

Church & Village News

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

May 2024



The Selbrigg swan (about to start nesting)

Photograph by Jonathan Neville



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What's On

Every Mon	10.30	Coffee morning	Plumstead Church
Every Weds	10am	Saxthorpe & Corpusty Coffee, cake & chat	St Andrews
Thurs, 2nd	3:45 for 4 pm	Music in Hempstead	Hole Farm Barn
Fri, 3rd	10.30	Hempstead coffee & catch up	Village Hall
Fri 3rd	7pm	Hamlet, Corpusty & Saxthorpe film night	Village Hall
Wed 8th	7pm	AGM Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council	Village Hall
Thur 9th	10am	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Thur 9th	7pm	AGM Hempstead Village Hall	Village Hall
Mon 13th	7.30pm	AGM Matlaske and Barningham Parish Council	St Peters, Matlaske
Sun 19th	12-5pm	Open Gardens (refreshments in aid of benefice)	Blickling Lodge
Weds 22nd	6.15pm	Plumstead Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall
Sat 25th	2pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Tues 28th	10:30-12	Children's Activity Morning	Edgefield Church
Fri 31 May	6pm	Baconsthorpe Pop up pub	Village Hall

Clash Diary To add an event contact
Corinne Youngs 577263 corinne@avyoungs.com

June			
Fri 7	Corpusty & Saxthorpe	Film night, <i>The Holdovers</i>	
Wed 12	Baconsthorpe	Village Hall AGM	
Sun 23	Hole Farm Barn Hempstead	Lunch for Palestine	
July			
Fri 5	Corpusty & Saxthorpe	Film night, <i>Next Goal Wins</i>	
Sat 6	Hempstead	Open Gardens	
Sun 7	Hempstead	Open Gardens	
Wed 10	Matlaske	Coffee Morning Blacksmiths Cottage	
Sat 13	Baconsthorpe	Fete	
Sat 20	Edgefield	Midsummer Disco	
August			
Fri 2nd	Corpusty & Saxthorpe	Film night <i>The Color Purple</i>	
Fri, 30	Hempstead	Residents Arts preview	
Sat 31	Hempstead	Arts in Village Hall	
September			
Sun 1	Hempstead		Arts in Village hall
Sun 22	Edgefield		Samphire Concert in Church
Sat 28	Edgefield		Bingo
October			
Fri 4	Matlaske Quiz		Baconsthorpe VH
Fri 11	Saxthorpe & Corpusty		Harvest Supper
Sat 12	Baconsthorpe		Murder Mystery
November			
Sat 16	Baconsthorpe		Craft Fair
December			
Fri 6	Baconsthorpe		Christmas Quiz
Sun 8	Matlaske		Christmas party
Sat 14	Edgefield		Festive Evening

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 Aqarone
steffan.aqarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk / 01603 327827

Mobile Library Times

9 May/6 June/4 July

Matlaske	12:40	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	13.00.	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Baconsthorpe	14.30	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows
	14.50	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
Hempstead	15.05	NR25 6TL	Telephone Kiosk
Edgefield	15.45	NR24 2AL	Memorial
	16.10	NR24 2AX	The Street
Corpusty	16.35	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cottis

Dates and times from <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40143/Mobile-libraries>
Route Number: CEN 411

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 and Village News. Apologies if contributed material is edited or not published due to space constraints. All facts are believed correct at time of going to press.

Letter from the Rector–Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All,

Over the last six months I have been in weekly WhatsApp contact with a father (P)*, who with his daughter (M), have been living in the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza. They along with many others sought shelter here after the tragedy of 7th October.

His messages have given me a glimpse into the utter desperation of those who have been in Gaza. And I am conscious that men, women and children - on both sides - have been so deeply affected and will be so for so many years ahead.

In truth my weekly messages (often written early on a Sunday morning) have been hard. How can one understand what it is like to shelter for months in a place where the sound of gun fire fills the air? Any message of hope seemed vacuous, and sometimes I simply did not know what to write other than to assure them of my prayers.

Yet last week when I was on holiday I received a WhatsApp in which P told me they made to the crossing at Rafah and then to Cairo.

“It was not easy for us. The road was dangerous. They fired on us. We don’t have any . . . money now.” “[M] has lost everything.”

Yes, they have reached relative safety, but at what cost? For 6 months they have survived with a regime: M had sweeping duties and made bread. There was a community. They focused on trying to survive and leave Gaza, but what is their future?

So when I returned to the Benefice to take a service at Edgefield after Easter I was deeply struck by a tent pitched in the Lady Chapel (see pic) illustrating what a refugee family may have with them. There was an alarm clock, charger, phone, one photo frame, some food, a sleeping bag and other essentials. Perhaps money, and id documents.

The plight of a refugee is something that is sometimes too hard to think about. Can we imagine what we would take if we had moments to leave our homes? The most important thing for P, was M’s safety.

In the Gospels after the resurrection Jesus frightens and confuses his disciples by appearing physically before them. And then he says a word “peace”, conveying a sense of security. They need peace – they need courage – as the disciples are worried, they will meet the same fate as Jesus. And yet there he is standing before them showing them that God has triumphed over death in the resurrection.

I do not know the fate of P and M or of my friends in Gaza; we cannot predict how communities will rebuild themselves when all has been taken away.

What I believe we can do – and this was the essence of my early morning WhatsApps – is to place all before God and say as we said on Easter Morning, *kyrie eleison*, Lord have mercy.

With my prayers for you all,

David



* identities have been changed



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for May

5th May Rogation Sunday		
8:30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10:30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
9th Ascension Day		
9:00am	Eucharist	Matlaske
12th Easter VII		
10:30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
5:00pm	Evening Prayer	Saxthorpe
19th Pentecost		
10:30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
5:00pm	Evening Prayer	Barningham Winter
26th May Trinity		
8:30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10:30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
4:00pm	Family Service	Edgefield
30th Corpus Christi		
9:00am	Eucharist	Matlaske
2nd June Trinity II		
8:30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10:30am	Eucharist	Corpusty
Coffee, Plumstead Church, 10.30, every Monday Morning		
Coffee Cake and Chat: Saxthorpe Church, every Wednesday 10-11am		
Children's Activity Morning Edgefield Church, Tuesday 9th April 10:30		

Farewell, thank you and hello

Hard on the heels of bidding a heartfelt thanks to Karen Hall who retired from the *Church and Village News* newsletter team in March, we now say goodbye to Michael McMahon who has skilfully edited the magazine since Autumn 2015. As with Karen, Michael is very keen to avoid fuss, but as is pointed out in the edition of August 2015 when he took over the post from Richard Lynam – he brought to the magazine the benefit of a background in editing and journalism (you can google his name and ‘The Spectator’ and still see some of his work online). Both have done a tremendous job, along with the hardworking correspondents and other contributors, to make *Church and Village News* such a mainstay of the seven villages. For the immediate future husband and wife team John and Christine Birchall take up the editorial reins – also both former journalists and with many years’ of communications experience in local government. You will also note a new email address for contributions CVN@Matlaske.org.uk – please keep them coming.



Baconsthorpe

Churchyard clear up

On Saturday April 6th the sun shone as the St Mary's churchyard clear up began. Work on the boundary involved clearing bushes and trees to make way for the new fence; leaning gravestones were straightened and scrubbed to reveal names and



Hazel Martin
07879 414577



dates, some dating from 1832. During this process it was quite moving to reveal a war grave belonging to George Robert Cooper who died aged 25 at Moore Barracks Hospital, Shorncliffe, Kent. We are now planning to map in detail all the graves in the churchyard. This is proving quite a task so if anyone is interested in helping please give me a call. Our thanks go to the Steel family for a welcome BBQ when the work was done.

Remembering Sarah Wilson, Sunday 19th May

Having been together for over 30 years, my partner Sarah Wilson and I moved to The Street in Baconsthorpe in 2018. Sarah was diagnosed with incurable cancer in December 2022 and despite treatment she died at the age of 67 on 29th July 2023. Before she died, Sarah chose a direct cremation with no attendees, so no-one who knew and loved Sarah has yet had the opportunity to remember her collectively and share fond memories.

Anyone living in Baconsthorpe or surrounding villages who knew Sarah is welcome at an informal, non-religious event on Sunday 19th May from 2-5pm in Baconsthorpe village hall to remember her. This is intended to be a happy celebration of Sarah and a chance to share memories of her life, including amusing events or experiences people shared with her. Drop in for a short time or stay for longer, it's up to you. There will be light refreshments available and some photographs and words to help prompt some memories of aspects of Sarah's character.

Tim Venes

Village Hall News

200 Club. £50 T Venes £25 T McCosh £10 H Steel

Coffee mornings: Wed 1 May 10.30 to 11.30 – following feedback from our survey



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we are going to run a coffee morning on the first Wednesday of the month. It is timed to coincide with the Post Office van being at Baconsthorpe village hall car park. Do come along for a free coffee and a catch up with friends and neighbours.

Pop Up Pub Friday 31 May. Chilli and rice on the menu served from 6.30pm. Bar opens at 6pm.

AGM – Wed 12 June. The AGM for the Village Hall will be held at 6pm, all are welcome.

Fete – keep the date of Sat 13 July free for the village fete, from 2pm. Stalls, cakes, games, bar, and new this year, the Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off.

Baconsthorpe Castle

As the time approaches for work to begin on Baconsthorpe castle which is presently covered in scaffolding, I thought this picture of the hall would be reminder of how the hall looked in 1900.



Barningham Winter

It has been another quiet month in pretty Barningham where the primroses have certainly been at their best on the verges. The sugarbeet season has now finished (and what a long, wet one it has been) – now you will come across enormous tractors with potato planting equipment behind them so PLEASE be aware of all these big machines especially as soon as the hedgerows will start filling out with cows parsley etc etc.



Sara Buxton
577207

The AGM of Matlaske and Barningham Parish Council will take place on Monday, 13th May at 7.30pm. Do come along to it if you are able.

Edgefield

Church News

We are very grateful to Charlie MacNicol of Stody Estate for allowing us to sell daffodils in aid of the church. This took place as soon as the daffodils appeared and continued to the end of the flowering, which this year coincided with Easter. Thanks to the hard work of Joy and John Hardiment, who worked tirelessly for several weeks, picking, transporting and organising various stalls, a pleasing sum was raised.



Richard Peaver
587486

Edgefield Parish Council

Springtime is here! Edgefield's telephone boxes need some sprucing up. Please can we have some volunteers to de-moss, scrub up and paint. We have brushes and paint, we just need people. Please contact Edgefieldpc@yahoo.com (Suzanne or Amanda).

Village Hall News

March winners of the 200 Club were as follows: 1st Melinda Derry (65) £50, 2nd Amanda Yacoubian (26) £30 and 3rd Andy Hollick (112) £20. Another date reminder for your diary - the

Midsummer Disco and BBQ will be on Saturday evening 20th July, on the village green.

Toad Patrol

We're delighted to report that we welcomed some new patrollers this year, meaning a good number of us were out and about covering the main migration routes around the pond each evening. Due to the mild weather the migration started early this year and lasted longer, with the first toad on 23rd January and it continued until 20th March.

The number of toads was up from 283 last year to 322 this year; we also saw an increase in the number of great crested newts, up from 32 to 38, and an increase in common newts up from 239 to 314. The total number of frogs was dramatically down from 118 to just 39. We also lost 22 toads, 14 common newts, 7 great crested newts and 3 frogs to traffic, 6.4% of the overall figures.

The reduction in the number of frogs was down across the county so was not unique to Edgefield; we are all unclear as to why there has been such a decline. We will have to see what next season brings. Many thanks to all of you who undertook patrols.

Beekeepers offer

Edgefield resident Amy Pointen has an offer that local beekeepers may find compelling. Her family are happy to offer space for a couple of beehives on their land (with a recently sown wild flower area), in return for a bit of regular apiary observation by an interested eight year old. If you are interested please contact Amy - also a medical foot health practitioner who offers her services locally - on 07789 867412.

Hempstead

Coffee & Catchup

Friday 3rd May 10.30 - 12.00

All welcome - in the Village Hall

Hempstead 200 Club winners

£50 P Sanders; £25 M Thody; £10 M Thody; £5 R Carver, A Loach, S Bowden



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Music in Hempstead

Music in Hempstead - Thursday, 2 May 3:45 for 4 pm

Please note that, due to the election, this event will take place in Hole Farm Barn, Hempstead, NR25 6TT by kind permission of Charles and Airlie Inglis.

Please ask to be added to the mailing list for details/reminders: ian@isdata.co.uk

Crafty Creations

The next meetings in the Village Hall are

Thursday 9th May 10.00 am - Midday

Saturday 25th May 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Hempstead Village Hall Annual General Meeting

All residents cordially invited to join the committee and our Trustees

Hempstead village hall will be holding their AGM in May where they will be looking towards the next year and how to serve the community with this communal building. The village hall belongs to all the residents of our lovely village, and we would be very pleased to see as many of you as possible at this meeting. As well as the normal official items that need to be covered at this type of meeting, we will also be discussing how we improve the hall and deliver the type of events and services our residents would like. To make sure this is done correctly we would appreciate as many residents as possible to pop along and have your say. To this end we will also give an update on how we are progressing with moving forward towards an updated constitution which will bring us to a much more modern charitable status.

We will be discussing how we are applying for grants to improve the building and its services. To this end we would like your input to help us in this regard. Most grant applications require us to have discussed major projects with the community.

Thank you and hope to see you on 9th May.

Village Hall Committee

Norfolk Hedgerow Oaks



Here in North Norfolk, we are blessed with wonderful landscapes, wide open fields and narrow lanes that connect the many small villages so beloved with the locals and visitors alike.

During the winter period this landscape is at its austere best, with its severely clipped hawthorn hedges, fields ploughed and furrowed providing a texture that is all bought to life by the magnificent oaks that bestride the scene, their skeletal and wonderfully articulated

superstructure of branches for all to see, soon to be hidden by their spring and summer clothing.

One particular tree catches my attention, driving from Holt to Hempstead having passed the Hempstead watermill on the left where I am drawn uphill and attended by carefully clipped hawthorn hedges on either side to a gap at the top that is filled completely by an ivy clad oak that I have named, “The Hempstead Oak” it is not the most beautiful oak tree in Norfolk it is lopsided, windswept and seems to be pointing down the farm track that leads to Hempstead Hall.

In its position there, accompanied by the clipped hedgerows it takes on a life of its own and shouts “Look me! I am special! Second only to my dear departed friend the famous or infamous “Sycamore Gap Tree” RIP.”
Mike Thody

Disposal of Household Waste

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that there has been some illegal dumping of garden waste around the village. The parish council would like to remind everyone that it is not only the person who dumps the material, who is behaving illegally but it is also the responsibility of the householder from where the waste came. If you are employing anyone to dispose of garden waste, please make sure you know where it is going and that it is being disposed of responsibly. If you have nowhere to dispose of garden waste in your own garden, please consider a brown bin which costs £60 a year or take it to a council dump.

The 80th Anniversary of D-Day - 6th June 2024

For anyone wishing to contribute to the poppies to display outside the Village Hall for the 80th D-Day Landings celebration and remembrance at the beginning of June, we invite you to make poppies at home. These poppies can be made in any way - knitted, crocheted, sewn, made from recycled materials or anything else that can be reshaped into a poppy. As is being chosen by most places around the country, the colours chosen are mostly red for people, with purple for animals and white for peace.

We will be assembling the display at the end of May - the more the merrier. Hopefully in June there won't be quite as much rain so the poppies made will survive the weather outside as they will be on display for a few weeks, including the Open Gardens event on 6th and 7th July. Could anyone making poppies please deliver them to either Lesley Lennox or Moira Ratcliffe by 22nd May.

The United Kingdom lost 11,000 of its people on D-Day with another 54,000 wounded or missing. We want to honour them.

Matlaske

This month's 100 Club winners are: £25 Karen Fuller; £10 Veronica Cheney; and £5 Steve Farmer.

Here's an interesting bit of old news about a war-time hospital in Matlaske. Where was it? The Hall? The School? Twenty brave soldiers were cared for here.

Theford & Watton Times - Saturday 14 November 1914

BRITISH & BELGIAN WOUNDED AT MATLASKE. The following patients are at Matlaske Temporary Hospital, Aldborough, Norwich:— Private Smith, SW. Borderers; Lance Corporal Suniott, 2nd R. Irish; Private Nicholls, A.S.C.; Private Weston, 1st Warwicks; Private Sherwood, 2nd Yorks; Private Kennedy, 2nd Seaforths; Hilaire De Meulemeester, 4th Regiment-de-ligne; Jean-Avet Foret, musician, 12th de ligne; Simon Beugnet, 5th Chasseurs; Alphonse Parris, 4th de ligne; Pierre Maertens, 1st de ligne; Gaston Fieuw, 8th de Ligne; Poelmac Frans, 1st Grenadiers; Francois Van Goiteenhoven, 2nd Carabiniers; Joseph Van Doorsaelaere, 11th de ligne; Jean Baptiste Smets, 26th Regiment de ligne; Edward Engelschenschilt, 2nd Carabiniers; Auguste Verleben, 9th de ligne; Michel Willemarch, 2nd de ligne; Theophile Sottiaux, 4th Chasseurs.



Duncan Wood
570293

Plumstead



Macmillan Cancer Support – Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike 11 May 2024

David Ramsbotham writes:
Following my success in 2022 I have decided to enter the above event again this year. I am now 78 and will try to walk the full marathon of 26 miles which hopefully I should be able to do [with the necessary



Harriet Rossi
577239

training] on a good day. In any event I am reasonably confident of completing at least 13 miles. If you would like to help Macmillan Nurses with a financial donation this can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-ramsbotham-1710923936493>

All support is very welcome for this extremely worthy cause.

Plumstead PCC

On Friday 12th April, the PCC were pleased to have the opportunity to show our appreciation to members of our community who give their time, skills and energy to help care for the church building and its surrounding churchyard. Tea, cake, wine and nibbles were shared as we expressed our gratitude for all they do. As well as tasks such as mowing, weeding, keeping the notice board up to date and arranging flowers, several people took part in the sponsored cycle ride. Apart from raising a record amount of money, we have now been informed that St. Michael's Church has won £1000 for being the most improved Church taking part. Well done everyone and thank you!

Thank you too, to those who so beautifully decorated the church for Easter. Several visitors over the period, commented on how lovely the church looked inside.

Plumstead Parish Council

The Plumstead Parish Council -Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May at 6.15pm in Plumstead Church.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend this meeting – the full agenda will be available on the Parish Council Notice board nearer the date of the meeting.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Speed and safety

The Parish Council is to revisit the problem of speeding traffic on the B1149 Holt road through Saxthorpe after a disappointing report from county Highways. A mini-roundabout at the junction with Briston Road (B1354) has already been ruled out, but the report provided little hope that other options, such as making a tighter left turn on to Briston Road, would be effective or affordable.

The report also looked at installing a lay-by on Holt Road for school buses and police speed checks, but buried services, including high-voltage power lines, make this an expensive project, with no County Council money immediately available.



John Birchall
584290

Annual Meeting

Members of the public are warmly invited to come to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 8th May at 7pm in Corpusty Village Hall and raise anything they wish with members of the Council.

Make a film night date – first Friday of every month.

Grab a cushion and head for the latest silver screen offerings at the Village Hall for just £5. On Friday May 3rd, how can you resist Gandalf (Ian McKellen) playing *Hamlet*? And make a date for the *The Holdovers* on June 7th, a gentle and atmospheric comedy, starring Oscar nominated Paul Giamatti, and Oscar winner Da'Vine Joy Randolph

Brownies Charity success

1st Corpusty and Saxthorpe Brownies held an Easter Fair to raise money for Vision Norfolk as part of their Charities Badge. They would like to thank all those who came and supported them. They raised £240.60 which they handed over to



Josh from Vision Norfolk when he came to talk to them about the charity and how the money will be spent.

Happy First Birthday 'Coffee, Cake and Chat'

On being appointed as Churchwardens last February Jill Perry Warner & Lesley Last felt there was a real need to increase public use of St Andrews Church at Saxthorpe to make sure it remains a vital place of peace, prayer, and sanctuary in our community.

The idea of Coffee, Cake & Chat was born and, with the blessing of the PCC plans were put in place to turn our beautiful church into a coffee and cake drop-in centre each Wednesday morning - no mean feat given St Andrews has no running water or kitchen facilities. Jill and Lesley's commitment was to be there every Wednesday from 10am until 11am for 12 months although their husbands were sceptical saying that they would be on their own throughout January & February! If only they knew . . .



Knowing church coffee has a bit of a 'dubious' reputation, it was agreed that this would be different. The coffee would be fresh, strong, and hot, the cakes would be delicious and home made - achieved with thanks to an ever-expanding army of bakers.



It was important to be open to all - religious or not and from neighbouring villages too, and there would be no charge, (although people are invited to donate if they are able).

It all began on the first Wednesday in May 2023. And so, you could say, that the rest is history, but that would make it sound too easy. During the year they've welcomed the Marsham Belles (hand bell ringing group), a classic car rally, bug hotel building, calligraphy demonstration, aromatherapy, and hand massages, not to mention the 100 or so members of the local community - retired people, young families, home or part time workers, and



grandparents with grandchildren - all of whom now regularly attend

As winter approached they were successful in drawing down a grant from the Norfolk Community Foundation 'surviving winter fund', which along with support from the Diocese of Norwich's Energy and Warm Spaces fund and the Deanery of Holt Youth Fund, allowed St Andrews to become a designated local 'warm space' – with heating and cosy blankets.

The feedback has been terrific; some from people who've never before set foot in St Andrews, and others who've met neighbours from this and other villages for the first time.

"The space buzzes with life and conversation."

"I can't think of a better way in a rural situation like ours to help people find support and a sense of belonging in the company of others"

"R has made friends and feels that he has been able to be useful helping with small repairs both at the church and for people attending who need some help"

"There was a background sound of lots of people catching up with each other"

"People just came around and talked to me, asked me what I did"

The big question is; what happens now the year is up? Will there be a year two? You bet!!

Come along on any Wednesday to see for yourself.

SAVE THE DATE – Dine for Palestine

**Sunday 23rd June 12.30. Hole Farm Barn,
Hempstead NR25 6TT**

3 course Palestinian Lunch.

£35 a head to cover cost of food and donation to
Friends of the Holy Land charity. BYO drinks

This event is limited to 50 people

To book a place please contact Corinne at
corinne@avyoungs.com

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

Beautiful May! Quite simply the loveliest but busiest month of the year in the garden . . . as I write this in the middle of April, we have been rather off brief with cold temperatures, high winds and torrential rain. But at the weekend we had a real glimmer of what's hopefully to come in May. Lovely blue skies, warm sun and the garden seemed to give a sigh of relief!

So what's on the to-do list this month? The quick answer is literally everything! May is the busiest month of the year, so this month is mainly getting seeds in the ground and lots of weeding. But also being mindful that we can still get caught out with late frosts, the owners of a garden Mick has taken on asked him to put their lemon trees out earlier this month, as we both talked about it, we recalled a very treasured lemon tree we had lost to a frost many years ago. Much gardening is 'doing' but also 'not doing' and the last thing those lemon trees needed was a blast of icy winds in April. So patience is a virtue and the lemon trees are still tucked up and snug until at least the end of May!

Whilst not strictly gardening talk, I wanted to pass on something lovely. A few weeks ago waiting outside the doctors at Aldborough surgery I struck up conversation with a super knowledgeable chap who despite it being a very overcast day told me the name of each and every bird that was singing. Then last weekend as we were all eating our lunch outside the conversation came round to the Merlin App that helps identify birds by their song. Nearly an hour later with apps installed we had had the most enjoyable time identifying 14 different varieties of song birds in our garden. The app also helps you to remember which bird is which by highlighting their name as it picks up a particular song. We knew we had a few hearty wrens, but we were also made up to discover, linnets, chiffchaffs, chaffinches, gold finches, dunnocks, nut hatches, willow warblers and yellow hammers.

This month (instead of answering one of your questions . . . back to normal next month) I am going to remind you about the NGS Open Gardens at Blickling Lodge, Blickling NR11 6NF on Sunday 19th May 12-5pm. It really is the most beautiful of gardens with a Georgian house surrounded by 17 acres of glorious parkland, with a walled garden and stunning woodland and water garden. Like last year the refreshments are all in aid of the Matlaske Benefice (a most worthy cause) and we both very much hope to see you there!

Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet.com as ever the most interesting question will be published next year!

Michelle and Mick McCarter



Easter gift bags

Around 150 primary school aged children within our villages received Easter gift bags.-delivered by hand, many thanks to all those helpers. We trust the sunflower seeds have been lovingly planted and look forward to hearing how tall they grow. Email youth@matlaske.org.uk

Family resources within our villages

Last month we focussed on The Corpusty Brownie pack. More adult help is still needed so if you can help contact. Alison 07802619603

Country Mice Parent and Toddler Group

Held in Baconsthorpe Village Hall term time on a Tuesday at 10am to 11.30, this group is for all those who care for small children not just parent, 60% are grandparents plus some professional nannies. With organised and assisted play opportunities for babies and toddlers until school age, it provides a support network for the adults to socialise and make friends. The group is super friendly and welcoming and has families from villages far and wide. A £2 donation per family , includes a healthy snack for children and tea/coffee for adults. Email Administrator@matlaske.org.uk

Holiday activities

Every school holiday in there is a free activity and craft morning arranged for children and young peopleIn Edgefield Church

Last month a food themed morning offered activities including making lemon energy ball sweets; decorating a wooden spoon and a gingerbread hunt

The next event is Tuesday 28th May at 10.30-12 and the theme is Health and Wellbeing.

Particularly relevant Post covid, so this event is all about boosting self-esteem, nutrition & exercise, building confidence. Suitable for children and young people of all ages. Just drop in. Contact Youth@matlaske.org.uk

The Youth Ministry Team of the Matlaske Benefice aims to engage more children than before in interesting and meaningful ways and to show our love respect and value to all children in the parishes



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If so, please get in touch with your local community connector.



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