

Church & Village News

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

September 2024



St Andrew's Saxthorpe

Photograph by Christine Birchall



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What's On

September

Sun 1	Hempstead	Arts in Village hall
Sun 1	Corpusty Village Green	Summer Sizzle - 4-6pm
Mon 2	Hempstead Village Hall	Crafty Creations - 2-4pm
Tues 3	Edgefield Church	Children's activities 10.30- 12 noon
Fri 6	Corpusty Village Hall	Film night 7pm
Thurs 12	Hempstead Village Hall	Crafty Creations - 10am-12 noon
Sat 14		Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride
Mon 16	Hempstead Village Hall	First Aid 7pm onwards
Sat 21	Wine Tasting	Baconsthorpe
Sat 21	Hempstead Village Hall	Crafty Creations - 2-4pm
Sun 22	Edgefield	The Samphires concert in Church 5pm
Sun 22	Corpusty Village Hall	Car boot & breakfast 8am to noon
Sat 28	Edgefield	Bingo
Sat 28	Corpusty Village Hall	Quiz, fish & chips
Sat 28	Hempstead	Table top and car boot sale

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

October

Fri 4	Matlaske Quiz	Baconsthorpe VH
Mon 7	Crafty Creations	Hempstead Village Hall
Fri 11	Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Harvest Supper
Sat 12	Baconsthorpe	Murder Mystery
Thurs 17	Crafty Creations	Hempstead Village Hall
Sat 19	Curry Night	Corpusty Village Hall
Sat 26	Crafty Creations	Hempstead Village Hall

November

Sat 16	Baconsthorpe	Craft Fair
Sat 9/Sun 10	Hempstead Village Hall	Autumn Craft Weekend
Sat 23	Northern Soul	Corpusty Village Hall

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

Local MP
Steffan Aquarone
Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk

County Councillor

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

Mobile Library Times

26 Sept/Oct 24/Nov 21

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 Reverend Judy Rosser
David Longe 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I find myself today considering the summer holidays, which at the time these words reach your letterboxes in early September, will be coming to an end for the majority of us. We are all in need of peace and refreshment which will be different for us all. Some may like to get away with friends and family to somewhere distant to step out of everyday life and to have adventures and excitement. Others may prefer to go somewhere quiet to be at one with nature either with loved ones or may be alone, or indeed to be home without a schedule.

This summer there has been no time away for me, as I have been busy moving house. Since moving from Sheringham in 2011 to Matlaske I have lived in four of the seven villages which our benefice incorporates. Corpusty, Hempstead, Edgefield and Matlaske have all been exceptional places to live, pray and serve, and I am sure Barningham Winter, Plumstead and Baconsthorpe are too. All the parishes are so different and yet we come together as one community or benefice to share.



This aspect of togetherness or unity in difference is something I appreciate when I do manage get away to another part of the country or overseas, apart from the restorative, regenerative and fun aspects of holidays.

Some friends of mine have just been on a walking holiday along St Cuthbert's Way in the Scottish borders, starting at Melrose and ending at Lindisfarne or Holy Island off the Northumberland coast. The image above depicts the small but striking Celtic Cross and the arrow signing the way for all to follow. St Cuthbert was a Saint of the early Northumberland Celtic tradition and was a monk, a bishop and a hermit in his final years. He was renowned for his care and protection of the island birds and the 'Cuddy' or eider duck named after him, clearly an early conservationist at heart.

One of my favourite bible verses highlights this human need to find this peace and refreshment which clearly my friends, pilgrims and St Cuthbert found on Lindisfarne. Jesus spoke these words that follow to the disciples after they had returned from their ministry travels, when they were especially weary, and there had no had been no time to eat, drink or rest.

'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while. For many were coming and going and they had no leisure to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.' Mark 6. 31-32

I am certain that these times when we feel overwhelmed by what has already been done and all that remains to be done can be a helpful reminder to take care, to refresh and restore ourselves on a daily basis. In this way we keep well, energised and able to offer our best to our loved ones, at our places of work and in our communities.

Writing these words from my new found and at the moment tranquil garden shed I leave you with a quest to ponder. How can we all develop and find ways to bring greater inner peace and refreshment into our daily lives?

With every blessing for a richly fulfilling and vibrant September.

Judy



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for September

Sunday 1st September, Trinity XIV

10:30am	Eucharist with Baptism,	Baconsthorpe
5:00pm	Evensong,	Barningham Winter

Sunday 8th September, Trinity XV

8:30am	Eucharist,	Edgefield
10:30am	Eucharist,	Hempstead

Sunday 15th September, Trinity XVI

8:30am	Eucharist,	Barningham Winter
10:30am	Eucharist,	Matlaske

Sunday 22nd September, Trinity XVII

8:30am	Eucharist,	Hempstead
10:30am	Eucharist,	Saxthorpe

Sunday 29th September, Trinity XVIII

8:30am	Eucharist,	Matlaske
10:30am	Eucharist,	Baconsthorpe
4:00pm	Family Service,	Edgefield

Sunday 6th October, Trinity XIX

10:30am	Eucharist,	Plumstead
5:00pm	Harvest,	Edgefield

Plumstead Church Coffee, 11:00, every Monday Morning
Country Mice Toddler Group, Baconsthorpe Village Hall Tuesdays 10:30-12
Coffee Cake and Chat: Saxthorpe Church, every Wednesdays 10-11am

Help support your Church and Village News

We are on the look out for new advertisers and applying for grants to continue to produce Church and Village News at least 11 times a year. Each edition, delivered free to every home in the seven parishes, costs around £700 to produce, and is already supported by an annual grant by most of our parish councils and the benefice.

If you would like to make an annual voluntary donation to support the delivery of yours, please send your donation to TSB Business Banking, Church & Village Newsletter, Sort code: 30-94-34, Account No: 00598342, Ref: CVN Donation.

New advertisers please contact Duncan Wood.
You can also help secure grants by giving your views on CVN - see page 16.

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 H Martin £25 R Youngs £10 K Hall
£50 J Benton £25 I Benton Worboys £10 H Steel



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Church News

On August 4th Baconsthorpe church hosted a talk by a Palestinian priest – Father Mamdouh Abusada. He is a Roman Catholic priest based in Bethlehem who in 1998 founded the School of Joy, the first special school for children with learning difficulties, and those excluded from schools who are deemed extremely difficult to teach. The school is now teaching 76 children but there is a huge need for more places and funding. The talk was very well attended and the father's words made an impact on us all.

Calling budding actors!

Yes I know it's only September but on January 19th 2025 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens is going to be performed in Baconsthorpe church. After the rigours of Christmas I'm sure you will be wanting a project to fill your evenings so do get in touch. There will be 4/5 larger roles but some very small roles so please step forward as I desperately need you. I will update in next newsletter. My number is at top of page.

Village Fete



In July Baconsthorpe held its annual fete. Amongst the favourite attractions we had some new additions – smashing crockery stall, guessing the number of balloons in the vehicle, and the well-publicised Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off. Savoury Bake was won by Heather Bumfrey; under 14s' Six Cup Cakes by William and Constance Steel, and Favourite Bake (of which there were 20 entries) by Joy Thurtell. Entries were sampled and judged by Richard Knights from Byfords – a brave chap! I must mention the incredible success of the raffle organised by Emma Youngs, especially Jonathan Cooper who sold £900 worth of tickets. I think the first prize of £200 was a big draw!

What a Lovely Evening

On the balmy evening of June 26 the garden at Baconsthorpe Village Hall filled with folk of all ages to watch and listen to a range of entertainment provided by volunteers from the village. There was a guitar solo,



duet, story telling, poetry reading and joke telling. Well done to all who took part but special thanks to Rick Quillam for organising and to Jonathan Cooper for stage and sound.

Join our World Wide Wine Romp!

On September 21st at 6.30pm everyone can enjoy a light hearted romp around the world of affordable wines. From fridge door whites to gluggable reds. Try 8 wines each from a different country/wine region. Tickets £15 per person including light snacks. Pre-booking essential. Contact Lee at villagehall@baconsthorpe.org

Murder Mystery Evening – Who Killed The Headmaster?

It's almost that time again. On October 12 at 7.30 Baconsthorpe Village Hall will be filled with teams trying to work out who did the dreadful deed! I have the cast ready and rehearsals begin in September. We have a few tables left so do get in touch with Lee – villagehall@baconsthorpe.org. Teams are 3 – 6 people or come along and join another team.

A Welcome Reprieve

I am pleased to report that the lovely oak tree at the entrance to the village hall car park is not now being taken down. The Tree Protection Officer at North Norfolk District Council has decided all that needs to happen is attention to the roadside of the tree which Baconsthorpe Parish Council are budgeting for.

Good News

Congratulations to Chris and Toni on the birth of their baby daughter – Maggi Rose born July 2024

Sad News

On July 31st Julie Rudd who had lived in this village for fifty eight years passed away at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Julie had just celebrated her 88th birthday. She was a stalwart of the village – a member of the regular church cleaning team. Her funeral at Baconsthorpe church was well attended.

A Reminder

I have been asked to remind dog walkers to please remove dog poo from the lanes in the village as it is unpleasant for small children to come across.

Village Hall News

As well as the World Wide Wine Romp (see above), Pop up Pub is on Friday 27 September. Curry is on the menu from 6.30pm and the bar opens at 6pm. Coffee morning with scones and cake on Wednesday 4 September, 10.30.

Fiddian's Follies Open Garden event in August was a great success with a huge number of people enjoying the amazing gardens. We thank them for their generous donation to the village hall.

Barningham Winter

Please support MacMillan

Michelle French of Green Farm, North Barningham invites you to a MacMillan coffee morning on Friday, 27th September between 10am and 1 pm. Do support this worthwhile cause.



Sara Buxton
577207

A Pizza Paradise in the Park

A HUGE thank you to all those who got involved with the Matlaske and Barningham Pizza and Music in the Park which was held at the end of July. It was such a happy event with perfect weather and it was great to see so many people there. Both Matlaske and Barningham Winter church benefits from this event and I am pleased to report that Barningham church's share was over £600 which is a huge help for the little church. MASSIVE thanks go to Jim and Marion Shepherd who do so much organising for this event, Thomas and Amelia Courtauld for the delicious pizzas and to the musicians who helped the event go with a swing.

Travel safely

Hopefully you are all aware that the harvest is getting done at the moment. Please go round our corners carefully as the machinery is now so big, often with a trailer or a baler on the back which makes it difficult for the drivers to pull up sharply. Also be aware of the amount of cyclists who seem to be enjoying our little roads - they sometimes don't realise that there are cars on the roads too!!

Edgefield

Church News (Alison Mawson)

Summer weddings

We were delighted to have two weddings in Edgefield Church this summer. Clare Mawson married Harrison Holland on 22nd June. The church looked beautiful with fabulous flowers from Ellie at Norfolk Flower Farm and sweet peas from John Kinsley arranged by several kind villagers. Clare and Harry are both Naval Officers and were greeted outside by a splendid sword arch. On 27th July Hugh Derry and Caroline Robertson were married in a lovely service with their dog as the best man. Again, the church was beautifully dressed with flowers from Norfolk Flower Farm.



Richard Peaver
587486

Children's activity

There will be another free children's activity morning in church at 10.30 on Tuesday 3rd September before they go back to school. The theme is "Bees" and we welcome all children to come and get creative with a variety of crafts.

Bike ride volunteers needed

The Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride takes place on Saturday 14th September. If you would like to take part, please contact Alison Mawson 01263 587236. Volunteers to welcome visitors to the church are also needed; please let me know if you can spare an hour or two: alisonmawson@hotmail.com.

Murder Mystery Play

A “rag-tag bunch of thespians” (a quote from the play) put on a Murder Mystery Play, “Who Murdered the Farmer?”, in the Village Hall on 17th August. A near-capacity audience enjoyed trying to identify the culprits and were treated to an excellent supper during the interval. The event was in aid of church funds.

Painting in Church

From Monday 16th – Friday 20th and Monday 23rd – Friday 27th September, Amanda Watson, a descendant of Edgefield’s legendary Canon Marcon, will be carrying out a painting project in the church. She warmly welcomes any visitors during that time. She will subsequently deliver lectures on the theological basis of her Edgefield project at the Universities of St. Andrews and Dundee before returning to Auckland, where she is a Research Associate with the Waikato Institute of Technology and an Associate Editor for the New Zealand Journal of Visual Art Practice.

Concert by The Samphires

Following their well-received concerts over the past couple of years, the female vocal ensemble The Samphires are making a return visit to Edgefield church at **5.00pm on Sunday 22nd September**. Their hour-long programme will again include a range of genres and styles, the theme being “Fields of Gold”. Wine and cheese will be provided. Admission is free, but donations in aid of the church will be welcome.

Village Hall News (Jim Frost)

The midsummer BBQ and disco was a huge success with over 100 people dancing, eating and drinking the night away. A fair few children came as well, which was lovely. A big thank you to Sam Kehoe for organising and operating the BBQ and to Gary Sillis and Emma Cletheroe for the hay bales.

July’s 200 Club results were: 1st Pete Dodge (£50), 2nd Ade Grand (£30) and 3rd Andrew Duffield (£20). Our next event is Bingo night on Saturday 28th September at 7.00pm. Tickets £5 per head. Don’t forget that this month is the 200 Club annual prize of £200. Good luck!

Hempstead

Coffee & Catchup

Friday 6th September 10.30 - 12.00

All welcome

200 Club winners

£50 C Lister; £25 P Tomlinson; £10 S Sanders; £5 D Sanders, D Collier, A Lantaff, £50 J Roy; £25 J Tyabji; £10 P Grieve, £5 B Harmer, D Roy, T Collier



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Norfolk Show conservation award for Robin Carver

Hempstead farm owner Robin Carver, who died in January aged 91, has been honoured for leaving a “transformational” legacy for nature. His outstanding contribution to conservation was marked at the Royal Norfolk Show when his family received the 2024 Grey Partridge Award.

Robin bought Hole Farm in Hempstead in 1982 and retired there with his wife Rose in the early 1990s. They set about planting 67 acres of new woodland and nine miles of hedgerows, turning a windswept prairie into a lush haven for wildlife.

His work had already been recognised through the national Silver Lapwing award, and son-in-law Charles Inglis said the judges recognised that Robin and Rose had made transformational change at Hole Farm, going beyond sustainability in support of wildlife. “We all miss Robin enormously”, he said.

Mrs Carver said: “Robin would have been delighted and proud. He has changed the landscape. The land was very barren and bare before he got to work.” His daughter Airlie Inglis added: “From the age of 50 to 90, he transformed the farm. So it shows that you can do it, and you don’t have to do it when you are young - you can still have a huge impact that you can see.”

The award was presented by law firm Mills and Reeve, where Mr Carver had been a partner, having joined the firm in 1970. Senior partner Justin Ripman said, “I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this trophy.”

See also article by Chris Hill, Eastern Daily Press - 26th June 2024

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Hempstead Village Hall

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£7 per table (6ft trestle provided)

Hempstead Autumn Craft Weekend

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th November 10am to 4pm
Hempstead Village Hall

Crafty Creations

Monday 2nd September 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Thursday 12th September 10.00 - 12.00 pm

Saturday 21st September 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Monday 7th October 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Thursday 17th October 10.00 - 12.00 pm

Saturday 26th October 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Selbrigg Swan recovers

Following the distressing attack, probably by a dog, on the male Selbrigg Swan in June, he has made a full recovery and was returned to Selbrigg about 3 weeks later. There was no loving reunion, but I am sure his wife and family were pleased and he has settled in well.



The RSPCA covered the vet costs and anyone wishing to donate to East Winch RSPCA can do so at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rspcaeastwinch>

Francis Feilden

First Aid Training

Bev Coleman a member of the First Responders in Sheringham will be running a Training session in Hempstead Village Hall

Monday 16th September 7pm onwards

Basics training re First Aid plus explaining how a Defibrillator can be used in an emergency. This is a free event (donations will be welcome for the First Responders).

All welcome to come along and join in this informal evening

Hempstead Open Gardens

The Hempstead Open Gardens event was a resounding success even though the British weather tried to wash us out! The village was definitely looking its best for this weekend. We had a large number of attendees joining us and having a wonder around the village, the positive attitudes from all were exceptionally heartening. The financial results were excellent with excess of £4k being raised to be split between the village hall and the church. We fully appreciate the amount of work that was done leading up to the event, not least by all the garden owners. We the organisers thank you all. If you attended this event, we hope you enjoyed your visit and thank you for your support.

Jill Roy and Lesley Lennox

Dine for Palestine

On Sunday 23rd June fifty people attended “Dine for Palestine” in Hempstead. The three-course Palestinian lunch did **not** include hummus, falafel or baklava! While this stretched the benefice chefs greatly in terms of locating ingredients, the only failure was in procuring Palestinian wine – although Lebanese red and white were well-received. The diners ate preserved lemon & lentil soup with flat bread, za’atar chicken with saffron rice pilaff and orange & yogurt cake served with orange spiced panna cotta. This event raised £3,050.00 for Friends of the Holy Land and will support their medical clinic in Rafah. Thank you to all who made the lunch such a success.

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Jim Shepherd

£10 Terry Baynes

£ 5 Jo Hamilton



Duncan Wood
570293

Coffee Morning

It certainly was sunshine after the rain on the 10th July, how lucky were we for Matlaske Coffee Morning! Thank you to those who came to support & gave raffle prizes. £222 was raised for the Christmas party.

Music & Pizza in The Park

What another lovely event, the weather was kind to all those people who came to enjoy pizza, the bbq, a delicious dessert, play games, listen to the wonderful music and drink the bar dry! Thank you to all who supported and donated.

Parish Council

Next Parish Council meeting is 9th September 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, **all welcome.**

Brian Gough

Belinda, David and family are sad to announce the passing of Brian Gough of The Lodge, Matlaske, on 16th July 2024. Brian and Trixie spent many happy years in the village, and will be sorely missed by family and friends.

Plumstead

Hoping everyone has enjoyed the summer, despite the variable weather conditions!



Harriet Rossi
577239

Churchyard clearance - helpers needed

A good variety of wildflowers have appeared in St Michaels churchyard, in the areas left un-mown, since the end of June. On Monday September 2nd, weather permitting, this long grass area needs to be cut down and raked off, in preparation for the autumn and winter. Do come along from 10 am that day and bring scythes, trimmers, secateurs, rakes and a wheelbarrow or two, for a concerted effort to cut and clear the grasses, remove ivy from the walls and generally cut back the overgrown vegetation. The more the merrier! Refreshments will be available.

Coffee and Chat

The weekly morning coffee and chat will revert to 11 am on Mondays. September 2nd conveniently coinciding with the churchyard clearance. Do come along sometimes and enjoy the company of your neighbours for a short while, at the start of the week.

Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride

Please sponsor Mike Ray-Jones in the Norfolk Churches Bike Ride, taking place on Saturday, September 14th. He will be cycling with 2 family members. Others, who usually take part, are away.

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Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Saxthorpe and Corpusty - *John Birchall*

Safari Supper

Five couples enjoyed the first ever Corpusty & Saxthorpe Safari supper on a glorious August evening, taking in cocktails and canapés in St Andrews, main course and puddings in different village homes before port and cheese back in the Church. A total of £130 was raised for Church funds. A date for next year will be well advertised



John Birchall
584290

Coffee, cake and canines...

Coffee, cake and chat at St A's has become a mid-week diary fixture for a growing number of people, but on 21 August it really went to the dogs - in a very good cause. Visitors were invited to bring their canine companions to Barks & Bakes in exchange for a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support. Good coffee and delectable cakes and a number of other stalls ensured that well over £200 was raised for Macmillan. Thanks to all - especially the bakers - for the constant support.

Defib moved!



Please note that the life-saving defibrillator has been moved from outside the Spar shop into the red phone box opposite the Dukes Head. In the near future the phone box will be repainted in its traditional red, and the interior restored so that, alongside its vital role housing the defib, it can also be used as a local history box. 'Defibrillator' signs will be added to the glass.

Supper and serenade

Bringing the harvest home will again be celebrated at Millers Barn, Saxthorpe, with a Harvest Supper the includes an after-dinner recital by Sea Fever. The event, in support of St Andrews Church, takes place on Friday 11th October, 6.30 pm. Tickets are £25 and include two courses and a glass of wine. For tickets, contact Lesley Last on lesley@saxthorpe.com.

It's never too early ...

After the success of last year's Christmas Tree festival at St Andrews, this year the church will be hosting a Trees & Nativities festival, running for three days from Friday 6th December to Sunday 8th. More details nearer the time.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
Harvest Supper
with after dinner recital by
'Sea Fever'
Two courses
Includes glass of wine
£25 per head
RSVP: lesley@saxthorpe.com
Friday 11th October 6.30pm
Millers Barn, Matlaske Road
Proceeds going to St Andrews Church, Saxthorpe

The poster features a central illustration of four people sitting around a table with food and wine, with musical notes floating around them. The background is a light, textured beige.

Corpusty Station Restoration

Corpusty Village Hall committee has set an ambitious fundraising target of £25,000 for various works needed to the old railway station. Karen MacDonald Thomas and Philippa Davies have been appointed as Fundraising Champions. If you would like to help please contact us at c.s.villagehall@gmail.com.

As well as the car boot & breakfast in August, the following events are being organised to kick off the fund:

22 September: car boot & breakfast.

28 September: quiz + fish & chips evening.

19 October: curry night; £15 per person.

Also at the village hall:

23 November: Northern Soul evening. See our website for further details of all the above: corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk

Village Hall films

On Friday 6th September Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt star in the **The Fall Guy** - the tale of a stuntman who finds himself having to shake off the injuries of a stunt mishap to track down a missing movie star.

For something quirkier, the October offering (Friday 4th) is **Swede Caroline**, about a prize veg grower whose marrow is stolen. Then it's back down to earth with a bump on 1 November with **Wilding**, about the return of an intensively farmed estate to nature. Tickets £5, 7pm start. Bring a cushion!

Could you run a youth club?

Is anybody interested in setting up and running a youth club in Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall (www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk)? There is table tennis equipment, large screen audio visual, and more. Anyone interested? There are safeguarding requirements - check online to find out more. Contact Caroline Randell at caroline.randell@hotmail.co.uk to check availability at the village hall.

Fruit pickers of yesteryear!

Arthur Pentney has sent this photo taken c1959 shows fruit picking at Mr Youngs farm at Baconsthorpe. The lady on the right is Mrs Olive Luker who lived at the top of Long Lane Baconsthorpe



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

September is a good month, but as I write this we are in the middle of August and the garden in the last few weeks has been feeling somewhat jaded and drawn out, the end of August to me has always had a melancholy air somewhat at odds with what should be its jolly bucket and spade holiday disposition. However there is a renewed energy in the very air that September brings, crisper mornings and new vibrant colours in the fruits and berries, that all help move the garden into its Indian summer mode, well that's the hope!



This year feels even more poignant than normal, as a family we have suffered the difficult illness and death of a close family member sadly well before their time. I had thought at the start of their illness that the garden and gardening would get us through, but it was not to be. Too much difficult stuff has meant the garden has very much had to take a back seat. That in itself has been extraordinary, you very much realise how hard you work at keeping something in check when you just have to let it go! Whole swathes of the garden have had to go it alone this year and the growth and weeds in places are literally up to head height. It is quite something to just see how ground (if left to its own devices)

takes the garden back for itself. Not quite on a re-wilding scale but it has been extraordinary. I would love to say that due to all the extra seed heads from all the 'weeds' has meant we have had more insects, bees etc. But that has worryingly not been the case. I have noticed a real drop in the number of insects in the garden. Our large family of rather possessive red tailed bumblebees that for years had been religiously taking over the roof space above our bench in the walled garden (never an issue but it did feel very much that you were in 'their' way by sitting there and that they would rather you didn't!) sadly never materialised, they used to love the large plants of comfrey we had in the garden and the comfrey has been worryingly quiet this year. Last year the set aside fields here were filled with fiddleneck flowers and sunflowers, through tricky germination conditions this year even the fields too have suffered, last year the fiddleneck flowers seemed to draw in so many bees that I had felt more reassured, we have really missed them both this year.

So in many more ways than normal, this September feels very much like a new start at a school we would very much have not chosen to have attended. But as with so much in life we don't get to choose, but we do get to decide how we manage. And there is hope in how relentlessly but reassuringly the seasons keep moving and the garden just keeps growing. Our world may have shifted on its axis but there will be a way forward and I know our garden will be as ever at the heart of it.

No question this month (back to normal next month!) Just profound Thanks and gratitude to everyone who has helped and supported us over these last few months.

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

Riverlands – balsam bashing our way to a better river!

by Emily Long – Riverlands Upper Bure Project manager

Since 2019 the National Trust's Riverlands project has been striving to make the Bure a cleaner, healthier, more beautiful river that is abundant in wildlife. We have been working with partners such as Norfolk Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to restore freshwater habitats including the river, smaller streams and the many ponds throughout the catchment. As well as planting trees and working with farmers to reduce soil run-off from fields, we have been tackling invasive species such as Himalayan balsam.

The plant's pretty pink flower (see picture) belies the impact it has on our lovely river. Its explosive seed dispersal spreads it far and wide, where it establishes quickly, out-competing native flowers such as flag iris and purple loosestrife. The balsam dies back in winter leaving our riverbanks bare and unstable from lack of binding roots.

This makes them more susceptible to erosion and another invader, the signal crayfish.

The good news is that Himalayan balsam can be easily pulled out and composted, and we've trying to eradicate it from the banks of the Bure through the Blickling Estate. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and our friendly contractor Andy Hind, we've seen great results and hope to extend this throughout the rest of the rivers' catchment. And here's where you might be able to help – are you aware of where the plant grows, or would you be interested in helping our team of volunteers next spring/summer? If so, please get in touch with us at BureRiverlands@nationaltrust.org.uk.

This project is funded by the Government's Species Survival Fund. This was developed by Defra and is being delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

To keep in touch with what we're up to, sign up for our newsletter at BureRiverlands@nationaltrust.org.uk. Find out more online at Restoring the River Bure in Norfolk.



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Dear Valued Readers,

As the cost of living continues to rise, so too have the costs of producing Church and Village News. We've always been proud to bring you this publication, funded by our loyal advertisers, Parish Councils, and Parish Churches. But now, to keep our magazine thriving, we need your help.

We're applying for grants to secure the future of CVN, and your input is crucial. Your feedback on the value of our magazine will strengthen our applications and help us continue serving our community.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts by emailing us at CVN@Matlaske.co.uk or completing our quick survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PR7736J>

Your voice could make all the difference. Thank you for your support!

Warm regards,

The CVN Team



Children, Youth and Families

Edgefield Children's activity and craft morning – Tuesday 3rd September 10.30-12

Some families will breathe a sigh of relief after the summer holidays others will wish they had more time to savour time together.

News across the seven parishes of Matlaske, Barningham Winter, Hempstead, Plumstead, Baconsthorpe, Edgefield, Saxthorpe & Corpusty

- : Corpusty Primary School has a new headteacher
- : Country Mice (parent & toddler group) Tuesdays at 10am Baconsthorpe Village Hall
- : Saxthorpe Coffee, Cake & Chat each Wednesday at 10am with play area for toddlers.
- : Corpusty Brownie pack will restart in the Village Hall Tuesdays at 5pm

History Watch by Arthur Pentney - Baconsthorpe's role in Defence of the Realm

*'He who would Old England win,
Should at Weybourne Hope begin.'*

Take a couple of steps into the sea at Weybourne and you will understand this ancient jingle - you will soon be out of your depth, so steeply does the beach shelve away. It follows that Weybourne is a likely spot for any invading enemy to try to come ashore. Hence the need to defend it.

Take 1588. Protestant Queen Elizabeth was at odds with the Catholic King Phillip of Spain. Incensed at 'Having his beard singed' by Francis Drake at Cadiz, Phillip assembled an Armada intent on invading England. Would the Spaniards try to land a Weybourne? Not if Baconsthorpe had anything to do with it. Plans for the defence of this coast were formulated at our castle. As it happened, by the time the Armada got close to Norfolk it was already in disarray. Broken up by cannon fire and fire ships, the ragged survivors carried on up the North Sea, round the north of Scotland and, if lucky, back to Spain.

And now to 1940. Again Britain stood alone. Who would defend us from a German invasion? Why, the Home Guard! Forget those Dad's Army jokes. A special force within the Home Guard had been set up, consisting of the youngest and fittest of the unmarried men. So secret was this clandestine operation that I could find little about it. I quizzed our neighbour John Digby, who I suspected was involved, but got nowhere. Believing Hempstead farmer John Seaman had been in charge of our local group, I spoke to John Digby again, but received a non-committal "Well he was, and he wasn't"!

I later learned that men in these groups were probably on a mission mainly of planned sabotage. Our castle, although ruinous, was a secret hideout for the group, their ammunition, weapons and explosives. Fortunately they were never needed - thanks to the RAF, bad weather in the Channel, and Hitler's attack on Russia, which allowed this country some well-needed breathing space. (Picture English Heritage)



Saved for posterity!

Back copies of Church & Village News - or rather its previous incarnations dating back to the late 1980s - have been handed over to the Norfolk Record Office and are now safely stored at the Archive Centre, County Hall, Norwich. They will soon appear in the Record Office's list of new acquisitions. In the meantime anyone wishing to view them can do so by quoting the accession number: ACC 2024/86.



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