

Church & Village News

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

July/August 2024



Hempstead Heron

Photograph by Jonathan Neville



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What's On

July

Fri 5	Corpusty & Saxthorpe	Film night. Next Goal Wins
Sat 6	Hempstead	Open Gardens
Sun 7	Hempstead	Open Gardens
Wed 3	Baconsthorpe	Village Hall Coffee Morning
Wed 10	Matlaske	Coffee Morning Blacksmiths Cottage
Sat 13	Baconsthorpe	Fete (includes Bake Off Competition)
Sat 20	Edgefield	Midsummer Disco
Sept 27	Matlaske	Music & Pizza in the Park

August

Fri 2nd	Corpusty & Saxthorpe	Film night The Color Purple
Fri. 9th	Corpusty & Saxthorpe	Safari Supper
Sat 17th	Edgefield	Murder Mystery Play
Thur 29th	Plumstead	NCT Bike Ride Celebration
Fri, 30	Hempstead Residents Arts preview	
Sat 31	Hempstead	Arts in Village Hall

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

September

Sun 1	Hempstead	Arts in Village hall
Sun 1	Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Summer Sizzle
Sat 14	Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride	
Sat 21	Wine Tasting	Baconsthorpe
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
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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

General Election July 4th - don't forget to take your photo ID

County Councillor

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

Mobile Library Times

4 July/1 & 29 August/26 Sept

Matlaske	12:40	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	13.00.	NR11 7LJ	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 Cott's

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 Ben Diaz - Experiences on placement in the Matlaske Benefice.
David Longe 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All,

I have been asked to write a little about my experience on placement here and my journey to ministry - I am currently training to be a licensed Lay Minister. Spending time in the Matlaske Benefice and meeting you all has been a delight – in fact has been transformative. Thank you!

So who am I? I was born in Abu Dhabi into a deeply religious family. My lineage is rich with spiritual leaders: my uncle, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all ordained ministers in the Methodist Church, serving in India and after partition, Pakistan. In 1989 after my father's ordination, he was posted to Bethel Methodist Church in Karachi, and my mother and I joined him. Later, in 1997 he was transferred to



Oman, ministering to the Urdu-speaking congregation and in 2003 he joined the Church of England and served in Walsall until his retirement in 2012. In 2015, my wife Azieka and I, together with our daughters Samantha and Anya, joined him settling in Norfolk in 2017. I now run a catering business and am a Labour Councillor.

Despite my very churchy family, my journey was not straightforward. My youth, spent largely in the Arabian Peninsula, mirrored the desert landscape around me—dry, barren, and spiritually disconnected.

In late 2021, I experienced an accident that left me hurt both mentally and physically. This traumatic event awakened a deep, unrelenting thirst for spiritual connection. I sought guidance from my parish priest and slowly through prayer and reflection discerned a calling to ministry. This brought a sense of peace and transformation, akin to finding an oasis in the desert of my life .

And so began my journey to train to become a Lay Minister.

When Matlaske was suggested as a placement as part of my training, I had no idea where it was! I expected some services, a few Bible studies, and to preach. But I was taken aback – behind the tranquillity of this rural Benefice I found a vibrant caring community, and the extensive work of the church in making Christ known. The relentless efforts of the Ministry Team, Church Wardens and the PCCs are commendable. They taught me that if people are not coming to the church, the church can be taken to the community – the church isn't the building; it is the people - evidenced by the coffee mornings, toddler group, family services, school assemblies, welcoming new families with honey and rosemary, and bringing Communion to those at home. This is an example of the love and care that define this community.

People ask me which area of ministry I feel called to. In truth, I am still exploring, as discerning our calling from God is an ongoing process seeking to be open to God's guidance in prayer. Just as Samuel responded to God's call, I strive to listen and respond to God's voice in my life. I have left it in God's hands to choose how to use me

As my placement ends, I want to thank you all for your welcome and your guidance and as I keep you in prayer, may I ask you to keep me in prayer as I continue my journey seeking to go where God leads. Thank you – I hope to visit again soon.

Ben



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for July/August

Sunday 7th July, Trinity VI

8:30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10:30am	Eucharist with Baptism	Edgefield

Sunday 14th July, Trinity VII

8:30am	Morning Prayer	Baconsthorpe
10:30am	Eucharist	Hempstead

Sunday 21st July, Trinity VIII

10:30am	Morning Prayer	Matlaske
5:00pm	Evensong	Edgefield

Sunday 28th July, Trinity IX

10:30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
5:00pm	Evensong	Hempstead

Sunday 4th August, Trinity X

8:30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10:30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe

Sunday 11th August, Trinity XI

8:30am	Morning Prayer	Matlaske
10:30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe

Sunday 18th August, Trinity XII

8:30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10:30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter

Sunday 25th August, Trinity XIII

8:30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10:30am	Eucharist	Edgefield

Sunday 29th August

5:00pm	Evensong for Norfolk Churches Trust, with Bishop of Thetford presenting Most Improved Church prize for the Norfolk Churches Bike Ride	Saxthorpe
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Tuesday 3rd September

10:30am	Activity Morning	Edgefield
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Coffee, Plumstead Church, every Thursday (Changed from Monday) 10-11am
Coffee Cake and Chat: Saxthorpe Church, every Wednesday 10-11am

Baconsthorpe

Baconsthorpe

Village Fete

Saturday 13 July - 2pm

Village Hall

stalls - games - stocks

teas - barbecue - bar

ALL WELCOME!

200 Club

£50 Jonathan Cooper £25 Isobel Benton
Worboys £10 Harry Steel

Church News

On June 13th rain paused for the day for Evelyn Massingham's funeral. It was a lovely service to celebrate Evelyn's life. Her son Andrew gave a very touching eulogy which described moments from the journal his mother kept. Now if we hear the song 'Happiness' by Ken Dodd we will remember Evelyn.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

A Gentle But Very Important Reminder

In your last newsletter you will have carefully saved or stuck to the fridge the flier designed by Emma Youngs which lists the categories for the Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off. However in case it has been lost here they are again

- Favourite Bake
- Something Savoury
- Under 14's six cup cakes

Bring your bakes to the fete on July 13th by 2.45 for the judging. Prizes will be awarded at 3pm. If anyone would be willing to share a photo of cakes being prepared would be lovely. All our usual popular stalls will be there plus some new additions – crockery smashing stall; a farm vehicle filled with balloons and 'welly wanging'! Now we just need the sunshine!

Another Very Important Event

Due to popular demand Baconsthorpe is once again presenting a Murder Mystery Play – 'Who Killed The Headmaster?' this is a very apt title as the village hall was once a school. This will take place in the village hall on October 12th. So please put the date in your diary or to avoid disappointment message Lee at villagehall@baconsthorpe.org to reserve a table. The price is £15 which covers your refreshments and your entertainment! If there is anyone who would like to take on a role please call or speak to me. Don't be shy it is great fun.

Our Second Coffee Morning

On June 5th we held our second coffee morning in the village hall. Sadly it was not warm enough to sit outside but it was a very jolly gathering with new faces arriving. Numbers have increased to 25 plus two dogs. Super scones were available plus a slice of 'forgiving cake'. Next meeting will be Wednesday July 3rd. Remember there is no charge and transport can be arranged if you give me a call – 07879414577

Another New Event – World Wide Wine Romp

Saturday September 21st – join us for a light hearted romp around the world of affordable wines. From fridge door whites to 'gluggable' reds. Details and booking information to follow

New arrivals to Baconsthorpe

We would like to warmly welcome Joanne and Carl with their three children – Carrera, Lexus and Harvey to No 1 The Pyghtle. We hope they will be happy and we will perhaps see them at the pop up pub and the coffee morning

Village Hall news

The **Fete** takes on **Saturday 13 July** and this year will feature the Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off, which is open to anyone to enter. For adults choose a favourite bake or savoury item to present to the judges from Byfords. For the under 14s, bake 6 cup cakes. Have entries to the village hall by 14.45 at the latest.

Pop Up Pub Fri July 26 and Fri August 30. The usual delicious, good value food and drink will be on offer from 6pm.

At the **July pop up pub** we will having a **Baconsthorpe “Hidden Talent” Variety show** in the village hall garden but we need your Help! Perhaps you have a hidden talent you would like to share with our community? It could be a song or playing an instrument, a favourite poem you'd like to read, a story, a joke, some history about the village or area, magic tricks, etc. Any hidden talent.

This is not a competition, there won't be judging. Just a chance to share amongst ourselves. If anyone would like to join in, please contact Rick 07936986316

Barningham Winter

Thank you to everyone who came to the summer service at St. Peter's Church, North Barningham which I hear was lovely and to all those who bought food and drink to make the afternoon even more special. Huge thanks to Mr and Mrs de Bunsen who work so tirelessly to keep the little church so beautifully.

On Sunday the 11th August 'Fiddian's Folly garden will be open from 10am to 5pm at Upwood Farm, North Barningham for the National Garden Scheme. Lets hope for a sunny day.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News (Alison Mawson)

Our beautiful churchyard is there for the whole village. We need help to care for it and to keep it well maintained. Our annual clearing is at 5.00pm on Tuesday 2nd July and we would welcome any volunteers. Please bring strimmers, rakes and bags. Drinks will be provided. Your assistance would be much appreciated.



Richard Peaver
587486

On 7th July we have a special service at 1030 with a family baptism. All are very welcome to share this happy occasion. There will be another free children's activity morning in church at 1030 on Tuesday 3rd September before they go back to school. We welcome all children to come and get creative with a variety of crafts.

Gift to the church (Richard Peaver)

A Holt parishioner has discovered a Bible that once belonged to an Edgefield resident, and has kindly given it to us. Inside the cover are carefully inscribed the following lines:

If in this book you chance to look

Be it lent forgot or lost

Return it me for I am she

That once paid what it cost

Amy Woods, Edgefield, Norfolk, March 1st 1841

Great poetry it ain't, but it is certainly a touching and humorous epigraph. I wonder if anyone has any knowledge of the Woods family? The Bible now sits on the lectern.

Village Hall News (Jim Frost)

By the time you read this there will be less than three weeks until our midsummer disco and BBQ, so if you want tickets, hurry, hurry, hurry! Contact our FB page or James.frost59@hotmail.co.uk - £10 per head. 200 Club winners for May were: 1st Mark Humphriss £50, 2nd Kay Harvey £30 and 3rd Ann Harrap £20.

D-Day Commemoration.

Edgefield joined much of the nation in commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day by lighting a beacon at the church and hearing a tribute written by the Royal British Legion. Many villagers attended and enjoyed wine and cheese provided by the parish council.



Who Killed The Farmer?
Murder Mystery Play - Edgefield Village Hall
17 August 7pm, £15 a Ticket (Inc Food)
Set in the kitchen of Crows Skull Farm in 1954 there are more suspects and more motives than you could shake a stick at - but who actually did it?
Outrageous over acting throughout, everyone seems to have been involved. Come along, for one night only and try your luck in solving this classic Murder Mystery!
Supper included between acts, a short fun quiz, raffle and of course a licensed bar!
To Book please contact
kevin24tharvey@gmail.com
07758 371 272
proceeds in aid of Edgefield Village Church

Hempstead

Coffee & Catchup

Friday 5th July and Friday 2nd August, 10.30-12.00.

Village Hall - All welcome

200 Club winners

£50 A McFayden; £25 P Tomlinson; £10 D Collier; £5 C Feilden, A Matthews & A Edwards



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Music in Hempstead

We are extremely lucky that internationally recognised harpist Keziah Thomas will join us for Music in Hempstead at 3:45 on Thursday 25 July. We will be playing a delightful set of pieces - not to be missed.



D-Day Memorial

Since January the Hempstead Crafty Creations group and some members of the village have been making poppies of all sizes from many different materials to display at the Village Hall for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings on 6th June.

Paper, paint, fabrics, wire, felt, beads, buttons, wool, even shampoo bottles, old plastic milk bottles and yogurt cartons were used to make these poppies.

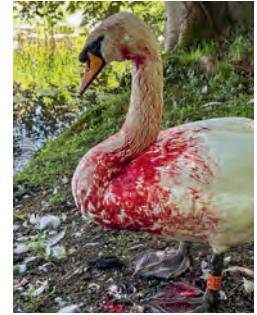
There is a Memories & Messages book in the entrance porch to the Village Hall, together with notes on the D-Day Landings and a donations box that will go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

The display will continue for the Open Gardens weekend on 6th & 7th July.

Moira Ratcliffe

Selbrigg Swan.

Just a month after featuring on the cover of this magazine, 'Scarface' was the victim of a vicious dog attack on 18 June. He was a sorry sight and is now with the RSPCA at East Winch. Thankfully his prognosis is good and all being well he will be back home in a few weeks. Anyone with information should contact Norfolk Police on 101



Hempstead Church repairs in May

In her Quinquennial report, the Church Architect flagged a crack in one of the A-frames. This has now been braced with a new piece of oak from Hole Farm. On the north side of the roof, slipping tiles and leaks were caused by rotten batons and perished felt. This will now be replaced and, we hope, last another 50-60 years.

Damp getting into the tower has been caused by blown cement render on the east side. Sam and Matt, our excellent builders, have removed the cement and repointed the flint work with lime mortar which will allow the building to breathe. The flint work under the render was in poor condition and they have now stabilised it.



Inside, a pew has been moved to create a larger social space in the back of the church, and at the rear of the church the shed has been prepared for when we can (hopefully) get a water supply from the redevelopment of the derelict chicken farm.

The cost is being covered by a trust set up by the late Robin Carver, with additional funds raised by Hempstead Arts, the village fete and private donations.

Airlie Inglis

Crafty Creations

The next meetings in the Village Hall are Saturday 22nd June 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Monday 1st July 2.00 - 4.00 pm Making art booklets or finishing any started.

Thursday 18th July 10.00 - 12.00 pm Mini canvasses.

Saturday 27th July 2.00 - 4.00 pm Furniture painting.

No meetings in August.

Hempstead Open Gardens



Weekend of various private gardens open throughout the village - some with extra activities for visitors: Craft stalls, Vintage Tractors, Classic Cars, All-day refreshments in the Village Hall, Pimms on the grass, Grand Draw.

Any plants to sell or cakes please drop off at the Village Hall Friday or Saturday morning by 10.00 am



Hempstead Arts

Hempstead Arts at the Village Hall, Friday 30th August - Sunday 1st September On Friday 30th August, Hempstead residents are once again warmly invited to a preview of the art that will be for sale over the week-end in aid of church funds. The preview will begin at 6.30pm and close at 8.30pm, with free refreshments available for all.

This popular Friday evening event provides the opportunity both to meet some of the artists and to make early purchases.

Residents of other villages are warmly invited to come along on Saturday and Sunday, when the hall will open at 10.00am each day.

Refreshments made by the village's cooks will be available throughout the week-end. Do please contact Jo Sanders if you are able to provide cakes! She will be glad to hear from you and we all look forward to welcoming you.

Hempstead Hall Oak

The oldest tree in Hempstead is reputed to be the magnificent old oak tree at Hempstead Hall. Over the hundreds of years of its life, the tree would have overseen the tenure of maybe 20 different farmers and would have been able to tell so many wonderful stories of life through the ages.

William Mack

Village view at mid-summer

Nearing mid summer our trees' leaf cover is almost fully grown. In my living memory I cannot recall this fulsome abundance, all due to the very wet and warm early months of the year. Boughs heavily laden touch my car as I journey the twists and turns of Pond Hills.

As usual the ash trees are the last to leaf, confounding the old saying of "oak before the ash, we will only have a splash" perhaps it should be revised to suit our new climate.

Our Agitated Weeping Ash with its new clothes has now taken on a more benign appearance and is less scary, and is welcoming visitors?

Our village is particularly colourful just now, getting ready for Open Gardens on the 6th July. If Westward Ho's re-modelled front garden is anything to go by its going to be a wonderful show this year!

The Village Hall decorated with poppies for the 80th Anniversary of D-day lights up the Village.

Diana Spalton's splendid and regal village seat from my observation still awaits its first visitor, perhaps it's the weather! I suspect she will give a wry smile whenever she sees it

Mike Thody



Matlaske

Root out your bric-a-brac!



Everyone's got something they don't really want or need tucked away in cupboards or drawers. Now's your chance to put unwanted bric-a-brac to good use - donate it to the Granny's Attic stall that is being held at the Music & Pizza in the park event on Saturday 27th of July (see poster). Proceeds go to church funds. Contact Cherry Westgate to arrange drop-off in Matlaske: 01263 577827, email Cherrywestgate@hotmail.co.uk.



Duncan Wood
570293

100 Club

£25 John Rounce

£10 Lucy Raynes

£5 Jan Legge

Coffee Morning

Come along for coffee/tea with cake/savoury on the 10th July at 10.30am in the garden at the rear of Blacksmiths Cottage. Catch up with friends & maybe make new ones. There will be a small raffle. Everyone is welcome.

Recycling

Don't forget to put your empty bottles & jars in the bottle bank at the entrance to the old airfield. The money that Matlaske Parish Council receives for these goes towards the running costs of our village defibrillator.

Plumstead

Churchyard at St Michaels

The area of the churchyard set aside for nature has been increased, with the welcome consequence of reducing the area to be mown. We are most grateful to all who mow and strim the churchyard and the Flagpole Garden and are glad to have lessened the effort required from now on.

Plants have been selling well from the plant stall just outside the church. Contributions of new plants would be welcome to keep the stall refreshed. There are also some new craft items, jigsaws and beautiful handmade cards, featuring Dave Chilver's wonderful photography.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Special Service

There will be a special service of Evensong on August 29th at 5pm, when the prizes and awards for the Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride will be given. St. Michael's has won the prize for "Most Improved Church". The Bishop of Thetford will be with us for this event and we are all invited to Hole Farm for refreshments afterward.

Plumstead Parish Council

Following the retirement of our previous clerk, Plumstead Parish Council were delighted at our AGM on 22nd May to appoint Cherrie Woods as our new clerk. We look forward to working with her as we continue to serve our community. At that same meeting Brian Faulkner was re-appointed as chair, and Nick Fulford vice chair of our council.

The next meeting of Plumstead Parish Council is on Wednesday 28th August 6.30pm in Plumstead Church. Members of the public are very welcome at that meeting.

POND LIFE FRIDAYS ... are back in 2024!

AT PLUMSTEAD VILLAGE POND
from 5.30pm to 6.30pm (approx.)

June 14, 21, 28
July 5, 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23



Do you fancy a get-together at the end of the week? A chance to chat and enjoy each other's company.

Bring a drink and a picnic or nibbles and a fold-up chair if you want, plus a bag for your rubbish.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Taylor-Swift residency at St A's!



OK, so we are talking about the Taylor-cast bells and feathered swifts - and although recordings will be played to attract these amazing birds to the tower of St Andrews, they feature the calls of other swifts, not songs crafted by the global singing sensation.



John Birchall
584290

Two cabinets, each with three swift nest boxes, have been installed in the louvred windows high in the tower. The work was carried out by Caroline Spinks of Norwich Swifts Network, aided by James Kimbley, making St Andrews just the third church in Norfolk to have swift boxes.

“They really are amazing birds,” said Caroline. “When they leave the nest it can be two or three years before they land again.” Fossils show that swifts have been around for millions of years, but in this country numbers have declined by 60%, largely as a result of new roofing techniques that provide few nooks for nesting.

It is hard to say how long it will be before swifts set up home in St Andrews, but Caroline said that swifts showed interest as soon as the caller system was turned on. “It might take up to two years, but sometimes it is much quicker than that.”

Unlike some other birds and bats, swifts are good neighbours and don't stain nest sites with their droppings. Swift boxes, and even swift nest bricks, are widely available if you would like to help these wonderful birds. Thanks to Maureen Kimbley for supporting the cost of the cabinets in St A's.

Willow's kindest cut

Corpusty Primary pupil Willow Dixon-Keeling has donated almost 17 inches of her fabulously long locks to help people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other illnesses.

The haircut was carried out by Attic Hair Artistry in Holt and Willow then donated her beautiful tresses to the Little Princess Trust, along with £1400 raised through sponsorship. The Trust is a charity that makes real hair wigs for those who have lost hair through illness.

Willow is a 5th generation pupil at Corpusty Primary and many villagers and coffee morning attendees kindly sponsored her.



Join the Safari Supper – Friday 9 August 2024

Join us for a fun evening of eating, meeting and sharing good company at the St Andrew's Church Safari Supper on 9th August 2024. We propose to meet at the Church at 5.45 pm for 'Sundowners' and the starters, followed by visits to hosts' homes for main course and desserts, finishing with cheese & port back at St Andrew's. Cost is £15 / person with reduced costs for those hosting courses.

If you would be prepared to host a course or would just like to be a guest or would like further information, please contact Lesley Last (07531065959) or by email to: lesley@saxthorpe.com.

Summer Sizzle, now with added duck race!



Don't miss this year's Summer Sizzle on the village green, which is being sponsored by Edgefield Nurseries and will take place on **Sunday, Sept 1, from 4 - 6pm.**

This is a change of day from the Monday sizzles of the last two years, but will have all the usual attractions of a sausage bbq (meat free options, of course!), cake stand, a variety stalls and games, PLUS duck races along the Bure overflow stream.

There are 108 ducks available for sponsorship for a minimum £1 donation. You can book yours and donate at any of the Wednesday Coffee, Cake & Chat sessions (10-11am) at St Andrews right up to the day itself. In addition all pupils and new starters at Corpusty Primary School will be given a free duck before the summer holiday to decorate for the race.

Prizes will include a number of family passes from the Norfolk Museum Service - giving a whole family entry to any one of Norfolk's fabulous museums. See more at <https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/>. Thanks to Edgefield Nurseries for their support, and to Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service who hope to send a Fire Engine - unless out on a call.

See-saw sawn

The see-saw on the green has been put out of action because the wooden pole was badly decayed and sooner or later would have given way when used. One of the picnic tables has also been removed after a seat gave way. The Parish Council has received a report from ROSPA following a safety inspection of the play area and will be considering its recommendations.

On your bike

It's time to get your bike out of the shed again, pump up the tyres, get some three-in-one oil on those Sturmey Archer gears and 'sharpen up' the brakes.

The **Norfolk Churches Trust** annual sponsored bike ride will take place on **Saturday 14th September**. Please sign-up lots of sponsors and visit as many churches as you can between 9.00 and 5.00 on that day.

At St Andrew's Saxthorpe there will be a warm welcome for all visitors and Charles Tyndall is looking for helpers to meet and greet visitors to the church during the day. If you can spare an hour or two please send an email to charlestyndall@btinternet.com to secure your preferred time slot. If you're a baker some cake or biscuits to offer our visitors would be excellent or some spare fruit from the garden would be very good. Please get in touch. Thank you.

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

As I am sat here writing this, basically a High Summer double bill for both July and August, the irony is not lost on me that our wood burner is on and there is a good hearty warming soup on the hob bubbling away nicely, as sadly June is proving to be quite a challenge weather wise. Not so much flaming June as really quite soggy June! However I do think it is preferable to the extreme temperatures and drought we were suffering with this time last year. We have noticed over the past year several trees either fairly young or well established ones, that had been put under such a huge strain by the extreme weather that they have since been badly struggling or have sadly died. Any tree that is really stressed is going to be much more vulnerable. So as I now look out at yet another rainy June day I am consoling myself with the fact that at least this weather is much kinder on our trees!

Meanwhile in the garden it's also not all plain sailing! My main concern at the moment are our dahlias that are being absolutely decimated by slugs! Normally they are such power houses they can outgrow any issues with slugs, this has not been the case this year. My guess is the winter conditions were perfect for slugs and that we have had a big increase in numbers. I have never used slug pellets (and I do not intend so start now!) as I am not a fan. I have used 'slug gone' in the past (a far less toxic solution) whilst I have started my dahlias off in the greenhouse, which has worked quite nicely but I am balking at using lots of it in the garden. I have heard a good tip in the last week which is to soak a wide length of wood and leave it near an affected area, the slugs will then use that as somewhere cool damp and dark to hide out underneath during the day, so you can in turn remove or destroy them then. I will let you know how we get on! Elsewhere in the border the roses have taken a battering too, with many of the buds getting too waterlogged to open properly, the only solution to that is to keep deadheading the failed buds and hope we get enough breaks in the rain so that we get some more blooms.

There are plenty of tasks on the to do list for both July and August...the first of which is to keep tabs on the weeds, difficult when everything is in their favour at the moment! My usual technique of hoeing weeds off on a sunny day isn't working out, so it's the more time consuming alternative of pulling them out. Elsewhere there is loads of pruning to be done, be that perennials in the border so you get a second flourish, wisterias and rambling roses after they have flowered. Your lavenders if you have them will benefit from being cut back too so they don't get leggy. Ditto your perennial herbs such as rosemary, sage, thyme and mint, if you cut them back now they will bounce back nicely before the temperatures start to drop in September. Now is also a good time (end of August) to get a good patch of parsley on its way. We tend to grow the French flat leaf variety as it lasts better than its Italian cousin that can get a bit big and coarse. It's a good plan to soak the



seeds overnight in warm water to attempt to remove the germination inhibitors that coat the seeds before you sow them the next day. If you've got a fairly sheltered spot you should be able to keep your parsley going over most of the winter.

It's hard to predict what sort of weather we will be up against in July and August and what impact it will have on the garden, so it seems best to just roll with what we have and to work with it rather than against it, that's the theory anyway! So with that thought we wish you a good rest of the summer in your garden, whether you are in waders or sandals! We will be here in September in 'Back to School' mode with plans and tasks for the coming months!

This month's question is from Liz Harris who asks when the best time to divide rhubarb plants is, the quick answer Liz is not yet! I would hold on to later in the year, when you have two alternatives, if your plants are simply congested then I would simply cut and divide them and replant in the same spot. If however they have been losing their vitality and are looking a bit sorry for themselves I would cut and divide and replant in another spot in your garden. Rhubarb plants tend to get a bit depleted if they have been in the same spot for longer than 6 to 8 years. Good Luck!

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

Michelle and Mick McCarter

Children, Youth and Families

The summer holidays are almost here and some children and youth have 6-10 weeks off from school.

It can be a challenge to keep them entertained and happy especially if the weather is wet.

Towards the end of the holidays there are two events suitable for the youngsters

Saxthorpe & Corpusty Summer Sizzle with fun and games plus Duck race Sunday 1st September 4-6pm on the Green in Corpusty.

Edgefield Church has a free activity and craft morning with a Bee theme Tuesday 3rd September 10.30-12.

Additionally some of the larger Churches in the group of seven villages have small play areas for little ones or activity boxes for those 6 years of age and above to enjoy.

Every Wednesday at 10-11am in Saxthorpe Church is Coffee, Cake and Chat where little ones are welcome to play and older ones in the holidays will have craft options.

Feel free to pop in anytime any day to spend some time quietly soaking up the atmosphere. Especially the Churchyards are havens for all sorts of wild flowers and grasses.

The Brownies on a visit to Saxthorpe Church were asked to describe how being inside the church made them feel, they wrote happy, calm, safe, peaceful, still, good, relaxed and excited.

The Corpusty Brownies have enjoyed doing their Bats in Churches badge. They visited Saxthorpe Church to discover more about the building and look for evidence of bats. They also helped by cleaning the brasses and making flower arrangements which were left in church for Coffee, Cake and Chat.

Hornsea 3 abnormal loads

Orsted have warned that, as part of the Hornsea 3 wind farm project, abnormal loads will be using roads through our parishes for much of 2024 - including the B1149 Holt Road and B1354 Briston Road.

Starting on 1st of July there will be up to four abnormal loads - 50 tonnes in weight and 4.5m width - during daylight hours on two days of each week. Orsted have said that they will avoid movements close to schools at the beginning and end of the school day. Occasionally other abnormal load movements will necessary, although none of any sort will take place in August, restarting mid-September.

These movements are subject to change, so details may not be available until nearer the time. If you need to avoid these loads, it's a good idea to opt-in to updates by emailing community@hornsea3.co.uk using the subject line: **Hornsea 3 ALM Updates**, or by calling (freephone) 0800 158 2354.

Norfolk Record Office to hold early editions

Anyone taking over as editor of C&VN has found that the job includes keeping the boxes of past editions dating back to 1987. To make sure that these fascinating glimpses into our villages' past don't get lost the whole archive of 330 or so editions, up until the current C&VN was launched in 2015, is being handed over to Norfolk Record Office.

The collection shows how the simple typed and copied newsletter of the 1980s went through several version as it evolved into the C&VN of today. These early newsletters will be available to view at the Archive Centre, next to County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich.

All editions of C&VN since 2015 are available online at churchandvillagenews.org.uk.





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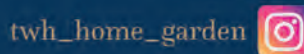
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