched off. When the cross returned, all were at a loss what to do with it, so for 40 odd years it sat under a dust sheet in the corner of the vestry (the room which the anchorite Cecily lived if you recall from an earlier letter this year).

About 6 weeks ago I looked at it again and thought long and hard about what to do with it: should we finally get rid of it? If so, how? A brass cross is difficult to destroy. Was it too desecrated for the church? Then someone pointed out to me that Jesus was also buried in a rubbish heap (Golgotha was outside the walls of Jerusalem and would have been full of the city's rubbish) and that the wounded body of Christ did not look beautiful – Christ had been desecrated - wrenched and hurt.

Thinking on this, I took the cross to the next Church council meeting. We placed it on the table and lit two candles at its base, and discussed its story. We reflected not only on Jesus's death but also his birth and how he was and is hailed as "The Prince of Peace". Yet Jesus commenced his life not in a beautiful palace but in a stable as no one wanted to help the heavily pregnant Mary. There was no room at the Inn.

Perhaps this forgotten cross is more important than we thought: it shows that even if we are wounded and ignored, we are valued. That God loves everything and everyone.

This is the message of Christmas: it powerful for us to hear again at this time of uncertainty.

May I wish you, your family, friends and your neighbours a wonderful Christmas and a hope filled New Year.

David



The cross in situ in 1947
picture kindly provided by Roger Last



The desecrated cross




The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for December

4 th	Advent II		
8.30am	Eucharist		Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist		Edgefield
7 th	Wednesday Eucharist		
9.00am	Eucharist followed by refreshments		Saxthorpe
11 th	Advent III		
8.30am	Eucharist		Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist		Hempstead
17 th	Saturday Carol Service		
5.00pm	Carol Service		Edgefield
18 th	Advent IV		
10.30am	Eucharist		Plumstead
20 th	Tuesday Children's Activities		
10.30am	Children's Activities until 12noon		Edgefield
21 st	Wednesday Nativity with Carols		
3.00pm	Nativity with Carols (a young cast)		Plumstead
23 rd	Friday Nativity with Carols		
4.00pm	Nativity with Carols (an older cast)		Baconsthorpe
24 th	Christmas Eve		
5.00pm	Candlelit Service		Saxthorpe
11.00pm	Midnight Mass		Matlaske
25 th	Christmas Day		
4.00pm	Eucharist		Saxthorpe

Carol Singing

15 th	6.00pm	Hempstead	Meet at the church gate
16 th	5.30pm	Corpusty	Meet at the school
20 th	6.00pm	Edgefield	Meet at the War Memorial
21 st	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe	Meet at the beginning of Stonefield Road
22 nd	6.00pm	Matlaske	Meet at the church

 The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for January		
1st	Christmas II	
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
8th	Epiphany I	
8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
15th	Epiphany II	
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Mattins & Eucharist	Hempstead
22nd	Epiphany III	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist with Christening	Saxthorpe
29th	Epiphany IV / Candlemas	
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
5th Feb	Sunday Before Lent	
8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

All seven parishes will be holding their annual Parochial Church Council meetings on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 6pm
Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Anyone in the benefice may attend this meeting

HELP WITH ENERGY & HOUSEHOLD COSTS

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

Cromer Food Bank can help with both food provisions and with household bills.
The Matlaske Benefice Support Fund can help with the above and other issues.



Nativity Tuesday 20th December

10.30am till 12noon Edgefield Church

Children and families all welcome from across the villages
Drop in for fun and games around the Nativity Tale
with story and refreshments afterwards

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 M Honeyman, £25 W Peck, £10 K Tester, £5 M Day, J Benton, R Hall

Carol Singing Wednesday 21st

A trusty brave band of singers will be doing their best to bring the spirit of Christmas to your door. Last year we sang along Long Lane so this year we will try for a different section of the village. The plan is to meet the beginning of Stonefield road at 6 00pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Country Mice

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to applaud the work done by Kay Harvey with her group the Country Mice. This group meets at Baconsthorpe village hall every Tuesday from 10am–12noon. Kay welcomes parents, grandparents, babies and toddlers. She has also welcomed families from other countries. I have followed with interest the huge range of activities which Kay provides, thanks to her WhatsApp page – to name just a few – messy play with jelly and cornflour; climbing equipment; nature activities and I was recently intrigued with the Scandinavian session called the 'hygge' session. This involved sensory play with natural materials followed by toast and hot chocolate. What's not to like?

Did You Know?

In my last newsletter I mentioned meeting with Kim Brittingham from the USA who is an avid reader of our newsletter. I am now pleased to share a little more information regarding Kim's link to Baconsthorpe. Kim's 12th great grandfather, William Brittingham was born in 1505. He owned land in Baconsthorpe and Hempstead, but he lived in Baconsthorpe and his will requested that he should be buried in Baconsthorpe churchyard. He died in 1573 and left instructions that on the day of his burial food and drink should be provided for the poor. William's great, great, grandson also lived in Hempstead and left for the colonies in 1658. Kim is working on a book to preserve information about the Brittingham family and she will send a copy when completed. If anyone has any information that would help Kim, I will gladly pass it on to her.

Mobile Post Office Van

Just a reminder that the post office van calls at the car park opposite the village hall every Wednesday from 9.40am to 10.40am. I am told that they offer a range of services and on board there is also stationary, cards, cakes and even pet treats!

Finally, as 2022 draws to a close I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a very peaceful 2023.

Village Hall News

Pop-Up Pub – Friday 30 December 6pm Baked potatoes with a variety of fillings from 6.30pm

Pop-Up Pub – Friday 27 January 6pm Lasagne. Reluctantly we have had to increase the price of the meal by 50p, as all our costs are rising. This is the first price rise for several years, sorry about that.
200 Club – as you will have all seen on the flyer last month, we still have some numbers available in the 200 Club. Please support the Village Hall by subscribing, plus you could win £50! Every month!

At the end of January the hall will be fully redecorated. Your support makes this possible.

Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

We send Matilda Coutauld our very best wishes on her travels to Malaysia. Have a wonderful time Matilda and enjoy every minute. We look forward to hearing of your stories on your return.

The annual wreath making is taking place at The Stables, Barningham Hall on Monday 12th December at 10.30am. This year will be slightly different as Tessa won't be there but we are going to do a 'DIY' wreath!! We will provide the basics (greenery, wire etc) but do bring along any treasures that you have that you would like to use on your wreath. Coffee and lunch will be included in the cost which is £20. Dress warmly. All proceeds from this event will go to our little church. Please email amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk to reserve a place.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

Thank you to Judy Rosser for taking our Remembrance Day service, and for the splendid trumpet rendition of the Last Post via her mobile! Thanks also to those who took part in what is always a very special annual event. We start our preparations for Christmas with decorating the church and the Christmas tree on Saturday, 10th at 10am. We will be so grateful to anyone who will come and help us? This is earlier than usual because our Carol Service is the following Saturday 17th, due to the World Cup Final due on the Sunday 18th! Do come and start off the Christmas with some wonderful carols, followed by mulled wine or juice, and mince pies. Carol singing will be on Tuesday, 20th December, starting at 6pm and meeting at the end of Canon Marcon Way. Also on Tuesday 20th there will be fun and games around the Nativity tale with story and refreshments afterwards: 10.30am–12noon in the church. Everyone very welcome to all events. There is no newsletter in January. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Richard Peaver
587486

Angela Turner

Edgefield Open Gardens 2023

Next year, for a change, the Open Gardens weekend will be 20th-21st May so that visitors can see the gardens in a different season. Six gardens have already been signed up, but we are keen to hear from anyone else who would agree to open their garden. We also need help with refreshments, raffle prizes, books and plants to sell. Please get in touch if you can help in any way: tel 587236.

Alison Mawson

Village Hall News

Our Christmas party is on Saturday 10th at 6.30pm. Tickets (if still available) are £10 per head and £5 for juniors. Food, a licensed bar and silly games are the order of the night. Call Jim on 01263 587110. The Committee of the Hall wish you all a Happy Christmas and here's to a great 2023! Results of the October 200 Club draw: 1st Barry Thornton (70); 2nd Richard Morton (150); 3rd Fabian Vizard (168).

Jim Frost

Parish Council

Edgefield Parish Council are looking into placing a flagpole next to the War Memorial near the Village Green. The cost is reasonable and the proposed height would be 4.6 metres (15 feet) high, which does not need planning permission. The flags do need permissions and it will only be used for special occasions. If anyone has any helpful suggestions or comments, please contact the Parish Clerk at edgefieldpc@yahoo.com.

Edgefield Fuel Fund

Do you live in Edgefield and are struggling to pay your energy bills this winter? The Fuel Fund may be able to help by paying an energy bill or providing a voucher for prepayment costs. If you would like us to try and help, please either email us at edgefieldfuelallotment@gmail.com or write to: Edgefield Fuel Fund, Hill House, Holt Road, Edgefield NR24 2RP. All applications will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 P Wallis, £25 R Hall, £10 R Carver, £5 I Summers, A Matthews, M Sewell

Coffee & Catch-Up Friday 2nd Dec + Friday 6th Jan 10.30am-12noon Village Hall



David Durst's 100th birthday

David, Robert, Jenny and Claire write:

David was in good form and overwhelmed by the most amazing number of cards and good wishes from everyone in Hempstead. Please can you give a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone; the cards, messages and thoughtfulness was so kind and really much appreciated. I would love to thank everyone individually! He had a happy day culminating with a tea in the afternoon when the singing of "Happy Birthday" was accompanied by a fellow resident playing his cornet. Cake enjoyed by all! His room is now festooned with cards.



Diana Spalton
711117

Music in Hempstead Tea + Cake at 3.45pm / Music at 4pm

Thursday 8th December Trios for Clarinet, Bassoon & Horn Plus, a rendition of the A A Milne poem *The King's Breakfast*. Think pantomime and I think you'll get the idea.

Thursday, 19th January Malcolm Arnold Quintets
Further dates are 16th Feb; 9th March; and 14th April. Let me know if you'd like a timely reminder of these events: ian@isdata.co.uk

Remember there will be no Magazine in January. All good wishes for a Merry Christmas and for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Christmas Party

A free event for all at the Village Hall

Saturday 10th December 7pm

Festive family fun for all to enjoy!

Welcome mulled wine with festive nibbles

Variety of Soups / Cheese Board

Selection of Desserts and Mince Pies

All of the above is provided but please bring your own drinks for the evening

Raffle with some great prizes!

To join us please contact Lesley Lennox
lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk

07446 777660



Christmas Craft Workshop

Saturday 3rd December 10am to 4pm
Hempstead Village Hall
Open to all age groups
Pop in for an hour or stay all day
£3 per person

Table Decorations • Children's Felt Bunting
Light Bottles • Decorated Glasses

Array of items provided plus bring along any personal items to add to your table decoration or bring your own empty bottle or glass to decorate. For table decorations please bring along your own secateurs. Thank you!

Matlaske

100 Club £25 Jemma Carr, £10 Brian Gough, £5 Ben O'Sullivan

Congratulations to Duncan and Mandy Wood on the baptism of their two young grandchildren in Somerset on 20th November.



Duncan Wood
570293

Plumstead

The end of the year is upon us already, with many exciting events coming up to cheer up the winter gloom.

Plumstead Christmas Celebration

We are very pleased to invite everyone to a Plumstead Christmas Celebration to be held at St Michael's Church Plumstead on Tuesday 20th at 5.30pm. Please see the flyer enclosed here for more details, we look forward to seeing you all and enjoying a lovely get together.

Advent Service

All are very welcome to join us in Plumstead for the Advent Christmas Service to be held at St Michael's on the 18th at 10.30am where you can enjoy the beautiful decorations which will be put up by our wonderful team of volunteers who did such an amazing job of decorating for the Pumpkin & Dahlia Festival.

Candlelit Carols & Nativity

On the 21st at 3pm we will be holding a Candlelit Carols & Nativity Service to which all are welcome. The under 11s who live in Plumstead are invited to participate in this, which will be able to take place in the church this year.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Remembrance Service

Twenty people attended our remembrance service on 13th November to commemorate all those from Hempstead and Plumstead who died in war. The service was taken by the Reverend Brian Faulkner and accompanied at the last minute by Catherine McMahan on the organ.

Coffee Mornings

Our coffee mornings will continue throughout December and January, unless the weather is too cold and we look forward to seeing you all there. Although Karen High has left the village, she will continue to send us her wonderful sewing for sale in the church alongside books and jigsaw puzzles.

Pumpkin and Dahlia Festival

Another wonderful event for which we thank the participation of all involved, both as organisers and visitors. The church looked stunning and many hours of hard work went into the displays. An impressive £213 was raised for which we are very grateful. Thank you to Mike for the lovely photos.



Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Bonfire Burns Brightly

November 5th saw thousands of people packing the centre of Corpusty for the return of the bonfire and fireworks on the village green - the first since 2019.



John Birchall
584290



The traditional procession through the village culminated in tying the guy to the top of the towering pile of fuel, which caught quickly when the flaming torches were thrust in. The superb fireworks began as the flames reached the figure on the top.

As well as great evening out, Corpusty's biggest event of the year raised money for Macmillan Cancer Support and local causes. The voluntary Bonfire Committee is still totalling up the figures, which will be

reported in the February edition. Congratulations to all who made the welcome return of the bonfire possible, especially the committee, and the volunteers who helped on the day.

Pupils Plant Tree as St Andrew's Strikes Silver

Corpusty Primary School pupils braved wind and rain to plant a crab apple tree in the churchyard at St Andrew's Church as part of their re-scheduled Harvest Festival celebration, led by the Rev David Longe.

St Andrews is also celebrating Silver accreditation in the Eco-Church scheme, and is aiming for Gold. "While we are only one of 5 churches in the Diocese to achieve silver, I feel that the standard is easier in a rural setting such as St Andrew's," said David. Some of the graveyard has already been set aside to improve biodiversity, and further tree planting is planned over the next few weeks.

"To achieve Gold accreditation will be challenging," continued David Longe. "This would be a good witness to the community about how serious we think caring for God's creation is. Edgefield are exploring how to reach the Gold standard and I hope we will be able to work alongside them."

Remembrance at St Andrew's

A moving Remembrance service was held at St Andrew's Church. Fifty people were present, including the Brownies, who led the prayers and sang the Lord's Prayer. Heather Monks and Merlin Waterson took the service and the names of the fallen of Corpusty and Saxthorpe were read by Niven. Their sacrifice was contemplated with quiet respect.



Return of Candlelit Service

After two years braving the weather in the churchyard, the Candlelit Service returns to St Andrew's, Saxthorpe, on Christmas Eve. The service starts at 5.30pm.

Bishop's First Official Visit



The Rt Rev Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, made his first official visit to St Andrew's, Saxthorpe, on November 20th - although he revealed that he has been paying incognito visits to churches - 656 in all - in his diocese. Bishop Graham preached at the Eucharist service before joining the Rev David Longe in planting a crab apple tree in the churchyard, close to where Corpusty school planted a similar tree a few days earlier. The Bishop has a degree in ecology and last year was appointed lead bishop on the environment by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



Helmingham Hall: The Sweet Pea Tunnel © Michael Garlick

As I write December's article (part of the way through November) I do have my fingers crossed for a frost. November (so far) has felt uneasy with its double figure temperatures and at times almost balmy days. Much as I absolutely love nothing more than a snowy day, I never normally look forward to cold weather, yet this month I have found myself willing the temperatures to drop, just for it all to feel more 'normal' – whatever that is. The designated lawnmower operative in our household is also less than impressed to be still needing to cut the lawns in November, even after weeks off in the summer, it's all rather unnerving and as we go into the most tradition-based month of the year – it would be a lot more comforting if the weather was playing along too. Here's hoping!

However if there is anything that gardening has taught me that is to work well with what you have, so here goes! Whilst there might not be much too actually physically plant or sow in the garden, there are still lots of tasks for a brisk winter's day. Choose a good moment to go round your garden properly – this time of year you can find yourself just scuttling in and out for firewood or herbs from the garden and avoiding the majority of it. So, grab yourself a mug of something cosy and have a good look around everything. First up is to check that all plants in pots that don't need bringing in under shelter are raised off the ground so they don't run the risk of getting waterlogged and rotting. Next, check over all outdoor sheds to see if they are all sound for the months ahead, or if they need adding to the to-do list. It's so much easier to nip issues in the bud rather than waiting for a calamity to occur on a brutal day in January. Next, actually make a list of tasks that need doing, like the leaves raking-up and collecting and the last of the climbing roses that need pruning. If you haven't found enough time in November to get your tulips in the ground then there is (just enough) time to get them sorted in December. Because gardening in December is more challenging both time and weather wise, an actual tick list will leave you feeling that you do actually have the whole situation in hand rather than it all running away from you, especially when there is so much to do for Christmas.

Do also remember to check any fruit or veg you have stored. Like many others we had a really big crop of apples this year, it's been hugely satisfying to have been able to store a good amount of them for the months ahead. It is worth checking them at least every week, as apples especially can turn so quickly.

Now to probably my best bit of Christmas, the lovely few days between the day itself and New Year, with the majority of the hard work done and with the house still sparkly and cheering. Those few calm days are perfect for not only going through a happy pile of seed catalogues by a snug fire but also to make plans for the season ahead. In readiness for the former I will earmark a few clear hours to ruthlessly go through the seed tin, discarding any out of date seeds or rather any I know that don't keep well. The next task is to pack away any seeds you might have saved yourself, making sure you date and label them well. Then it's on with planning for the next year, checking through this year's notes to see what worked and what was a miss. So for us we had a tremendous year for dahlias so the plan is to build some more raised beds in the kitchen garden to enable us to grow more next year. The kitchen garden has very good light levels and is lower (so happily nearer the water table so it's a bonus as less watering) however it is much more exposed, and we are susceptible to the wind here so the plan is to grow some bare root hazel hedging to offer some protection. The muntjac deer will simply love that! The fussy dahlias like the glorious Thomas Edison I will keep in the more sheltered walled garden, the braver ones I will plant in the new beds. Our next plan is to also plant a small orchard, partly because want to replace the tree count in the garden (we sadly lost some of our lovely larch trees in the heatwave) partly because we wanted to make a good space for a couple of quince trees and some sturdy cooking varieties. Looking forward and working towards the next season is what gardening is all about – thank goodness!

This month's question is actually a suggestion. May we suggest if you find yourself battling with the winter blues (and who doesn't!) then try setting some sweet pea seeds for next summer. There is something rather magical about setting something that absolutely sums up summer in the depths of winter, it is also a form of reverse self-care, by tending for the seeds and enabling them to thrive, we take ourselves away from the everyday grind and end up helping ourselves and more importantly we then look forward to easier lighter times.

As we move into the New Year we would like to thank everyone that takes the time to read our article and those who take the time to write in with questions, it's always so lovely to hear from you and on that note we would also both like to wish you all the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years!

Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet.com. As ever, the most interesting question will be published in February.

Michelle & Mick McCarter



ANVIL LICENSED DOG BOARDING

Your dog or dogs can join a couple and their dogs in their home while you are on holiday.

CALL 01263 715851



Edgefield Village Hall

Available for hire with tables, chairs, fully equipped kitchen, stage, table tennis, audio-visual equipment and free Wi-Fi

Contact jeffwitts@hotmail.com
07778 400012

www.facebook.com/EdgefieldVillageHall
Registered Charity No 1116035

WANTED

Pre 1970 car and motorcycle parts and memorabilia

BSF, Whitworth, UNC nuts and bolts

Old boxed taps and dies / Metal working tools

Enamel signs in any condition

If you have any of these in your shed or garage and are fed-up of tripping over them

give me a call!

John 07825 270610

Roger C Jones
Purpose Made Joinery
WWW.JOINERYANDCARPENTRY.COM

WE ALSO DO:

- WINDOWS
- DOORS
- STAIRCASES
- STORAGE SOLUTIONS
- SASH WINDOWS

B17c SCOTTON
ENTERPRISE PARK
LAMMAS ROAD,
BADERSFELD
NR10 5FB

READY FOR SOME PURPOSE MADE BESPOKE WORKS ?

CALL NOW : 07535890960 EMAIL: JOINERY16@GMAIL.COM

SEASONED FIREWOOD

FREE DELIVERY SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED

Jeff Shea 07899 743351

jeff.shea@btinternet.com

Low impact forestry and woodland services

**BUTCHER
ANDREWS**
Solicitors

**For legal advice
you can trust**

Fakenham
01328 863131
Holt
01263 712023

ba@butcherandrews.co.uk
www.butcherandrews.co.uk



Oliver Husar Tree Services

Tree and hedge work

oliverhusar@yahoo.co.uk
www.oliverstrees.co.uk

07825 214234
01263 577679

Qualified
Insured

STUART'S TAXI TRAVEL

Sheringham: 01263 824444

Holt: 01263 710088

Freefone: 0800 734 44 44

stuartstaxitravel@btinternet.com

www.stuarts-taxi-and-travel.co.uk

FRIENDLY & RELIABLE
SHORT or LONG DISTANCE

YOGA

Alice Martineau

WIVETON
5.30 & 7pm
Tuesdays

ITTERINGHAM
9.30am, 5.30pm & 7pm
Wednesdays

Soften, strengthen and align the body and mind.
Everyone is welcome.

mail@alicemartineau.co.uk
www.alicemartineau.co.uk
07973 278 895



BACONSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL
School Lane, Baconsthorpe, NR25 6LJ

Available for Hire

Wedding Receptions • Christening • Parties • Wakes • Dances
Events • Regular Groups and Much More
Fully Equipped to Cater for up to 100 Guests
• Ample Parking • Bar & Bar Area • Large Garden
Outdoor Seating

To book or enquire: 07500 047732
secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com
www.baconsthorpe.org/village-hall



IYENGAR YOGA CLASSES

*Stretch, Strengthen,
Balance, Relax*

Beginners and experienced students welcome.

Edgefield, Reepham, Norwich and Fakenham

Classes: live £11 and online £9 (concessions available)
morning (Monday, Thursday and Friday)
and evening (Tuesday and Thursday)
Contact Liz Ward
07740 105339 / yogalward@gmail.com

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire

Facilities include tables & chairs,
plates & cutlery for up to 80; stage;
overhead projector suitable for films
and computer presentations

Contact Richard Roy 01263 715851
richardjohnroy@gmail.com

HS Legal matters
HAYES+STORR
SOLICITORS **in safe hands**

Hayes + Storr handle a whole range
of family, property and business legal
matters with care and professionalism.

Call us today: 01263 712835
www.hayesandstorr.co.uk

Bure Valley Community Centre
itteringham

For all your function needs:
Wedding Receptions, Dances, Dinners,
Indoor Sports/Recreation etc.
For bookings etc call 01263 587659

MYRTLE & THYME

Ring Marie to discuss
your requirements on
07899 313167

Myrtle & Thyme at The Three Horseshoes
West End, Briston NR24 2HY



info@myrtleandthyme.com
myrtleandthyme.com

Wreaths | Garlands | Bouquets | Table Arrangements | Gift Vouchers | Wrapping Paper



MANNINGTON
ESTATE

Gardens • Walks • Events • Café
Shop • Plants • Weddings • Parties

**Walks open every day with bird
hide and board walks**

Please see website for further details
www.manningtonestate.co.uk



Custom Made Woodwork
www.corpustygallery.co.uk

01263 587111

Jones the Sweep



Highlands, Southrepps Road,
Antingham, North Walsham NR28 0NW
hjjones92@yahoo.co.uk
07799 484012

**'Sharp Lines'
'Quality Finish'**



Kevin Nichols

Painter & Decorator
Interior & Exterior

01263 861547 07795 077090

CAST IRON COOKERS



Service & Repair

Jon Cooper

Dales House, The Street,
Baconsthorpe NR25 6AB

01263 577527 or 07767 494369

**New Local Service
Building & Interiors Craftsman**

Do you need house renovations?
25 years experience of high quality work on
houses, individual spaces, kitchens
storage and interior furniture

Please call Julian Emens
for a free consultation and estimate

07720 312583

www.julianemens.com

D THOMPSON CHIMNEYS LTD
Est. 1995

MASTER CHIMNEY SWEEP

NVQ QUALIFIED CHIMNEY ENGINEER



- All Chimneys, flues and appliances swept
- Certificates issued
- CCTV chimney surveys
- Bird/rain guards / Anti down-draft cowls supplied and fitted
- Stove servicing and maintenance



CALL DAVID OR LUCY ON

01328

851081

www.the-sweep.co.uk



**HOUSE AND GARDEN
MAINTENANCE REPAIRS**

- Grass cutting, strimming, edge cutting and pruning
- Garden make overs, arches, trellis and pergolas
- Power washing for patios and garden furniture
- Repointing of stone flags and repairs to masonry
- Painting and decorating and handy man repairs

advanced City and Guilds 35 year est

Mature person providing quality work
at competitive rates, no VAT

Traditional values • Free estimate

Prompt reply • References available
Fully Insured

Contact John Lawrence Hughes

L: 01263 761114 • M: 07471 774885

R D Goodge

General building
Flint work
Roofing

Tel: 01263 734014

Mob: 0779 515 8447

www.rdgoodgebuilder.co.uk

M. A. SULLIVAN

**FENCING • DECKING
PERGOLAS • GAZEBOS**

Free Quotations

07972 707053 or 01263 585016

masullivanfencingservices@outlook.com

**RTB ROOFING and
BUILDING LTD**

For all roofing needs
and small building works

07979 696565

01603 754969

richard@rtbroof.com

www.rtbroof.com

**WILLIAM COATES
PAINTER & DECORATOR**



*Interior & Exterior
Quality Workmanship
Free Estimates*

01263 584183

07810 013591

coates_william@hotmail.com

Andrew Dixon

PAINTER & DECORATOR

*Interior and Exterior
Low Cost - High Standard*

Call Andrew

01263 860204

07770 447714

PHIL BORLEY

*Garden Construction :: Ponds & Patios
Turf :: General Garden Maintenance
Paving :: Fencing & Car Ports & Rotavating*

**For the Complete
Garden Service**

Tel: 01263 587262





Karl's Lawn Care
For All Your Gardening
Maintenance All Year Round
For Your Free Quote
Contact

Karl Lawrence
Tel 01263 587747
Mobile 07717410232
E Mail
karl.lawrence1973lawn@icloud.com

Karl's Lawn Care
Garden Maintenance
Service's

Ivan Fisher

FUNERAL HOME

We are the only family owned funeral directors in Aylsham and offer the highest standards of personal care and attention.

* Pre-paid Plans Available *
* Private Chapel of Rest *
* Floral Tributes and Memorials *
* Home Visits Made *

Tel: 01263 735161 (24 hrs)
2-4, Norwich Road, Aylsham
www.ivanfisherfunerals.co.uk

R.M.C
autos

- Servicing
- General Repairs
- MOT Tests
- Tyre Fitting Service
- Welding
- Recovery
- Car Sales

Norwich Road, Edgefield NR24 2RL
Contact Ross 01263 587970

R Wells Memorials Register of Qualified ROMF MEMORIAL FIXERS

Your Independent Memorial Mason
Memorials in marble, stone and various coloured granites

Brochures upon request
Workshop: 01603 755524
www.rwellsmemorials.co.uk
Unit 8 Sawmill Close, The Street, Felthorpe, Norwich NR10 4BH

Gary Chapman
07887906620

SAND, SHINGLE & AGGREGATES
FIREWOOD & BARK MULCH
SUPPLIED & DELIVERED

DRIVEWAYS, PATIOS & DRAINS LAYED
GROUNDWORKS & LANDSCAPING
CONCRETING & GARDEN CLEARANCE

CEMENT MIXER, WACKER PLATE,
VIBRATING ROLLER HIRE,
MINI DIGGER & JCB HIRE
LIGHT HAULAGE
FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

WANTED

Pre 1970 car and motorcycle parts and memorabilia
BSF, Whitworth, UNC nuts and bolts
Old boxed taps and dies / Metal working tools
Enamel signs in any condition

If you have any of these in your shed or garage and are fed-up of tripping over them
give me a call!
John 07825 270610

GREG ROWE limited
AWARD-WINNING DESIGNERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF KITCHEN TAP APPLIANCES

- Boiling & Filtered Water Taps
- Replacement filter cartridges for all Franke taps
- Fix your dripping tap! Spare parts for over 15 leading kitchen tap brands, including Franke, Perrin & Rowe, Abode and Howden's

GRL DIRECT TapSpares QETTLE
WWW.GRLDIRECT.CO.UK | WWW.TAPSPARES.CO.UK | WWW.QETTLE.COM
POP IN AND PICK UP THE PARTS YOU NEED: 01503 559259
OLD WINERY BUSINESS PARK, CHAPEL ST, CAWSTON, NR10 4PE | WWW.GREGROWE.COM

PJE **Which? Trusted trader**
PJElectrics:
High Quality Professional Service

Any type of electrical works...
big or small we can do it all!

Free survey and quotation

Test & Certify to IEE18th Edition
Part P Registered

01328 830492
07884 436112
paul@pjelectricsltd.co.uk
www.pjelectricsltd.co.uk

Lloyd Durham
Independent Family
Funeral Directors



01263 713113 (24 hours)
11a Avenue Rd,
High Kelling,
Holt NR25 6RD.
Email: lloydurham1933@aol.com
www.northnorfolkfuneralservices.co.uk
Funeral Director:
Hayley Pegg Dip FAA NAFD

IVAN'S PEST CONTROL
LANTRA + BASIS REGISTERED
FULLY INSURED
01263 821304 / 07534 455301
ivanallenpestcontrol@gmail.com



Control Pest Solution
North Norfolk pest control
based in Little Barningham

Richard Carlston
07880 533315
controlpestsolution@gmail.com
www.controlpestsolution.co.uk

Cotgrove Counselling

I offer person-centred counselling to individuals in North Norfolk who are 18 years old and over.

My therapy room is open to and is inclusive of everyone regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, ability, religion or age.

Contact Claire: 07873 580 365
Email: claire@cotgrovecounselling.com
www.cotgrovecounselling.com





YOGA with an Ayurvedic influence

Wednesdays – Heydon Village Hall
(outdoors when weather permits)
9.30am – 10.30am – Hatha Yoga £9 a class

Thursdays - Reepham Town Hall
9.15am – 10.45am – Hatha Yoga £9 a class
11.00am – 11.45am – Chair Yoga £5 a class

To book please call 07741 289867
or email info@laurastevensyoga.co.uk



Jill Hill
 Designer and maker
 of special embroidered garments,
 accessories and art textiles.
 Mending and alterations
 also undertaken.

01263 584155
 or call at
 The Old Workshop Gallery
 Corpusty

www.corpustygallery.co.uk



**NORFOLK SEWING
 MACHINE SERVICE**

ALL MAKES REPAIRED
 HIGHLY SKILLED ENGINEERS
 OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 FULLY GUARANTEED
 FREE ESTIMATES
 DISCOUNTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

01263 584113



— BRISTON —
**THE THREE
 HORSESHOES**

15 05
 FINE FOOD LOCAL ALES LUXURY LODGINGS

Freshly prepared dishes
 using local produce

Carefully selected
 wines and beers

Five comfortable
 ensuite bedrooms

Beautiful landscaped garden

Book now for Christmas!

The Three Horseshoes
 West End, Briston, Norfolk NR24 2HY

01263 862312
 www.bristonhorseshoes.co.uk

f t i



Upholstery, Curtains and Blinds

- Hand made sofas and chairs
- Traditional & contemporary Re-Upholstery
- Made to measure curtains and blinds
- Vertical. Roller & blackout blinds
- Loose covers
- Curtain track & poles supplied and fitted
- Repairs and alterations

At Williams all of our work is carried out at our West Runton premises as it has been for the last 30 years, no middlemen means greater value for money.

Whether it's a spring repair, new seat foams or a complete lounge suite with co-ordinating curtains you can be guaranteed of first class customer service and attention to detail.

- Ralph Lauren
- Designers Guild
- Zinc
- Romo
- Christian Lacroix
- GP & J Baker
- Clarke & Clarke
- Linwood fabrics & wall coverings
- William Morris fabrics & wall coverings
- Sandersons fabrics, wall coverings & paint

5 Station Road,
 West Runton, Norfolk
 Tel: 01263 837611
 www.williamsafwestrunton.co.uk

Williams
 INTERIORS



**Corpusty Stores
 & Post Office**

Everything you need,
 every time you need it.

Store open 8am-7pm Mon-Sat 9am-6pm Sun
 Post Office open 9am-12noon Mon-Fri

01263 587726
 Norwich Road, Corpusty

ITTERINGHAM VILLAGE SHOP
 Established 1637 Run by Itteringham Community Association

General Store • Post Office • Café • Off Licence

Groceries • Deli • Whole Foods • Delicious Cakes
 Hand Made Pies • Pet Foods • Wide Range of Gifts & Cards
 Ices • Sweets • Books • Plants

Takeaway Service Available

Shop Open Every Day 9.00am – 4.00pm
 Post Office Monday & Thursday 9.00am – 1.00pm
 Home Deliveries Telephone: 01263 587325
 email: ItteringhamCommunityShop@outlook.com

North Norfolk Tree Services

Fully Insured • Over 30 Years Experience
 Stump Grinding • Woodchip Supplied
 14m Hydraulic Platform Hire + Operator

Call for a **FREE** no obligation
 quotation and advice

Jeremy Cox
 01263 713389
 07503 885499
 nntrees@gmail.com



For all your tree surgery needs

The Calm Zone
 Massage Studio

www.thecalmzonemassagestudio.co.uk

Back and Shoulder 30 mins £18
 Head, Neck and Shoulder 30 mins £18
 Leg and Foot 30 mins £18
 Any treatment or combination 45 mins £27
 Any treatment or combination 1 hr £32
 Full Body Massage 1 hr £32
 Extended Full Body Massage 1.5 hrs £48
 Extended Full Body Massage 2 hrs £68

Mobile Service Available
 Enjoy a massage in the comfort
 of your own home.
 Call for more details

The Vexae, Holt
 NR25 6DN
07799124967

i f

History Watch – Hell Hole – North Barningham

Arthur Pentney



Check out the accompanying picture and ask yourselves why a property could be so named – it's not exactly 'Honeysuckle Cottage', is it? Well, the answer, as old Walter Gabriel from the Archers would have said, "lies in the soil".

Yes, Hell Hole was an aptly named sand and gravel pit, for it would have been hell on earth for the unfortunates who were forced to toil there. Maps of 1907 show Hell

Hole as a disused pit. Go back to an earlier map of 1886 and the pit was active and probably dates back to the early part of that century. Its location is interesting as it is placed at the convergence of perhaps four parish boundaries: North Barningham, Matlask, Baconsthorpe and Gresham. This allowed each of these parishes to extract materials from the pit. Also close by was that infamous Erpingham Union Workhouse, built at West Beckham following the passing of the Poor Law. 'Workhouse' meant just that and any inmates would be set to work down at Hell Hole. Dickensian England existed in our rural areas just as much as the inner cities.

Baconsthorpe School, built in 1816, was financed by subscription, but those without wealth also contributed by hauling sands and gravel for free and almost certainly these materials would have emanated from Hell Hole, an altruistic act from two centuries ago.

Should anyone reading this wish to see Hell Hole, I suggest taking the footpath opposite Upwood Farm, North Barningham. At the top of the track, turn left, tackle the jungle and Hell Hole can be seen to your left as a group of trees, totally inaccessible!

Volunteers Needed!



The BUILD Charity are looking for people to support our social events with a small group of adults with disabilities, with all expenses covered. If it is a relaxing weekend that you are after, this could be a Sunday Roast, a Sunday afternoon Walkabout, a Grow and Go gardening session or even a Sunday afternoon cinema trip. If you enjoy even more excitement, why not head into the city for our Ten Pin Tuesdays or even a Wednesday Club Social!

Alternatively, if you have expertise in marketing, fundraising, event management or photography and are willing to share your skills with us, we would also love to hear from you!

We believe that volunteers should get as much out of the BUILD Charity as they put in, so there are many benefits to these roles. As a BUILD Charity volunteer, you attend events whenever it suits your schedule, all volunteer expenses are covered by the charity and by becoming a BUILD volunteer, you receive your disability awareness training and safeguarding training. If any of these volunteering opportunities are of interest to you then either call the office on 01603 618029, email us at volunteer@buildcharity.co.uk, or check out the website for our sign up form and donation pages.

We look forward to hearing from you!