

Church & Village News

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

May 2025



Tulips

Photograph by Michelle & Mick McCarter

Newsletter Team

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Hempstead	Paul Sanders	713217
Matlaske & Barningham	Vacant	
Plumstead	Brian Faulkner	577868
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Guy Hodgson	575277

Parish Council Websites

Baconsthorpe
<https://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc>

Edgefield
<https://edgefield-pc.gov.uk/>

Hempstead
<https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc>

Matlaske & Barningham
<https://matlaske-pc.gov.uk/>

Plumstead
<https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc>

Saxthorpe & Corpusty
<https://corpustyandsaxthorpe-pc.gov.uk/>

District Councillors

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Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead
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Steffan Aquarone MP
Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk

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Village Websites

www.baconsthorpe.org
www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk
hwww.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk/village-hall.html
www.plumstead.org.uk

Church People

Rector Reverend Canon David Longe 577252
Asst Curate Reverend Judy Rosser 587584
Authorised Worship Asst Prof Alain Wolf 577292
Lay Minister Dr Jane McLarty 07791 870104

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	Harry Steel	07711 890360
B Winter	Amelia Courtauld	577250
	Rebecca Hill	07960 739593
Edgefield	Emma Cletheroe	587049
	Alison Mawson	587292
Hempstead	Airlie Inglis	577440
Matlaske	Thomas Courtauld	577250
	Duncan Wood	570293
Plumstead	Eleanor Faulkner	577868
Sax with Corp	Lesley Last	587782
	Jill Perry-Warnes	584 221

Safeguarding Officers

Catherine McMahon
01263 577357 / cmcmahon161@gmail.com

Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or
Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team
safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

County Councillor

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

What's On

MAY

Thur 1	3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Fri 2	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up	Village Hall
Fri 2	7.00pm	Corpusty Film Night - Maria	Village Hall
Sun 4	10.00am	Guist Stately Car Boot	Sennowe Park
Wed 7	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Thur 8	TIME	Hempstead VE Day Afternoon Tea - booking essential	Village Hall
Thur 8	8.00pm	Edgefield VE Day Celebrations & Beacon Lighting	Church
Thur 8	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Book Club	Village Hall
Sat 10	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Churchyard Clear-Up	Church
Sat 10	7.00pm	Matlaske Quiz	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Wed 14	10.00am	Saxthorpe Plant Swap Day, Coffee, Cake & Chat	Church
Thur 15	10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations - Napkin Rings	Village Hall
Thur 22	3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Thur 22	6.00pm	Plumstead Parish Council AGM & Parish Meeting	Church
Sat 24	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations - Painted Flower Pots	Village Hall
Fri 30	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall
Sat 31	7.00pm	Saxthorpe Evening Concert - Serendipity	Church

JUNE

Mon 2	3.45pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Wed 4	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Fri 6	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up	Village Hall
Fri 6	7.00pm	Corpusty Film Night - Wicked	Village Hall
Sun 8	TIME	Blicking Lodge Open Gardens	Blicking Lodge
Thur 12	7.00pm	Hempstead Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Thur 19	3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Sat 14	3.45pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Thur 26	3.45pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Fri 27	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall
Sat 28	10.00am	Edgefield Open Gardens	Throughout Village
Sun 29	10.00am	Edgefield Open Gardens	Throughout Village

Clash Diary - to add event contact Corinne Youngs 577263/ corinne@avyoungs.com

July 12	Baconsthorpe Fête	Oct 4	Edgefield Quiz
July 19	Edgefield Edgifest	Oct 10	Saxthorpe Harvest Supper
July 26	Matlaske Music + Pizza in the Park	Oct 11	Matlaske Quiz
Aug 3	Hempstead Fête	Dec 7	Matlaske Christmas Party
Aug 8	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair	Dec 13	Edgefield Festive Evening
Aug 29	Baconsthorpe <i>Midsummer's Night Dream</i>	Dec 13-14	Saxthorpe Living Nativity

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

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Church & Village News. Apologies if contributed material is not published due to space constraints. All facts are believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

Mobile Library Van

8 May / 5 June / 3 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	The Memorial
	16:10	NR24 2AX	The Street
Corpusty	16:35	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cotts

Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA> Tel: 01603 222303

Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

Churches are dominated by the cross, often reflected in their layout with the chancel at the east end set at an angle to represent how Jesus' head hung in death. While this may seem grim, the cross serves as a reminder that Jesus triumphed over suffering through the mystery of the resurrection, urging us to look beyond what we endure to hope and life.

Since ancient times the cross has been an object of scorn. A 2nd century graffiti on the Palatine Hill in Rome, known as the "Alexamenos graffito" (have a Google), mocks a Christian by depicting the cross with a donkey's head.

I write about the cross not only because grappling with the concept of the cross is fundamental to Christianity – Christianity is rooted in the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus; but also because of a wonderful gift recently given to Corpusty School. Most Wednesdays during term time I have the privilege of leading assemblies, alongside Trisha Jones. We sing, act out biblical stories and discuss their relevance. This can be insightful! Last term, when re-enacting Moses' death, a pupil remarked that Moses had "got his just deserts" for killing an Egyptian when he was a young man.

Our assemblies begin with a lit candle, Jesus being removed from a cross and a moment's silence. Generously, Kay Corbett offered to replicate the cross as a gift for the school. With the help of Steve Carman, expertly sourced and sawed local wood for it, she carved a beautiful new cross.

The cross is carved from beech, its uniquely grained stained by fungus. The removable image of Jesus is intricately carved from an oak burr, with the stand also made of oak. Three prongs of reclaimed ebony represent the nails in Jesus' hands and feet and serve as a reminder of the suffering in the world.

The cross is a gift to the school, which can be stored safely when not in use. I am deeply grateful to Steve and Kay for creating something so special.

I hope these assemblies teach the children something about Christianity. Whether or not they attend church, my prayer is that this cross, along with our discussions, helps them see Jesus as a man of love and peace, a worthy role model. Despite the grimness of the crucifixion, the cross points to the mysterious yet wonderful promise of hope.

Moses was wrong to kill the Egyptian, but did he get his 'just deserts'? That is a question worth grappling, especially in the light of Jesus' words from the cross "forgive them for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23.34). Moses died, having glimpsed the beauty of the Holy Land from Mt Nebo. Jesus died forgiving those who were crucifying him. Today the land that Moses longed to live in is marred by violence. The message of the cross is one of hope, even amid great suffering.

My prayer this Eastertide is that you find hope in the mystery of the empty cross.

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for May

Sharing Church: A Fresh Way to Worship Together

Join us for Sharing Church—a new, interactive style of worship where faith, fellowship and food come together. More than just a service, this is a chance to connect, reflect and share in a relaxed and welcoming space.

Our first gathering is on Sunday 25 May at St Andrew's, Saxthorpe

We'll start at 10am with tea, coffee, and fresh pastries—because good conversations often begin around the table. At 10.30am, we'll move into a time of music, prayer, and Bible reading, all centred around our theme: *Masters of Creation?* What does it mean to care for the world God has given us? Together, we'll explore this question—not just through words, but through discussion, reflection, and shared wisdom.

Whether you're a regular at church or just curious, come as you are—we'd love to see you!

4 th	Easter III	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
7 th	Wednesday Meditation	
6.00pm	Meditation	Hempstead
11 th	Easter IV	
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
18 th	Easter V	
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
21 st	Wednesday Meditation	
6.00pm	Meditation	Hempstead
25 th	Rogation Sunday	
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
10.00am	Sharing Church	Saxthorpe
4.00pm	Family Church	Edgefield
29 th	May Ascension	
8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
1 st June	Easter VII	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Corpusty on the Hill
4 th	Wednesday Meditation	
6.00pm	Meditation	Hempstead
Mondays 10.30am - Coffee, Plumstead Church		
Tuesdays 10am-12noon Country Mice Toddler Group Baconsthorpe Village Hall		
Wednesdays 10am - Coffee, Cake & Chat - St Andrew's Saxthorpe		

Details of all our services: achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-271D/

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 R Hall, £25 T Worboys, £10 R Hall

Church News

Our re-furbished tubular bells are due to be re-installed after Easter. This is exciting news as St Mary's in Baconsthorpe is one of just four churches in Norfolk who have tubular bells. Tubular bells were popular between 1890 and 1920. Most were made by the Coventry firm of Harrisons. They were cheaper than metal bells and suitable for 'towers' where space was a premium. We are hoping to invite interested parties to come and listen to the bells when they are demonstrated by a well known bell ringer – and perhaps have a go!

Book Club

We now have a group of seven ladies including Jo and myself in the new book club. Our first meeting will be Thursday 8 May at 7pm. It's not too late to join – just call me on 07879 414577 or Jo on 07787 533212 for more details.

Fête

Just another reminder that the village fête is Saturday 12 July and as well as all the usual favourite attractions we are once again holding the Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off which was so popular last year. So do bring along your entry on the day. This year there will be just one category – your favourite cake. This will be sampled and judged by one of the brave chefs from Byfords again and then the cakes will be auctioned.

Village Hall News

Pop Up Pub Friday 30 May. Chicken tray bake on the menu from 6.30pm. Bar opens at 6pm

200 Club we still have some numbers left. Subscribe and you could win £50 each month.

Craft Fair Friday 8 August – a date for your diary.

Theatre in the Garden *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at 8pm Friday 29 August at the village hall.

A Message from Baconsthorpe Parish Council

Keeping Baconsthorpe clean - Proper use of dog waste bins.

Baconsthorpe has two dedicated dog waste bins – one at the Castle and one at Long Lane – provided and maintained by the Parish Council. These bins are intended for use by dog walkers while out and about helping to keep our village clean and pleasant for everyone.

However, there has been a recent increase in the disposal of dog waste from private gardens into these bins causing them to fill up faster than usual. We kindly ask residents to dispose of garden waste in their black household bins which are collected fortnightly,

The Parish Council funds the emptying of the dog bins once a month at a cost of £112 for the year 2024 – 2025. This expense is covered by the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax and we aim to avoid increasing the cost to keep expenses – and ultimately Council Tax – low for residents.

Your cooperation in using these bins appropriately is greatly appreciated. Let's work together to maintain a clean and cost effective community. Thank you for your support.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Barningham Winter



Palm Sunday Procession

Barningham Winter was the focus of Palm Sunday at the start of Holy Week and the run-up to Easter. A large palm-bearing congregation gathered at Barningham Hall before following a crucifix to St Mary the Virgin Church. The service included a dramatic reading of The Passion. The preacher was the Revd Richard Lamey, who said that for the crowds at the first Palm Sunday it was a time of hope and anticipation of better times.

Little Lifts Trail Run

Too late for this edition - read about this Barningham Hall-based fund-raiser next time



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

March 200 Club

£50 Libby Fox, £30 Kay Harvey, £20 Carole Baker



Church News

Mothering Sunday was celebrated a week early at our family service. The children helped prepare a tea party by making sandwiches and fruit skewers, decorating cakes, and making table decorations. Our adult guests then joined us for a short service with a theme of serving others, followed by a convivial tea party where all ages mingled together.

Alison Mawson



About a dozen excited children came to paint their Easter flowerpot in Edgefield Church. There were some very well-thought-out designs and careful painting of acrylic paint onto terracotta pots. Afterwards, children had fun in the children's area and the older ones a big tray of Lego. Parents enjoyed a coffee or tea and had time to meet up with other families. It was a relaxed affair made all the easier by the team of Edgefield folk who support all our children's activities. It would be fair to say it would be well worth doing something similar in the future!

Kay Harvey

Edgefield Open Gardens 28 - 29 June

Excitement is building as we now have ten gardens opening, including three that haven't been open since 2021 and two brand new ones! There will be a plant stall at The Old Rectory and if anyone is dividing perennials or growing seeds and has some plants to spare, please consider donating them for us to sell. I can collect them if needed; just give me a call (Alison Mawson 587236).

Village Hall News

Edgefest 7 tickets (26 July) are beginning to sell fast, so book early to avoid disappointment as we WILL sell out. Available at £15 (to include food) from me on 07946 854901 or ames.frost59@hotmail.co.uk or any committee member - Dawn Hulbert, Amanda Yacoubian, Jeff and Catherine Witts and Tom Fox or via our FaceBook page.

Jim Frost

VE Day

Edgefield Parish Council will be celebrating Victory in Europe Day on Thursday 8 May with wine, cheese & nibbles! This is the day for celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday, 8 May 1945; it marked the official surrender of all German military operations. Meet at Edgefield Church car park at 8pm with lighting of the Beacon at 9.30pm. All welcome! See you there.

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 G Gurney, £25 P Wallis, £10 J Sanders, £5 R Hart, B Harmer, M Thody

Coffee & Catch-Up Fridays 2 May and 6 June at 10.30am - all welcome.

Crafty Creations

Thursday 15 May 10-12noon - napkin rings

Saturday 24 May 2-4pm - painted flower pots

Monday 2 June 2-4pm- topic TBD

Saturday 14 June 2-4pm- topic TBD

Thursday 26 June 10-12noon- topic TBD

Music in Hempstead Thursdays 1 and 22 May, 19 June and 17 July in the village hall at 3.45pm



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Hempstead Afternoon Tea

Thursday 8 May at 2pm in celebration of 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Open to all but booking essential by contacting Lesley Lennox: lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk / 07446 777660

Church Cleaning

A record number of sixteen volunteers took part in a church and churchyard spring clean on 19 March, which happily was a stunningly sunny day. An enormous amount of overgrowth was cleared, graves were strimmed and weeded, grass mowed,



yew trees shaped and a bonfire lit. Inside, the church is now immaculate, polished, hoovered, swept and dusted. It was a huge amount of collective effort and leaves everything in excellent order for the year. Drinks and home made flapjacks and biscuits were very kindly donated and demolished, while the happy gathering chatted in the sun.

Posy Making

Hempstead ladies cleaned out their gardens and gathered at Hole Farm Barn to make two baskets full of posies for the Mothering Sunday service.



Hempstead Toads

The total of toads moved off the road (either arriving or departing) this year was 434. We've seen a decline in numbers at Rookery Pit over the last two years but this is by far the lowest total recorded in 14 years of patrols, over which the mean total has been about 2,300. Sadly, Pond Hills was the site of many deaths. The number we record doesn't represent the number of toads using the ponds, of course, as we only see those crossing the road and not those arriving and leaving the pond from other directions, so hopefully there is still a viable population of toads breeding in the ponds. However, it clearly points to a significant recent decline in the local toad population.

Village Hall AGM Thursday 12 June at 7pm

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Celina Sales, £10 Gary England, £5 Sam Pointer

Quiz Night

Our first quiz night is May 10 at Baconsthorpe Village Hall, prompt 7.30pm start. Entry £7 which includes jacket potato with a filling. Bring your own nibbles and drinks. There will be a raffle (any prize donation would be greatly appreciated). Book your table by e-mailing jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com or telephone 577521. Look forward to seeing you.



Duncan Wood
570293

Plumstead

Village Store

Now that summer is on its way, don't forget we have a store of tables (large and small), chairs, crockery and cutlery. wine and beer glasses, bunting and sundry other items (including a small barbecue) for use by residents of our village. Contact Eleano faulkner@eleonor@gmail.com or phone 577868.

St Michael's Church

The PCC are awaiting revised estimates for the work needed to create a better community space within the church. This project stalled last year but we hope to get on with it in 2025.

The plant stall outside the church is now up and running again. If you have spare plants, please donate them to the stall or come and buy a plant or two for your garden. All donations will go towards paying for the church insurance, which is due this month (around £500), the two new fire extinguishers we have had to buy and some electrical repairs, amongst other expenses.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Plumstead Parish Council - Annual Meeting

Plumstead Parish Council and Parish Meeting will be held at 6pm on Thursday 22 May in Plumstead Church. This is an important meeting to review and make plans for the future. All are welcome to attend and take part.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty



£2 per Family - Includes a snack for the children and a Hot drink and Biscuits for adults.

Plenty of space for Babies and Toddlers to explore, try out messy play, crafts and socialise. A welcoming and friendly group

Baby and Toddler Group

Corpusty and Saxthorpe Village Hall
9.30-11.30am Every Friday during term time

Heydon Hall, Corpusty, W11 6QQ
www.facebook.com/corpustytoddlergroup

Village Gateways - at last!

Long-awaited improvements to signs on the approaches to Saxthorpe and Corpusty have come a step closer. These will include gateway-style signs, most of which will say 'Welcome to Saxthorpe - Please drive carefully'. These will be on the approaches from Briston (B1354), Holt (B1149), Matlaske, and Aylsham/Norwich (B1149). The Parish Council has already paid for the gateway signs, and it is hoped that these will remind drivers that they entering villages and should slow down. After long delays Norfolk Highways have produced fresh proposals and the Parish Council is keen that installation should be carried out as soon as possible. As well as the busy roads north of the main village, there will be improved signs on the Heydon Road, Corpusty.



John Birchall
584290

River Inspection

The Parish Council has carried out its annual inspection of the river next to the village green. It was noted that the baffles installed last year to encourage wildlife (following advice

from the Environment Agency) are altering the flow, as intended, but that they are also causing silting and weed grown that may need attention.

Two years of Coffee, Cake & Chat!

May marks two years since the very first Coffee, Cake & Chat was held. Since then hundreds of people have enjoyed the friendly gatherings at St Andrew's Church. The calorie count of cake consumed must be considerable - but the event has become an important part of many people's lives. Led by Lesley Last and Jill Perry-Warnes, with a magnificent supporting cast of bakers who, without fail, produce a fabulous spread, it brings the ancient building to life every Wednesday morning (10-11am). As well as being a wonderful social event for the villages (and beyond), it has helped put St Andrew's finances on a firmer footing - yet it depends entirely upon voluntary contributions. If you can get along on a Wednesday morning, don't miss it!

65 Years and Counting!

Dennis and Joyce Humphreys, two Wednesday morning regulars at St Andrew's Coffee & Cake, received a special round of applause upon celebrating 65 years since their marriage in London.



Little London Allotments Up-date

The recently-planted bare-root hedgerow plants along the road are showing encouraging signs of life - but so are the weeds on the cleared land behind. Letting the weeds germinate and start growing is deliberate - they will be sprayed before they can return the site to its over-grown state, and the area will be sown with a meadow mix of seed that can be more easily managed.

Spring Clean Success

Many thanks to all who turned out for the Spring Clean litter pick on April 5. With the fine weather turning verges and hedgerows green, it was important to seek out as much litter as possible before it disappeared from sight. The piles of rubbish bags and other unwanted stuff that surrounded the telephone box (de-fib point!) on the Green are a measure of the efforts of the litter-pick team.



Village Hall

May's film at the Village Hall on Friday 2 is *Maria*, the Angelina Jolie-led biopic of the famous soprano Maria Callas. Action begins in September 1977, when the star was riddled with depression and sadness, but still the operatic diva has hopes of making a grand comeback. June's film as usual on the first Friday of every month is the much Oscar nominated musical *Wicked*. All welcome, tickets are just £5, or you can sign up for the annual film club for £30 a year, which also gives you a say in what films will be shown in future months.

For details of many other events and activities, including Car Boot & Breakfast and Lunch Club Tuesdays, go to corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk/whats-on

Children Youth & Families



Sunnier weather, Easter holidays, craft workshops and mothering Sunday seem to have made time speed by. Across the seven villages there are signs of all sorts of awakenings! Children, youth and families are very much present. To focus on one village this month: Saxthorpe/Corpusty Village. The village hall hosts drama lessons for children on a Friday evenings. The Brownie pack grows and is a strong group on a Tuesday evening. The village boasts two good playgrounds for children. The village had a litter pick and children were welcome to join in. The village shop is a great place for treats and ice cream on a hot day. Coffee, Cake & Chat at the Church on Wednesdays 10-11 has a growing children's area and crafts for school children in the holidays. The village hall breakfast fortnightly is a great outing for the whole family. The pub has regular bands with local musicians. The school is expanding and in an idyllic village setting.

The Churches

Children across the parishes children received a terracotta flower pot as an Easter gift and were invited to come and paint it. Saxthorpe, Edgefield and Barningham Winter churches held workshops and excited children came and got creative, stayed for refreshments and played awhile. It was very enjoyable and successful. Such a shame Corpusty was hit by the chicken pox but recovered children could at least pop along to any of the sessions. Mothering Sunday saw families pour out to a traditional honouring of mothers and those that nurture and care. Saxthorpe with the brownies helping had 22 children - a lively and joyful occasion. On Good Friday Baconsthorpe church hosted a Holy Week service around the cross, children gathered in the village hall to engage in some cooking and crafts joining the adults afterwards in the church for tasty hot cross buns and treats. Easter Sunday and Edgefield Church had lots going on for the whole family, building an easter garden, a craft and a treasure hunt in the church yard which of course culminated in a chocolate egg.

History Watch - Norfolk's Highest Points



At school, pupils of my generation were always told our county's highest point was at Piggs Grave near Melton Constable. This was as agreed by the Ordnance Survey. Their one-inch map of the time showed Piggs Grave at 323 feet, whereas that later Young Pretender Beacon Hill at West Runton was slightly lower at 320 feet. Case proved wouldn't you say?

Well not necessarily, as later maps using metric heights gave Beacon Hill 102 metres (334 feet) with Piggs Grave 101 metres (331 feet). I was never convinced by this later upstart's claim. At Piggs Grave you can climb up to the trig point, put your hand on it and say this is Norfolk's highest point. You cannot do this at Beacon Hill, there is no specific trig point there, just a spot height somewhere on the road.

Now a few years ago, a colleague Robbie N and myself have often thought that Bodham Hill near the tall mast on New Road might be a contender for Norfolk's highest point. The Ordnance Survey in their wisdom did not calculate any heights up this stretch of road, and so we were determined to correct this omission. Armed with suitable measuring and levelling instruments we started from a known bench mark at the bottom of the hill and worked our way up to the top. Result? 326 feet.

Ah well - at least we can claim it as Norfolk's third highest, and there are some lovely views from up there looking in a south-westerly direction towards Melton Constable.

One thing that can never be taken away from us: Norfolk has the lowest 'High Point' of all the English counties. Even Cambridgeshire, half of which appears to be below sea level, has a higher high point than ours. Fame or what?

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



Blickling Lodge

Blickling, Norwich, NR11 6PS

Sunday 8th June

12 - 5pm

Adults £6 Children free

Cakes available

Refreshments in aid of Matlaske Benefice



More information at ngs.org.uk

Joyful May! Quite simply the loveliest of months and quite possibly the busiest yet most beautiful month in the garden. The to-do list might well be endless and you probably won't get through half of it (I know I won't!)...but May is a joy and one we have waited all Winter for. In a vain attempt at efficiency, I have taken to having three lists on the go, a list for the greenhouse because it's literally all going on in there and a general outdoor gardening list and then there's my fantasy island list of all the extras I would like to get done but as there are only 24 hrs in a day and a limited budget...I don't stand a chance...But what is a garden if not an aspirational dream!! And there is nothing nicer than dreaming about gardens.

So back to the lists, there is happily a lot of seed sowing to be done this month and potting up. So do make sure you are stocked up with potting compost. However we are back to that

same frustrating scenario of having looked at our overwhelming amount of plastic flower pots last winter, thinking we could move a few of them on and now finding we don't have anywhere near enough. Mental note to self to come up with a different way to store them over the winter so they don't look like an unruly muddle that urgently needs de cluttering. Gardening...it's all lessons ... literally all of the time.

Try to remember to successional sow your salad leaves and anything else that has a quick growing turnover you want a steady supply of, I find it really useful to note dates down on our calendar so I have a visual reminder of when I next need to do some sowing and so I don't get over run with too many salad leaves that have bolted and then are too bitter and inedible.

Hopefully If all goes to plan our courgette plants should be ready to go out at the end of the month, it's always so tempting to get a head start and get them out earlier and it's never worth it, frosts are particularly disastrous to both courgette and pumpkin plants and all it takes is a sneaky drop in temperature and your back to square one again. I did read a good tip about soaking your courgette plants well before planting them out so I shall definitely be trying that one. At the same time I am planting out the courgettes I will be sowing the basil in the greenhouse, again any earlier and basil just sulks (even in the greenhouse...unless you've got a bit of heat in yours) I will also be planting out (in the greenhouse) my tomatoes aubergines and chilli peppers a red letter day if ever there was one. Happy May!

No question this month but instead a shameless plug regarding 'Blickling Lodge NGS Open Garden' on Sunday 8th June if you've not been before it is the most stunning beautiful garden all 17 acres of it, a proper labour of love complete with cricket pitch, walled garden, woodland and water garden. All the money raised from refreshments on the day will go towards the Matlaske Benefice. Do come along... it really is the most lovely way to spend a June afternoon!

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





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EMAIL SCAM ALERT

Several villagers have received scam emails requesting Amazon vouchers or similar payments. These emails may appear convincing, as they often include local details—such as the Vicar's name or references to friends.

If you receive an unexpected email asking for something that seems unusual, please verify requests directly with the supposed sender.

Report concerns: Contact Kevin Harvey, Benefice Administrator:
Email: administrator@matlaske.org.uk
Phone: 07405 223 934

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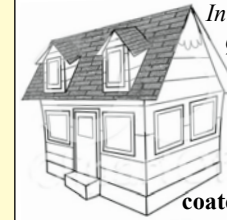
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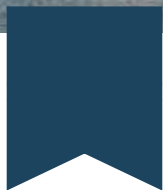
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