

Church & Village News

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

June 2025



Hempstead Kingfisher

Photograph by Jonathan Neville

Newsletter Team

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Editors Christine & John Birchall

CVN@matlaske.org.uk / 01263 584290

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Parish Council Chairs

Baconsthorpe Jonathan Cooper 577527

Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049

Hempstead Paul Sanders 713217

Matlaske & Barningham Lucy Raines TBC

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

Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe

Andrew Brown 07970 298695

andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead

Callum Ringer 802784

callum.ringer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Local MP

Steffan Aquarone MP

Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk

Village Correspondents

Baconsthorpe

hazel.merlin1@gmail.com

Hazel Martin

07879 414577

Barningham Winter

amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk

Amelia Courtauld

07971 050646

Edgefield

richardpeaver@gmail.com

Richard Peaver

01263 587486

Hempstead

jneville@hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

Jonathan Neville

07836 675369

Matlaske

duncan.wood@cantab.net

Duncan Wood

01263 570293

Plumstead

harrietwormald@hotmail.com

Harriet Rossi

01263 577239

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

birchalljc@aol.com

John Birchall

01263 584290

Village Websites

www.baconsthorpe.org

www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk

www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

www.plumstead.org.uk

Church People

Rector Reverend Canon David Longe

0263 577252

Asst Curate Reverend Judy Rosser

01263 587584

Lay Minister Dr Jane McLarty 07791 870104

Church Wardens

Baconsthorpe Harry Steel 07711 890360

B Winter Amelia Courtauld 01263 577250

Rebecca Hill 07960 739593

Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 01263 587049

Alison Mawson 01263 587236

Hempstead Airlie Inglis 01263 577440

Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 01263 577250

Duncan Wood 01263 570293

Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner 01263 577868

Saxwith Corp Lesley Last 01263 587782

Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584221

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

JUNE

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Mon 2 | 2.00pm | Hempstead Crafty Creations | Trinket Dishes with Shells | 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 - <i>Wicked</i> | | Village Hall |
| Fri 6 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond-Life | | Village Pond |
| Sat 7 | 7.00pm | Corpusty Quiz Night | | Village Hall |
| Sun 8 | 8.00am | Corpusty Car Boot + Breakfast | | Village Hall |
| Sun 8 | 12.00noon | Blickling Lodge Open Gardens | | Blickling Lodge |
| Thur 12 | 7.00pm | Hempstead Village Hall AGM | | Village Hall |
| Fri 13 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond-Life | | Village Pond |
| Sat 14 | 2.00pm | Hempstead Crafty Creations | Resin Coasters | Village Hall |
| Thur 19 | 3.45pm | Hempstead Music | | Village Hall |
| Fri 20 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond-Life | | Village Pond |
| Thur 26 | 10.00am | Hempstead Crafty Creations | Glass Container Candles | Village Hall |
| Fri 27 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond-Life | | Village Pond |
| Fri 27 | 6.00pm | Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub | | Village Hall |
| Sat 28 | 10.00am | Edgefield Open Gardens | | Throughout Village |
| Sun29 | 10.00am | Edgefield Open Gardens | | Throughout Village |

Clash Diary - to add event contact Corinne Youngs 01263 577263/ corinne@avyoungs.com

Aug 3 Hempstead Fête
 Aug 8 Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
 Aug 29 Baconsthorpe *Midsummer's Night Dream*
 Aug 31 Corpusty Summer Sizzle + Duck Race
 Oct 4 Edgefield Quiz

Oct 10 Saxthorpe Harvest Supper
 Oct 11 Matlaske Quiz
 Dec 7 Matlaske Christmas Party
 Dec 13 Edgefield Festive Evening
 Dec 13-14 Saxthorpe Living Nativity

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 01263 712202

Staffed Hours

Tues 10am-7pm / Wed 2pm-7pm

Fri 10am-7pm / Sat 1pm-4pm

Unstaffed Hours

8am-7pm weekdays Sat 8am-4pm Sun 10am-2pm
 accessible with Open Library Access

Banking Hub

Holt Community Centre, Kerridge Way, NR25 6DN

9am-5pm weekdays

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Monday | NatWest | Thursday | Santander |
| Tuesday | TSB | Friday | Lloyds |
| Wednesday | Barclays | | |

Mobile Library Van

5 June / 3 July / 31 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 Cott |

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

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.

Letter from Frances Sanderson-Bates
Contact: The Rector, Reverend Canon David Longe
01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

I was asked to write the letter for the *Church & Village News* this month following my placement at the Matlaske Benefice. As part of my Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) training – which involves leading services, preaching, visiting and taking funerals – I was sent to experience life in a rural benefice, very different to the suburban parish where I live.

This letter is drawn partly from a sermon on the Sunday following Easter explaining my journey into ministry. That Sunday's reading described how after the Crucifixion Jesus's followers were scared and locked themselves away. Yet Jesus appeared among them and said, "Peace be with you," breathing on them. This mysterious moment has inspired many, offering courage to be people of peace, even in fear.



When Jesus was crucified, most disciples fled; only two remained at the cross. Like them, I too have run from God's call and faced uncertainty. But God, like a patient fisherman, cast his line and reeled me in. Over 30 years ago, I felt a strong sense that God had a task for me, but didn't know what it was. I waited and wondered.

I tested out becoming a nun in Ditchingham, but it wasn't right. Around 15 years ago, the idea of training for Lay Ministry came to me. But like Thomas who doubted the resurrection of Jesus until he could touch Jesus's wounds, I needed that God was calling me to this new ministry. I ran, like Jonah (who was swallowed by a whale), unsure if I could trust God's plan. But can you really run and hide from God? God is the shepherd – he will never let you go, and he brought me back.

My Thomas-like doubt persisted. It wasn't until a long hospital stay that I truly learned I could depend on God. That was my turning point. In 2022, I became an Authorised Worship Assistant. I then returned to LLM training, this time ready and eager. I was interviewed, accepted, and embraced the path ahead. From running away and doubting, I've found my calling. It's been a long journey, but God was patient.

God's call comes in many forms. Some are called to visible roles like leading worship; others serve quietly, often unseen but just as essential. All are valued in God's eyes and vital to the life of the Church and its mission.

When Thomas saw Jesus, he didn't need to touch the wounds after all. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

I have so enjoyed my time in the Matlaske Benefice – joining in Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day as well as going to assemblies in Corpusty Primary School and Coffee Cake and Chat – it has been wonderful.

Thank you for your warmth and welcome. May you all be blessed this Eastertide.

Frances Sanderson-Bates



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for June

A Note from Dr Alain Wolf, Authorised Worship Assistant, Matlaske Benefice

I have been recommended by the Bishop of St David's, the smallest city in the UK, to resume my training for ordination. This has come as a great surprise and joy to me and so I am now on a new journey. I wanted to let the Matlaske Benefice to know about this as the people in the various congregations I have met have been such an integral part of this journey. So it's the end of my authorised worship assistantship and hello to ordination training in the Church-in-Wales! I will, of course, be in Norfolk as often as I can and hopefully attend a service with a dog collar on in the future.

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st | Easter VII | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Matlaske |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Corpusty on the Hill |
| 4th | Wednesday Meditation | |
| 6.00pm | Meditation | Hempstead |
| 8th | Pentecost/Whitsun | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Edgefield |
| 10.30am | Patronal Service, Eucharist | North Barningham |
| 15th | Trinity Sunday | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Baconsthorpe |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Plumstead |
| 18th | Wednesday Meditation | |
| 6.00pm | Meditation | Hempstead |
| 19th | Corpus Christi | |
| 9.00am | Eucharist | Matlaske |
| 22nd | Trinity IV | |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Hempstead |
| 4.00pm | Family Church | Edgefield |
| 29th | St Peter & St Paul | |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Bessingham |
| 5.00pm | Evensong | Baconsthorpe |
| 2nd July | Wednesday Meditation | |
| 6.00pm | Meditation | Hempstead |
| 6th | Trinity VI | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Saxthorpe |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Matlaske |

The Rector, Revd David Longe, in his capacity as Assistant Rural Dean of Repps (he is also Rural Dean of Holt) has been asked by the Archdeacon of Lynn to care for St Mary's Bessingham. The Benefice are welcome to all services in Bessingham. This should not reduce the number of services across the parishes and has been approved by all the PCCs.

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



Church News - Bells Ring out for VE Day

Yes the tubular bells arrived back to St Mary's all the way from Dorset just in time for Rosie Hardingham to 'Ring for Peace' at 6.30pm on May 8th when bells all over the country were ringing. I had no idea how big these tubular bells were so I hope you find the photo interesting.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Hoping for a Speedy Recovery

Joy Thurtell and Tessa McCosh have recently returned home after a hip replacement operation. We wish them a very speedy recovery and hope they will soon be out and about working on their lovely gardens.

Sheringham Shoal

On the morning of May 5th men in orange jackets were spotted in the field off church lane. It became obvious it was some kind of archaeological dig apparently for Roman treasure. Without doubt this is in preparation for Sheringham Shoal cables.

Baconsthorpe Book Club

We held our first meeting at Tuppenny Grove and we each nominated a book. Each month one of the books will be read and discussed. As a group we must extend our gratitude to the mobile library which calls at Baconsthorpe each month as for a nominal cost for we will be able to borrow all the books needed for that month. If anyone wants to join please call Jo on 07787 553212 or me on 07879 414577

Noah's Ark

Here is a photo of the completed Noah's Ark which hangs in the children's section of the church alongside many other toys and equipment. Well done to Corinne and her team.



Village Hall News

Pop Up Pub Friday 27 June. Chilli + baked potatoes on the menu from 6.30pm. Bar opens at 6pm

Village Fête Saturday 12 July from 2pm. Games, refreshments, the raffle and of course 'The Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off'. This is being judged by head chef from Byfords. We've kept it simple this year with one category - bake your favourite cake - two sections one for adults one for children.

Village Fête

Saturday 12 July 2pm

Games + Stalls

Refreshments

**Great Baconsthorpe
Bake Off**

Coffee Morning gentle reminder that on the first Wednesday of every month we are still providing a range of lovely coffees and very good scones 10.30-11 30am. We'd love lots of people to drop in.

A Midsummer Night's Dream this will be performed on August 29 in the garden at the village hall after food has been served at the pop up pub. I hope to begin at 8pm. This is a shortened version of the play but it will be very

entertaining. We are cast and rehearsals begin on June 4. There will be no charge just donations. **200 Club** we still have numbers available. Details for signing up are on the village website.

Barningham Winter

Thanks to Sara

We thank Sara Buxton for all her hard work in collating the news from Barningham for CVN for so many years and wish her well, and from this edition on welcome our new correspondent Amelia Courtauld



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250

Painting Easter Pots

We held a lovely craft morning in the stables at Barningham Hall. Children, parents and grandparents brought the terracotta flower pots that had been distributed around the benefice by the Children & Youth Team, and decorated them with great enthusiasm. Everyone enjoyed being together and once decorated the children ran to St Mary's to hunt for eggs in the churchyard following a visit from the Easter Bunny. The weather was wonderful, the coffee, cake and apple juice flowed and the creativity of the children and some of the parents was definitely on display. Thank you to the Children & Youth Team for support with this popular event.

Little Lifts Run tops £24,000!

Thanks to Georgie Rodwell and John McFarlane of Matlaske, Barningham Hall has become the start and finishing point of the Little Lifts Run for the last three years. Little Lifts is a wonderful Norfolk-based charity whose mission is for every breast cancer patient in the UK to receive a free Little Lifts gift box full of comforting and thoughtful goodies to help them when they start their treatment. This year's event attracted 400 runners with their supporters and raised over £24,000. It was a celebratory event, full of happiness from the warm up dancing to the applause as runners of all ages crossed the finish line. Well done to everyone who took part. For more information about the charity or to donate go to their website <https://www.littlelifts.org.uk/>

Service at North Barningham

A reminder that on Sunday 8 June at 10.30am St Peter's North Barningham will host their annual patronal festival service with drinks afterwards. It is a good opportunity to see this quiet and beautiful church full of flowers and singing.

Edgefield

Church News - Easter Sunday Service

Easter Sunday saw a packed church for a wonderful service during which children built an Easter garden, hunted for Easter heart key rings in the church yard, were given Easter eggs and learnt a lively new song. Communion was accompanied by some contemplative music provided by a small group from the Benefice, and homemade refreshments were enjoyed afterwards. Thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully, baked goodies and performed for us.



Richard Peaver
01263 587486

Count on Nature Week

On Thursday 12 June, 10–12noon, the St Andrew's Eco group, led by Dr. Tony Leech, will be exploring Edgefield churchyard and surveying the wildlife and plants. All are welcome to join them as they identify the variety of plants and creatures to be found. Meet in the church carpark.

Alison Mawson

Edgefield Open Gardens 28 - 29 June

We're hoping for good weather as our gardeners are busy preparing for Open Gardens weekend. We will be serving lunch and tea in the village hall, and donations of cakes and offers to help would be much appreciated. There will also be a Grand Summer Draw, and any raffle prizes would be welcome, as well as plants and books to sell. This is always a lovely way to showcase our beautiful village, so please save the date!

Edgefield Open Gardens



Sat 28th + Sun 29th June 2025
11am – 4pm

Tickets, maps, parking at
Edgefield Church NR24 2AF

Gardens open (4 new this year)
and Norfolk Flower Farm

Refreshments at the
Village Hall
Coffee
Ploughman's lunches
Afternoon tea

Assistance dogs only please

Village Hall News

Winners of the April 200 Club draw were: 1st Sarah Mavilio (£50), 2nd Josh Hulbert (£30) and 3rd Gemma Kehoe (£20). We are nearly at the halfway mark for tickets for Edgefest on Saturday 19 July, so if you don't want to miss out you know what to do! (james.frost59@hotmail.co.uk or 07946 854901).

Jim Frost

Hempstead

200 Club £50 N Saunders, £25 Mike Thody, £5 J Roy, £5 A Inglis, £5 S Saunders

Coffee & Catch-Up Friday 6 June at 10.30am - all welcome.

Crafty Creations

Monday 2 June 2-4pm- Trinket Dishes with Shells

Saturday 14 June 2- 4pm - Resin Coasters

Thursday 26 June 10-12noon - Glass Container Candles

Dates for July Monday 7 2-4pm, Saturday 19 2-4pm, Thursday 24 10-12noon

Music in Hempstead Thursdays 19 June and 17 July in the village hall at 3.45pm

VE Day 80 Afternoon Tea



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

The village celebrated this historic event in style with the poppy display once again adorning the outside of the village hall and filling the hall with laughter and chatter at the afternoon tea

party. With two residents present at this year's celebration that were at the very first VE Day in Hempstead, an enjoyable afternoon was had by all. The hall was suitably decorated for the occasion as residents of Hempstead and surrounding villages were joined by friends to enjoy this event. A big thank you goes to the Hempstead Crafty Creations ladies that helped prepare the sumptuous food and all those that helped bake cakes and clear up afterwards. Thank you for making this such a special tribute for this momentous day.

Jack Steps Down

Jack Parfitt has sadly retired from his position as Hempstead Parish Councillor. He will be missed and his colleagues are very grateful for all that he has contributed. Accordingly, there is now a vacancy on the Parish Council and if anyone is interested, please contact the Parish Clerk hempsteadparishcouncil@gmail.com

Hempstead Fête

Hempstead will be holding its traditional summer fête on Sunday 3 August. Preparations are well underway for this to be a day for all to enjoy. To make this a great success we are looking for those that can help setup the day before, clear away after the finish, help manage a stall (whether that be selling cakes or having fun looking after one of our traditional games) or you have any ideas for new attractions. Please contact Lesley Lennox on 07446 777660 lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk Thank you to those that have already put their names forward.



Village Hall AGM Thursday 12 June at 7pm

Come along to our AGM and see what we are doing to keep your hall open and improve this community space. Join us at this annual community meeting, your views and ideas are most welcome.

Matlaske

100 Club £25 Allison Scaife, £10 Michelle Amis, £5 David Fuller

Matlaske Fête Bric-a-Brac Stall Donations

Matlaske fête is on Saturday the 26 of July and we would like to have our usual bric-a-brac stall. If you have anything that you could donate we would be most grateful. Please make sure that items are clean and saleable. Contact Cherry on 01263 577827 or email Cherrywestgate@hotmail.co.uk



Duncan Wood
01263 570293

From the Archives

In the absence of much other Matlaske news, here's some old stuff. *The Norfolk Chronicle* of Saturday 29 January 1898 has an article about funding for the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. This records that the Rev H Wynell-Mayow, Rector, of Plumstead and Matlaske had sent the Hospital £2 14s 1d from the collections in his churches. That's roughly £300 in 2025 money. It was the Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Thomas Hayter, who in 1758 first suggested founding a Norfolk hospital, but his move to London stalled progress until 1770, when a committee was formed, subscriptions began, land was bought and governors appointed. The hospital was completed by

December 1771 and opened to patients the following year. The first matron was paid £15 a year. More online at: www.nnuh.nhs.uk/about-us/our-250-year-history/our-history-1758-1899/

Plumstead



Pond Life Fridays Return

With the dawning of some decent summery weather, Pond Life Fridays will be returning every Friday from 13 June, 5.30pm-6.30pm. Come along to Plumstead Village Pond, bring a drink and a nibble and have a relaxing catch-up. All are welcome, bring a fold-up chair if you want plus a bag for your rubbish. A great chance for a get-



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239

together at the end of the week to chat and enjoy each other's company. Look out for a leaflet through your door between now and then; we'll start even earlier if the weather is good!

Coffee in St Michael's

Coffees continue on Monday mornings at 10.30am. If all your seeds have germinated and you have spare plants, do please bring them along to the plant stall - and water them when you call please! If you have gaps to fill, try the plant stall first!

Services at St Michael's

Church services are now held on a regular basis, on the 3rd Sunday of each month - this month it will be at 10.30am on June 15, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Note from the Village Correspondent

I have very much enjoyed being the village correspondent for Plumstead since about October 2021. I am however ready to pass the role on to anyone who would like to get involved. If anyone is interested please get in touch with me, I shall of course continue for the time being and welcome all the contributions!

Saxthorpe with Corpusty



Work on St Andrews

The familiar face of St Andrews Church has been draped in scaffolding and corrugated sheets for some much-needed work on the south aisle roof, and re-pointing of the flint wall above. Close inspection showed how badly the re-pointing was needed, but the work has not been helped by the very sunny weather that most of us have enjoyed. The roof work should stop leaks that have been a constant problem over recent years.



John Birchall
01263 584290

Toilet for the Church?

Money raised through the Wednesday Coffee, Cake & Chat has not only helped fund repairs, it has revived hopes that a toilet can be provided at St Andrews. The possibility and site for a composting toilet - an option that would not require major water and sewerage works - is being investigated. Depending upon the site chosen, the project could include better access between the church and new graveyard. More on this in future editions!

Sunrise Service at St Peters

The Easter Sunday sunrise was greeted at St Peter's Church, Corpusty by a congregation of 75 adults, 11 children and three dogs who gathered for the 6am start. Following both communion, and end of service coffee and bacon rolls, everyone was well set up for the Easter eggs ahead!

Brownies' Exciting Day Out

The Brownies enjoyed an exciting day at Hautbois Outdoor Activity Centre. They rose to the challenge of stacking crates as high as possible, whilst balancing on top, bravely abseiled down and climbing wall and got soaked when the raft they'd built was set afloat. A fun day out for all.



VE Day Lunch



The Corpusty & Saxthorpe village hall lunch club was re-imagined as an early 80th VE day anniversary celebration on May 6. Several dozen participants sat down to enjoy a delicious spread of sausage rolls, pork pies, quiche, finger sandwiches, scones, trifle, rhubarb or bread and butter pudding with custard - all to the strains of music of the period. Many others dropped in for the take away option, which is also a regular feature of the fortnightly Tuesday

lunch club. As usual the food provided and served by the volunteer committee was delicious, and as one happy diner observed - the menu wasn't entirely accurate as there was a distinct lack of powdered egg or spam! Don't forget the next lunch clubs on 3 and 17 June.

Rambling for Cancer Research

In July Tim Buddle from Saxthorpe, along with six Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital colleagues from the Radiology Department (the 'Radiology Ramblers') are tackling their second MacMillan Cancer Mighty Hike, walking 26.2 miles in the Peak District to raise funds for cancer research, treatment and therapies. They are taking up this challenge again in memory of friend and colleague Jo, who they lost to



cancer in 2023. Tim thanks everyone who donated last time and anyone who can contribute this time. Donate at Tim's JustGiving page. Details are on the Saxthorpe & Corpusty free/for sale/wanted Facebook page, or go to www.justgiving.com and search for Tim Buddle.

Duck Race Returns!

Early notice that the annual Summer Sizzle and Duck Race will be back! Mark your diary for mid-afternoon on Sunday August 31. Planning is underway, and ducks will go on 'sale' again soon at St Andrew's Church Coffee, Cake & Chat Wednesdays. A duck will once again be allocated to each child at Corpusty Primary School. More details in next month's issue.

Village Hall Activities

The June film on Friday 6 at 7pm is the Oscar-winning musical *Wicked* starring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo.

Did you know that Corpusty lost its railway station in 1959, or that the 2021 census showed a population of 725 for the two villages? If you did, you might want to get up a team for the next Village Hall Quiz on 7th June. See website and village notice boards for details

Join us for the car boot and village breakfast on 8 June, 8am - midday (breakfast from 8.30)am. Stall holders from 7.30am, £5 per pitch

Also, if you are struggling with your smartphone, laptop or tablet get some help from the professionals at Tech and Tea with Norfolk County Council's Tech Skills for Life team on 17 June from 10am til noon.



Power to the People!

Well, those with an EV...An electric vehicle charge point (EVCP), one post with two charge points, has been installed at the Village Hall car park. The work was paid for and organised by Norfolk County Council. NCC will run the EVCP for the first two or three years before handing it over to be managed by the village hall.

Children Youth & Families



This column is taking a break this month but will be back for July, bringing together all the activities and opportunities for children and young people across all our villages.

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



As I write this in the second week of May, the weather is so blissful and sunny it could almost be Beautiful June already, the only 'cloud' on the horizon is the near total lack of rain and no significant rain forecast for the next three weeks. It's a worry, however as there seems to be so many other things to fret about at the moment, it seems best to just roll with this phase.

We have already changed some of our plans purely because of the lack of rainfall, we had hoped to start planting phase two of our tiny orchard project but on seeing with uneasiness the lack of rainfall forecast we have paused and will now wait till early winter. Sometimes you just can't fight the weather! What I would advise is that if you have moved any plants or have any new trees in the ground, do give them a good water first thing and keep a close eye. If you can imagine the plants/trees are trying to re-establish a good root network so they don't need the added strain of struggling to access water.

If like me you are thinking about your summer pots then I would give extra thought to the soil/compost you are going to use in them, it's worth spending a bit more on a good quality compost that's also got a lot of organic matter in it, just so it retains water better. There is an easy way to tell if the compost you've used is up to scratch, if when you water it pours straight through then the soil is spent and hasn't got the structure to hold onto the water and your plants will struggle to get the water they need. Stressed or strained plants are more susceptible to viruses and diseases, so in the long run it's more cost effective to choose a good quality potting medium that will then give your well-loved plants the best chance.

Like May there is an awful lot to do in June in the garden but it is also so important to take the time out to really enjoy all your hard work, as the old saying goes Take time to smell the roses!

Finally I need to mention the NGS Open Garden at Blickling Lodge NR11 6PS on Sunday 8 June 12 -5pm a beautiful way to spend an afternoon especially if the weather gods are kind and you can also be happily assured that all profits from the refreshments go towards the Matlaske Benefice, we hope to see you there!

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



Michelle & Mick McCarter

History Watch - Dunkirk 1940



Dunkirk - miracle of deliverance or a humiliating defeat? Either way all vehicles and equipment taken over by the BEF had to be destroyed to stop it being of use to the enemy.

But not quite all. This 1939 Norton motorcycle has somehow survived. It went over the channel to France in November '39, was abandoned with the retreat to Dunkirk, and appropriated by some French rider to use for the next forty odd years. All legal apparently! It had gained a Paris registration number and a plaque attached with the name. Francois le Strat, Rue D'Alleray, Paris XV. Maybe it joined the melee around the Arc de Triumph at some point.

Come 1984 and it was repatriated back to the UK, and finally in 2024/5 rebuilt into military trim by the writer ready for the 80th end of the war commemorations. What a story it could tell!

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