

Church & Village News

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

July 2025



St Peter's Church, Corpusty

Photograph by John Birchall

Newsletter Team

Issue No 114 / July 2025

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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/>

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Village Websites

www.baconsthorpe.org
 www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk
 www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk
 www.plumstead.org.uk

Church People

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Asst Priest Revd Judy Rosser 07469 390178
Lay Minister Dr Jane McLarty 07791 870104
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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
Sax with Corp Lesley Last 01263 587782
 Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584 221

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 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

JULY

Tues 1	12.00pm	Corpusty Lunch Club (also 15 and 29 July)	Village Hall
Fri 4	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee + Catch-Up	Village Hall
Fri 4	7.00pm	Corpusty Film Night - <i>A Complete Unknown</i>	Village Hall
Mon 7	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Sat 12	2.00pm	Baconsthorpe Fête	Village Hall
Sat 12	2.00pm	Corpusty Wimbledon Ladies Final + Afternoon Tea	Village Hall
Sun 13	2.00pm	Corpusty Car Boot & Breakfast	Village Hall
Tues 15	10.00am	Corpusty Tech + Tea	Village Hall
Thur 17	3.45pm	Hempstead Music - Harpist Keziah Thomas	Village Hall
Sat 19	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Sat 19	7.00pm	Edgefest	Village Hall
Thur 24	10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Fri 25	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall
Sat 26	3.00pm	Matlaske Music + Pizza in the Park	Barningham Hall

AUGUST

Sat 3	2.00pm	Hempstead Fête	Village Hall
Sat 8	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair	Village Hall
Fr 29	2.00pm	Baconsthorpe <i>Midsummer's Night Dream</i>	Village Hall
Sun 31	2.00pm	Corpusty Summer Sizzle + Duck Race	Village Green

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

Oct 4	Edgefield Quiz	Dec 7	Matlaske Christmas Party
Oct 10	Saxthorpe Harvest Supper	Dec 13	Edgefield Festive Evening
Oct 11	Matlaske Quiz	Dec 13-14	Saxthorpe Living Nativity
Nov 1	Corpusty Bonfire		

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

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.

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

3 July / 31 July / 28 August

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

Letter from Judy Rosser, Assistant Priest
Contact: The Rector, Reverend Canon David Longe
 01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear Readers

Summer is upon us and flowers have been on my mind as I watch my, new to me, garden unfolding in Edgefield. We have inspirational Open Gardens ahead and Chelsea Flower Show behind us.

Flowers in church are very important to me. So many creative and generous people ensure the flowers on display brighten and cheer our sacred spaces. The flower arrangers work not only with the changes in the season and flower availability, but the Church calendar too, which can be a challenge. During Lent there are generally no flowers, and this can be a real hardship and reflects this sacred period of abstinence from some of life's pleasures. We so often too, remember those we see no more with flowers in our churchyards.

There are references to flowers throughout the Bible, which can affect our mood and relax us. For example: **Flowers appear on the earth, the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.** (Song of Solomon 2:12).

It is easy to be uplifted when we think of flowers blooming, the joy of singing with friends and the mesmerising sound of cooing doves.

Rather like human beings, flowers can be full of cheer or at other times full of hidden meaning, which can leave you pondering as in these Gospel verses that follow: **Look at the lilies and how they grew: They don't work or make clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you.** (Luke 12:27).

It is not only the beauty of flowers which affect our senses. Recently whilst officiating at a small funeral, the mother placed hand picked dark red and pink roses on the white coffin. Their fragrance was overwhelming and charged the atmosphere in the crematorium. So much love had gone into the growing and the harvesting of these beautiful blooms, and their perfume transformed the omnipresent sadness into something lighter. Some fragrances from flowers are captured and made into costly perfumes. Mary used aromatically smelling Nard, made from the roots of a rare flowering plant to anoint the feet of Jesus, during his last days as a sign of her love and faithfulness.

Flowers and their lavish perfumes transform our senses in ways which can intensify and deepen our everyday experiences. At significant life events like weddings and funerals they can take our understanding to another and different level of perception.

My heartfelt thanks to all those enlivening our churches with divine and delightful flowers throughout the seasons, with such love and faithfulness.

With every blessing

Reverend Judy Rosser



The Benefice of Matlaske
Church Services for July

Sharing Church Sunday 27th July 10am at St Andrew's, Saxthorpe



Join us for our 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. 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: Prayer. Probably most of us have prayed at some point in our lives. But what about when nothing happens? Does this mean prayer doesn't work? Come and discuss this over tea, coffee and croissants...

2 nd	Wednesday Meditation	
6.00pm	Meditation	Barningham Winter
6 th	Trinity VI	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	
13 th	Trinity VII	
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter Edgefield
10.30am	Eucharist	
16 th	Wednesday Meditation	
6.00pm	Meditation	Hempstead
20 th	Trinity VIII	
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	
27 th	Trinity IX	
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead Saxthorpe Edgefield
10.00am	Sharing Church	
4.00pm	Family Church	
3 rd August	Trinity X	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	

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
First Wednesday of the month Coffee Monrning 10.30am - Baconsthorpe Village Hall

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

Icing on the Cake at Blickling Lodge

The Blickling Lodge tea and cake volunteers - from bakers to servers, cash team and washing-up crew - raised a superb £1,245 for Benefice Funds. The Lodge's 17 acres of parkland and gardens were open as part of the National Garden Scheme. Once again the owners, Michael and Henrietta Lindsell, gave their full support to the refreshments team, who, led by Corinne Youngs, kept the many visitors supplied with tea, coffee and an amazing choice of cakes.

Baconsthorpe

200 Club £50 M Rowe, £25 J High, £10 L Bestow

Church News

We had a very satisfactory morning spring cleaning in and around the church on May 10. Hazel Martin, Jo Brannigan, Piers Warner and Diana Muir led a thorough cleaning of the church with special attention to the clock tower which has been completely cleared now that we have the newly-restored tubular bells in place. Do come and ring them, we are one of only two churches in Norfolk to have these.

Outside, the headstone specialists, Jim Brannigan and John Hardy straightened stones with a mix of strength and guile, while Emma Youngs and Harry Steel carried out some precision strimming in order to allow the wild flowers to reseed. All were rewarded with hot dogs and burgers courtesy of the Baconsthorpe PCC catering department of Richard and Corinne Youngs.

Update on Midsummer Night's Dream

On June 4th we met for first rehearsal at the village hall. All seventeen members of the cast attended despite being busy with other commitments, some actors you will remember from our Scrooge performance last January in Baconsthorpe church. The evening was great fun and the play promises to be extremely entertaining. Remember this is a reduced performance of approximately 30/40 minutes and I will be praying for a balmy evening. If the heavens do open we will have to perform in the hall.

Baconsthorpe Book Club

We held our second meeting on June 5th at Ash Tree Farm and many thanks go to Corinne Youngs for hosting with excellent refreshments. We had all read *Conclave* by Robert Harris and it was agreed by everyone that this was an excellent read and led to much discussion regarding the selection of the new pope. Our next book is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. We are so lucky that Corinne has secured an arrangement with our local library van to provide the chosen book for us every month. A huge saving for everyone. Do get in touch if you would like to join us. 07879414577 or 07787553212

Village Stall

The village stall located outside Ash Tree farm continues to be stocked with various jams, eggs and sometimes plants. Do pull in and purchase as proceeds from this little stall all go to the church. I always remember someone saying "Baconsthorpe church runs on jam". Many thanks go to all who provide items for the stall especially Emma and Corinne.

Village Hall News

Village Fête Saturday 12 July from 2pm. Featuring games, stalls, refreshments and the Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off! Do come along and bring a cake to be judged and you may win a lovely prize. Entries must be with us by 2.30pm please. After judging cakes will then be auctioned. Bric-a-Brac can be dropped off at the village hall on Friday 11 July from 5-7pm. Please do not leave items outside the hall.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577



Pop Up Pub Friday 25 July. Hunters Chicken Casserole the menu from 6.30pm. Bar opens at 6pm

Coffee Morning in village hall continues on first Wednesday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am. Range of coffees and the famous cheese scones. Everyone welcome - no charge.

200 Club we do still have some numbers and you could win £50 every month for just a £1 per month subscription.

Barningham Winter

Sara Buxton - Deeply Missed by All



A huge cloud has descended over Barningham Winter with the untimely death of Sara Buxton, who was loved by all. Daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, farmer, friend and community leader, she was part of all our lives.



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250

Sara seemed impregnable, ready to face dragons, and in full command of whatever she was doing. Her approach to rural life made anything possible. A mischievous glance across the PCC table, a giggle when something had not gone quite right, combined with a determination that practicalities need to be thoroughly considered, so that anything the

parish did was not only a success but done with style. Why use basic crockery for her delicious soup when Sara's beautiful Bridgewater set could be used by all!

Part of the Hannant farming dynasty, Sara grew up at Barningham Rectory and devoted her life to the people, land and cattle that surrounded the Rectory and Wells Farm, where she and Roger lived for over forty years. First with her father, Fred, then joined by Roger, they were a team that grappled with all the challenges thrown at farmers. She raised four fabulous children, Rachael, Rebecca, Ruth and Joe, and then became super granny to nine grandchildren as well as a much loved aunt and supportive cousin.

How could she have time for anything else? But Sara did, and never made a fuss. Cooking community lunches at Aldborough, organising fundraisers, key holder for neighbours - Sara found time for everyone. History doesn't record how many fêtes, garden openings, strawberry teas, sponsored walks, flower festivals, scrabble and quiz evenings, harvest lunches/suppers or wreath making days she organised during her 70 years. Nor do we know how many gallons of delicious soup she made, or the hundreds of cakes, mince pies, sausage rolls and naughty Mars Bar crispies she produced for local events, or left at people's doors when they were going through a rough patch. All typical of the positive and selfless way that she lived her life.

Sara was devoted to St Mary's, Barningham Winter and proud of her family's long association with its care and history. Many Hannant and Buxton christenings, marriages and funerals have taken place there and she has repaid the kindness of St Mary's with her service to it and its preservation.

Our lives are changed by Sara's passing. Fundraising, meetings, cleaning sessions, church services, soup and the fête's tombola will never be the same. She will be deeply missed forever by us all.

Rector David Longe recalls:

I first properly met Sara at a memorable PCC meeting: "Well, David", she said, "we have to pay for the insurance you know"! Her strikingly practical approach to all things in the church was a Godsend. It helped focus on what was important.

Sara was part and parcel of life in these parishes. Her care of her grandchildren was exceptional - I recall seeing her taking them to do the veg plot, hose in hand. All her family, and we, will sorely miss this wonderful and special soul. She gave so much, and we are deeply privileged to have been able to walk with her during our lives.

Edgefield

Church News

The Open Gardens weekend, 11am-4pm, 28 to 29 June may have happened by the time you read this; if not, do come along and view the nine gardens and enjoy refreshments. Tickets are being sold at the church to ease parking.

We are very grateful to the nine gardeners who opened their gardens, to all the helpers who served lunch and tea, sold tickets, directed parking and manned the stalls. Thank you to all those who bought the raffle tickets that were delivered in advance by our kind CAVN deliverers.

A wildflower survey of the churchyard found an impressively wide variety of wildflowers and grasses, especially in the un-mown area to the south of the church. Well worth having a look if you're interested.

Alison Mawson

Village Hall News

At the time of writing, there are some Edgifest tickets left at £15 per head. So if you don't want to miss out on the village Event of the Year on Saturday 19th July please contact me on 07946 854901, or any committee member. There are around 350 people living in Edgefield - it would be lovely to get as many as possible together for a night of friendship, music, food, drink and fun.

200 Club Winners for May were: 1st Tricia Cox (£50), 2nd Andy Saunders (£30) and 3rd Maria Stokeley Smith (£20).

Jim Frost

Hempstead



Top Harpist at Hempstead!

17th July at 3.45 pm - Village Hall

We are excited by the return visit of Keziah Thomas the internationally-recognised harpist who will, again, be joined by local artists to perform chamber music in the Village Hall. This afternoon performance will include *Ravel's Introduction and Allegro* - an amazing piece written to show off the capabilities of the pedal harp. Free - donations welcomed. An event not to be missed!



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Coffee & Catch-Up Friday 4 July at 10.30am - all welcome.

200 Club

Winners will now be drawn after Church monthly, commencing with the June Draw - results in next month's magazine. There will now be 4 prizes monthly - £50, £25, £15 and £10. Could these be your lucky numbers 59, 98, 118, 146, 147 or 184? These are the last 6 numbers to be allocated in the 200 Club that supports the mowing of the churchyard - with half the money being awarded back as prizes. Contact Francis Feilden 07780 765173 for more information.

Crafty Creations - July

No meetings during August

Monday 7 2-4pm - Wrapped Stones and Wire Flowers / Saturday 19 2-4pm - Nature Weaving Looms
Thursday 24 10-12noon - Beaded Dragonflies

Village Hall AGM

We would like to thank all those that came along to our AGM on 12 June. It was good to see so many of you join us this year and to join in with the discussions re the running of the village hall. Your support is much appreciated. Thank you for giving us your time and your ideas.

We welcome Sarah Middleton as a new member of our team; we look forward to working with you. Also, to Ian Summers on his resignation from the committee, we give our thanks for your years of service to the village hall. We wish you all the best in your new home and village, although we do still hope to see you in Hempstead from time to time. Thank you both. Thanks to all for your support and look forward to the next year.

Village Hall Improvements

At the Village Hall AGM in June the Trustees were able to announce ongoing plans to improve our Village Hall. Having applied for grant funding, that is yet to be decided, it is hoped we will be able to make a number of much needed improvements to the village hall. This would include extending the rear of the hall to provide a modern kitchen and new toilet facilities, including a separate disabled toilet and a baby changing unit. Beyond this is the plan to establish a permanent surface on the recently re-established access path at the rear of the hall which provides disabled access. It is also hoped that funding will provide Solar Roof Panels and a battery to make our hall not only greener, but more cost effective to run. Further updates and news will be given as we know more.

Hempstead Fête - Sunday 3 August

Hempstead will be holding its traditional summer fête again this year, please donate any of these following items if you are able - Thank you! Good quality Bric-a-Brac / Tombola Prizes and bottles for prizes / Cakes - to be donated on the day of fête at hall or direct to cake stall on playing field.

To be able to raise as much funds as possible for the Church and Village Hall we do need your help with some of the above items for the fête. If you feel you have any of these items, please drop them to either a committee member or at the village hall on the following dates in July:

1-5pm Monday 7 / 1-5pm Saturday 19 / 10am - 1pm Thursday 24

Your help is much appreciated thank you!



Matlaske

100 Club £25 Graeme Barker, £10 Michelle French, £5 Chris Key

Countdown to Music & Pizza in the Park!



Don't miss the return of Matlaske Music & Pizza in the Park, which kicks off (with jingling bells from Holt Ridge Morris) at 3pm on Saturday 26 (Barningham Hall gate - no entry fee!). Enjoy a drink at the bar, a wood-fired pizza, or something from the BBQ and a Delicious Dessert. Music from local artists, Morris dancing, raffle, bric-a-brac stall and lots of games for all the family.

We would still be pleased to receive donations for the bric-a-brac stall. If you have anything in good condition that you could donate please contact Cherry on 01263 577827, email Cherrywestgate@hotmail.co.uk

A look back in time...

Daily News (London) - Wednesday 7 January 1920

ROYAL FESTIVITIES. The King and Queen, Queen Alexandra, Queen Maud of Norway, and the other members of the Royal Family, are spending a pleasant time at Sandringham. This afternoon Queen Alexandra received three of the pupils from the West Norfolk and King's Lynn High School and presented to them prizes which her Majesty annually awards for the most popular girl in the school. Owing to the war, the prizes in the last few years had not been personally presented, and therefore there were three awards to be taken. The girls were Olive Hitchcock, of King's Lynn; Dorothy Leeder, of Matlaske, Norfolk; and Mary Cross, of Heacham, Norfolk, the two latter being scholarship pupils. The prizes, which are awarded on the votes of the pupils of the school, consisted of handsomely-bound Bibles bearing inscriptions.



Duncan Wood
01263 570293

Plumstead

Help at St Michael's

Can you help to make a difference? For many years, volunteers have offered up their time to cut the grass at The Flagpole and Churchyard areas in Plumstead. Unfortunately the list of such volunteers is shrinking and we are DESPERATE for others to join our team. At present there are 9 on our rota 2 of whom will be leaving us shortly moving on to pastures new. The more volunteers we have then the less cuts you do during the season. If you can give up approximately 1 hour of your time every 3 months then please contact Steve Price on 07895 025261. Both the lawn mower and petrol are provided as will any necessary training.

Welcome to our new Parish Council Chair

We are delighted to welcome Ruth Campion-Ridge as our new Chairperson. Ruth lives in Plumstead and has two children aged 10 and 12. She works part time in a local business doing accounts. Her hobbies involve anything arty or crafty.



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239



Farewell to Eleanor & Brian Faulkner

We are sad to say goodbye to Eleanor and Brian as they move down to Devon from Plumstead to be near family. They have both contributed so much to the village, church and wider community in their time here.

They moved to Plumstead from Erpingham in 2013. Brian as a retired parish priest was for a time an Honorary Assistant Curate of this group of parishes, and later with 'Permission to Officiate' from the Bishop, assisted both in the leading of public worship and in pastoral care as and when asked for and needed. He was a member of Plumstead Parish Council for most of these years, some time Vice Chair and then Chair for two years. Amongst his hobbies - Heritage Railways. A guard and signalman at the North Norfolk Railway, and a guard at the Bure Valley Railway.

Eleanor became churchwarden soon after moving here; was a member of the Plumstead Events Group with Mary and John Lintott and others, and over the years helped to organise village events including fêtes, art exhibitions, and open garden days. She has been fully involved in village and church life, including plans to reorder the nave of the church to create a community space. We thank them for all of their time and effort and wish them all the best in Devon.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

St Peter's Church - Never Friendless



The astonishing turnaround in the fortunes of St Peter's Church, Corpusty (our cover picture), has been marked by the dedication of a commemorative stone (pictured below) in the beautifully renewed floor of the chancel. Yet the familiar sight of St Peter's standing guard over the villages below was nearly lost forever. After falling out of use

and becoming the target of vandals, it was only the unstinting efforts of the Friends of Friendless Churches, led by Roger Last and Lady Billa Harrod, that saved it from demolition.

Now in the hands of the Norfolk Churches Trust, the service of dedication, led by the Rector David Longe and dressed with flowers by Linda Joel, proved that St Peter's is alive once more and has many friends. The stone was designed and carved by Maia Gaffney-Hyde, with the support of the Lettering Arts Trust. Thanks also to the refreshments team.



John Birchall
01263 584290

Corpusty & Saxthorpe Summer Sizzle - August 31 2025

Our annual village event is again to feature the popular duck race along the overflow stream beside the village green. If you'd like a duck in the race, you can sponsor one at the regular Wednesday morning Coffee, Cake & Chat at St Andrews, or at any Village Hall event (fortnightly lunch, monthly Sunday breakfast or film night) - while ducks last! The minimum donation is just £1 but if you are able to offer more this helps with costs of next year's event and also a donation to both the Village Hall and St Andrews Church - last year £150 was donated to each.

Every child attending Corpusty Primary school will be allocated a duck free of charge, all you need to do is give the organisers your name at the event, which will start at 4pm on Sunday, August 31. Any unsponsored ducks will be available at the event - but beware there were only 10 available on the day last year. And we also have a very special decorated duck available for auction - watch out for details on the village Facebook group or ask at Coffee, Cake & Chat. Or any village hall event.

Railings Restored

The metal railings that once lined Corpusty village green from its western end to Bloomfield House have been replaced by the parish council. The main aim is to improve safety, preventing children using the nearby play area from dashing on to the road. The railings have been positioned to allow parking to continue, while preventing this from spreading on to the green itself. The railings, which have self-closing gates near either end, are made of a type of steel that will not need painting.



Roof Repairs

Repairs to the roof of St Andrews have been extended from the south aisle to the southern side of the chancel, where one leak in particular proved hard to fix. The scaffolding was left in place to allow the specialist team more time to pin down the problem.



Remember, Remember, the First of November

An organising committee has been assembled and are planning a return of Corpusty Bonfire on 1st November. The event will capture the spirit of the villages' rich traditions celebrating the demise of Guy Fawkes but will necessarily be a smaller village event than the version seen in recent times. The organising committee would welcome additional members, please contact bdawes@yahoo.co.uk or go along to the next meeting at the village hall 7pm on 4 September. There is a sign-up sheet for on the day volunteers available in the shop and the pub - please sign-up early if possible so that plans can be made. Any proceeds for village causes.

Village Hall Team Making Things Happen

Corpusty Station is looking great after all the attention over the last few months. The paint is the original M&GM colours, inside and outside. There is still work to be done - parquet floor to be cleaned; heritage items to display; platform to be cleaned up - but we are on the way. The Village Hall's energetic team continue to work hard on fundraising to pay for this work and the committee is very grateful for the support from within our villages and beyond. We can't wait for the station building to be ready for public use, and we can have a big celebration "do". Future fundraisers include:

Lunch Clubs on Tuesday 1, 15 and 29 July, 12 noon to 2pm
Film Nights on Friday 4 July *A Complete Unknown* and Friday 1 August *Bridget Jones*
Saturday 12 July Wimbledon Ladies Final on the Big Screen + afternoon tea
Sunday 13 July Car Boot & Breakfast and Tuesday 15 July 10am to 12 noon Tech & Tea

Joyce Pemberton, a stalwart in the village who died last September, very generously left £500 to Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall in her will.



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



Until a few days ago July's *To Plant a Garden* had had a very different look to it - all about the joy of July pottering about your garden gently dead-heading roses, tying in tomato plants and harvesting lovely fresh veg. However there appears to be a very testing and unwelcome visitor to our gardens. Especially in this area of Norfolk.

A few days ago we had been modestly very pleased with our garden this year, the beautifully sunny spring had meant everything has been glorious in the garden, the roses have especially enjoyed the high light levels and warmth and the recent rain had freshened up all the green foliage. However it was on our evening wander that we spotted a small area of damage on our box hedging. Because we have been worried about box blight for so long now we'd purposefully given up trimming our box, letting them grow into beautiful shapes that had been really

thriving. Our theory had been that box blight is more likely to strike when a plant is under stress/strain. So far our plan had held out, but on closer inspection we discovered several Box Moth caterpillars in the hedging. The Box Moth caterpillars are incredibly destructive and can literally strip a box plant of all its leaves in a matter of days and if they then turn their attentions to the bark of a box plant then there is a good chance the plant will die. Left unchecked the damage is rapid. The best thing to do is to carefully check your plants and to remove any caterpillars you find. A jam jar of warm water and a few drops of washing up liquid is one way of getting rid of them. The caterpillars tend to hide up in the centre of the plants during the day and then come out further in the evening to feed (so the evening is a good time to check for them). Check out the following website which is really useful www.ebts.org.

I have included images of both the Box Moth and the Box Moth caterpillar for reference. The Box Moth is quite striking in colouring/pattern, it's quite easy to identify but it's (sadly) more likely that you will notice the damage and caterpillars first.

We had hoped this patch of Norfolk might just escape but it's not to be. It should be possible to manage Box Moth but it is a lot of work to do so and there are only so many hours in the day, but we can but try!

Finally a big thank you to everyone who made it to the Open Gardens at Blickling Lodge, there was a good turnout despite the changeable weather and the garden looked glorious!

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 - Bale Oak

Bale Oak



We use similes in our everyday conversations in order to emphasise a point - Hard as nails, Dead as a dodo, Blind as a bat, and so on.

But here's an old one a few may still recall: Big as Bale Oak. This was heard regularly by my generation even though the oak in question - which stood in the parish of Gunthorpe - had ceased to exist since 1860. But big it certainly was, and also ancient. By assessing its size experts consider it to be 1000 years old, ie back to the time of King Alfred. And its size was certainly prodigious. In circumference it measured 36 feet, and the largest branch was

almost as high as the nearby church tower. Its hollow trunk could contain twenty men standing up, and an enterprising cobbler had set up his workshop within the tree itself - so no business rates to pay I guess!

In 1790 an overzealous pollarding caused the tree's end. It never recovered and soon only a truncated portion remained. By 1860 it was considered dangerous and cut down and destroyed.

This demise did not go without notice though as a poet of the time penned the following in its memory:

“Here stand I all in disgrace,
Once the wonder of this place,
My head knocked off, my body dead,
And all the virtue of my limbs is fled,
'tis my fear that I should fright,
The travellers horse in the night,
So cut me down, it's my desire,
Commit me to the blazing fire,
And when you see me burn and smoke,
Say that's the end of old Bale Oak.”

Lovely evergreen Holm Oaks now adorn the area, looked after by the National Trust. It's well worth a visit.

Arthur Pentney

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