

# Church & Village News

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

September 2025



**Harvest**

Photograph by Kay Harvey

## Newsletter Team

Issue No 116 / September 2025

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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** Ruth Campion-Ridge  
**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  
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## Local MP

Steffan Aquarone MP  
 Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.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

**Rector** Revd Canon David Longe 01263 577252  
**Asst Priest** Revd Judy Rosser 07469 390178  
**Lay Minister** Dr Jane McLarty 07791 870104  
**Church Wardens**  
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**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** Vacant  
**Sax with Corp** Lesley Last 01263 587782  
 Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584 221

**Safeguarding Officers**  
 Catherine McMahon  
 01263 577357 / safeguarding@matlaske.org.uk  
 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

### SEPTEMBER

Mon 1	2.00pm	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b> Decorated Trays	Village Hall
Wed 3	10.30am	<b>Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning</b>	Village Hall
Thurs 4	7.00pm	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Bonfire Meeting</b>	Village Hall
Fri 5	10.30am	<b>Hempstead Coffee &amp; Catch-Up</b>	Village Hall
Fri 5	7.00pm	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Film Night</b> <i>The Penguin Lessons</i>	Village Hall
Sun 7	4.00pm	<b>Baconsthorpe Tubular Bells Dedication</b>	Baconsthorpe Church
Tues 9	12.00noon	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Lunch Club</b> (alternate Tuesdays)	Village Hall
Thurs 11	10.00am	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b> Resin (1 of 2)	Village Hall
Sat 13	All Day	<b>Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Bike Ride</b>	All Churches
Sun 14	8.00am	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Car Boot &amp; Breakfast</b>	Village Hall
Sat 20	2.00pm	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b> Resin (2 of 2)	Village Hall
Sat 20	2.00pm	<b>Corpusty Railway Station Celebration</b>	Village Hall
Fri 26	10.00am	<b>North Barningham Macmillan Coffee Morning</b>	Green Lane Cottage
Fri 26	6.00pm	<b>Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub</b>	Village Hall
Fri 26	7.00pm	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Book Club</b> <i>Never Ending Story</i>	Village Hall

### OCTOBER

Sat 4	7.00pm	<b>Edgefield Quiz</b>	Village Hall
Sun 5	12.00noon	<b>Matlaske Harvest Service &amp; Lunch</b>	St Peter's Church
Fri 10	12.00noon	<b>Saxthorpe Harvest Supper</b>	Millers Barn
Sat 18	10.00am	<b>Edgefield Craft Fair</b>	sChurch

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

Nov 1 Corpusty Bonfire  
 Dec 5 Baconsthorpe Christmas Quiz  
 Dec 7 Matlaske Christmas Party

## 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

**25 September / 23 October**  
 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> / Route No CEN 411  
 Tel: 01603 222303

**Letter from Dr Jane McCarty**  
**Contact: The Rector, Reverend Canon David Longe**  
 01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

*A Feather on the breath of God...*

This month the church remembers the life of the wonderfully named Hildegard of Bingen – her festival is on 17<sup>th</sup> September, the day she died in 1179. I first encountered her about 15 years ago, when a PhD student told me about his dissertation work. Since then, as so often happens, I have kept coming across references to her. I was intrigued to learn that this medieval woman born in Germany in 1098, who became an abbess in charge of a community of nuns, wrote poetry and set her poems to music, and also studied and wrote about natural history and medicine. Her community practised herbal medicine, as many medieval women did, without writing down their remedies – because of Hildegard we have insight into their methods. She is thought to be the first to record the use of hops to preserve beer! She was also a philosopher and theologian; all her life Hildegard saw visions of God, which she recorded and illustrated. Accompanying all this learning and creativity, however, was much physical suffering: at times Hildegard suffered intense and incapacitating pain. It is perhaps partly because of this sense of lacking control over her life that she told this little story:



Listen: there was once a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself, but because the air bore it along. Thus am I 'a feather on the breath of God'.

Hildegard is intriguing for her sheer breadth of interests and learning, where for us it seems the arts and the sciences are in two camps and you have to pick one or the other. Or even worse, where the sciences are seen as in some way opposed to God. This would have been a foreign notion to Hildegard who no doubt saw herself as exploring the workings of God's creation. September is a month always bound up for us with a sense of new beginnings, because of the 'back to school' atmosphere; perhaps Hildegard's life might inspire us to explore something new, to learn more about God's world. Though we should be prepared to be taken to surprising places beyond our imaginings if like her we see ourselves as 'feathers on the breath of God.'

Dr Jane McLarty

PS You might like to consider the Bishop's Certificate in Christian Learning. Details can be found here:  
<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/mission-and-ministry/vocations/the-bishops-certificate-in-christian-learning/>



**The Benefice of Matlaske**  
**Church Services for September**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday - Meditation		
6.00pm	Meditation - 20 minutes long		Hempstead
7 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity XV		
8.30am	Eucharist		Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist		Matlaske
4.00pm	Tubular Bells Celebration + Tea (an invitation to try the new bells)		Baconsthorpe
13 <sup>th</sup>	Norfolk Churches Bike Ride		
Norfolk Churches Bike Ride – all our churches will be open with refreshments. Do visit all and help raise funds for the Norfolk Churches Trust and for your parish Church.			
14 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Cross		
8.30am	Eucharist		Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist		Edgefield
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday - Meditation		
6.00pm	Meditation - 20 minutes long		Barningham Winter
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday Eucharist		
9.30am	Eucharist		Matlaske
21 <sup>st</sup>	Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist		
8.30am	Eucharist		Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist		Baconsthorpe
28 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity XVIII		
8.30am	Eucharist		Hempstead
10.00am	Sharing Church		Saxthorpe
	Bringing together faith, fellowship, and food. This Sunday we explore inequality in our world, inspired by the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31)		
4.00pm	Family Church		Edgefield
	Through crafts and activities explore stories from the Bible, followed by a short time of singing, worship, and prayer — and finish with tea for everyone.		
29 <sup>th</sup>	St Michael & All Angels		
9.00am	Eucharist		Matlaske
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Wednesday - Meditation		
6.00pm	Meditation - 20 minutes long		Plumstead
5 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity XIX		
10.30am	Harvest Service followed by lunch		Matlaske
5.00pm	Harvest Service		Saxthorpe
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 Monrning10.30am - Baconsthorpe Village Hall			

Details of all our services: [achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-271D/](http://achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-271D/)



## Baconsthorpe

**200 Club** £50 I Allen, £25 H Steel, £10 S Belbin

### Church News

Bell ringing at St Mary's church to celebrate the restoration of the Tubular Bells - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm - 5pm.

Please do call in to the church to 'have a go' at ringing the bells and have a cup of tea and some cake while you listen to others. We are fortunate to have been able to call on some tubular bell-ringing experts to show us how to do it, so no need to worry about being clueless. We all are....but hopefully less so after our session.

We are very fortunate to have these bells in the church - they are extremely rare, so we want to make the most of them. Please direct any questions to Harry Steel 07711 890360

### A Hidden Gem

After being closed for two years, Baconsthorpe Castle, often known as the hidden gem of East Anglia, opened a few weeks ago. Renovation work has constantly been held up for various reasons and has taken longer than expected. However visitors will see that extensive work has been completed. There is now a steel frame to support the inner gate house; a new bridge is in place; flints have been replaced; there is a new re-enforced arch to the outer gate house and window uprights have been replaced. However there is still more work to do! This morning I received news that the inner site must once again be closed so that work can take place at either end of the bridge. We must once again be patient. Thanks to Tom Worboys for updates on the progress.



Hazel Martin  
07879 414577

### Fête

On July 12<sup>th</sup> this year the weather was warm and sunny perfect for a village fête! Once again people from Baconsthorpe and beyond had put on their aprons and produced 17 cakes for The Great Bake Off. This year the cakes were judged by two chefs from Byfords – McKenzie and AJ – who enjoyed tasting all the cakes so much that they have asked to come back next year! The winner was Jan Benson with her crumble cake – she can be seen proudly wearing the Star Baker apron. After judging all the cakes were auctioned. Outside

and inside the stalls were very busy, once again the 'crockery smashing' was very busy and the 'brick a brac' was very popular. Sincere thanks go to all who offered items; manned stalls; provided refreshments and baked cakes – we can't do it without you – over £2,000 was raised which is divided between church and village hall.

### Village Hall News

**Pop Up Pub** Friday 26 September - lamb curry on the menu from 6.30pm. Bar opens at 6pm.

**Coffee Morning** First Wednesday every month 10.30am till 11.30am

This month is the tenth anniversary of the Pop Up Pub. Thank you to everyone who has made this such a success. I will especially mention Emma, Corinne, Jane, Jonathan, Rick, Tim, Isabelle and Tom. Also thank you to the numerous helpers and contributors along the way, you know who you

are. Also a big thank you to all of you who come and enjoy the company of neighbours and friends each month. The Pop up Pub has generated an income of about £60,000 over the last 10 years which has made a significant difference to the funds. We are making some further improvements in the bar to mark this anniversary so do come along and mark the occasion.

Date for your diary – Christmas Quiz is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## Barningham Winter

### Every Happiness to Charlie & Alice

It's been a busy month for Barningham Winter. St Mary's hosted the wedding of Charlie Fiddian and his new wife, Alice. They had polished and cleaned the church within an inch of its life and filled it with flowers and love. The windows and door of the church were open throughout, so the joyous sound of their singing flooded out. We wish them every happiness in their new life together and look forward to seeing them again at St Mary's in the future.



Amelia Courtauld  
01263 577250

### Fun at the Fête

The Matlaske fête has become a great joint community event with the residents of Barningham Winter. A fun afternoon was had by all despite the best efforts of the rain. Of course we can't complain, we needed the rain, but timing was not on our side. Thank you to all who came. It was a great success and had a very happy atmosphere, boosted by the Morris Dancers, fabulous program of live music, colourful umbrellas and laughter.

### Support Macmillan

A date for your diary. Michelle French is once again hosting her very popular Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at Green Lane Cottage, North Barningham. between 10am and 1pm. Please do come along. There will be a good selection of cakes with tea, coffee, Prosecco and an alcohol-free alternative. There will also be a raffle with some lovely prizes. All proceeds will go to Macmillan. Let Michelle know if you would like to attend by emailing her on mlf@cama.co.uk

## Edgefield

### Church News

#### Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride

This annual event takes place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. It is a great opportunity to visit some of our fabulous local churches whilst raising money for your own parish church. You can cycle, walk or drive between churches on the day, and all participants are welcome. You can visit as many or as few churches as you are able to do. If you would like to take part, please contact Alison Mawson, 01263 587236. volunteers to welcome visitors to the church are also needed; please let me know if you can spare an hour or two: alisonmawson@hotmail.com.

### Family Church

At July's family church we celebrated almost three years of family church. The children enjoyed crafts including making a trophy or medal from dry clay and painting with foil, and families celebrated their life by making a journey stick. After some singing and prayers we shared a delicious



Richard Peaver  
01263 587486

buffet. We take a break in August, although our children's area is full of toys to play with any day of the week. September family church is on 28<sup>th</sup> September and is open to all children and their families, parents and grandparents, from throughout the benefice and beyond. We will be looking at what Jesus said about himself and what we can learn from that.

### Autumn Craft Fair

There will be a Craft Fair on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 10am-4pm in Edgefield Church. We have a wide variety of crafts on sale, a plant stall and some tasty refreshments. Please come along and enjoy seeing what talent there is locally, and maybe buy some Christmas gifts!

Alison Mawson

### Village Hall News Edgefest Success

Edgefest has been and gone and a great success it was! 175 people, two bands, a hog roast and a lovely friendly evening to boot. If you weren't there, you missed a treat, so make sure you come next year.

Our next event is a quiz night on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are £10 for a table of four. Contact me on 07946 854901 or James.frost59@hotmail.co.uk for tickets.

July 200 Club winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Terry Williamson (£50), 2<sup>nd</sup> Rupert Wheeler (£30) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Parsons £20.

Jim Frost

## Hempstead

### 200 Club - August Winners

£50 J Loach; £25 I Summers; £15 J Tyabji; £10 R Hall

**Coffee & Catchup** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am - village hall - all welcome.

### Hempstead Arts 2025

Residents of Hempstead were invited to the Preview of our annual Art Exhibition and Sale at Hempstead Village Hall on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm. Take a look: <http://www.hempsteadarts.co.uk/2025-catalogue.html> It's been a mammoth effort to bring the work of 34 artists together but the result has been well worth it - do come along to see for yourself. The exhibition is open to the public over the weekend: Saturday-Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Aug, 10am-5pm. Don't miss this weekend of exciting artwork in our village. Please let your friends know, so they don't miss out. Refreshments and light lunches, free entry and proceeds to Hempstead Church Funds.

### Hempstead Fête

A great day was had at our village summer fête. The weather wasn't as kind as it could have been but the atmosphere was great. So many happy faces around throughout the day. A couple of lovely moments when a prize on the tombola was



very quickly opened and the dressing up set was worn by the winner and then David Longe decided to demonstrate the dog agility course to the line of dogs waiting to have a go and he had to crawl through the tunnel (think he secretly enjoyed that bit and the applause as he completed the course!)



With new entertainment this year from the dancers at Sound Waves and Fitsteps (look out for the new weekly classes at the village hall from September.) The little ones were brilliant persevering in the rain.

Thank you to the Yukele Group that joined us for the afternoon. The traditional sports were a hit especially with the adult entrants! All in all, a great day and lots of memories made!

Thank you to each and everyone that supported this event and especially to those that helped in any way large or small. It was very much appreciated and helped us to raise £3,500 for the village hall and church.

Thank you the Fête Committee Lesley Lennox, Sue Hawkey and Airlie Inglis

On behalf of Hempstead PCC can we thank all those who helped make the fête such a success, at times battling the elements, not only on the day itself but all the preparations, cooking and transportation of tables chairs and tents and the subsequent clean-up at the end. The funds raised helps your parish church continue.

Francis Feilden Treasurer.

### Judy Rosser

The Bishop of Lynn came to Hempstead Church to Licence Judy Rosser for the benefice on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July. It was a short, profound and happy event. Bishop Jane gave thanks for Judy's calling and heartfelt and meaningful prayers offered for us all. Judy remarked "Hempstead Church is such a special place and its community is abundantly rich in collaboration and cohesiveness, which is such a joy".

### Remembering Jean Smith

The funeral of our friend Jean Smith was held in All Saints Church on August 5<sup>th</sup>. A loving mum and grandmother she and her husband Dave lived in the village for 25 years. A keen gardener and a generous supplier of greenery for the church and produce for the fête over the years. She leaves daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be sadly missed.

### Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride Saturday 13 September

Seize the day! An opportunity to explore some of Norfolk's splendid churches on your doorstep or further afield and help raise money for our Church and the Norfolk Churches Trust. Churches are open all day, many of them offering refreshments and Norfolk has some real gems to visit. Last year the most visited rural church was St Mary's, Barningham Winter, in the idyllic setting of Barningham Park. There are many others. It's a lovely way to spend a few hours or a day; you can visit as many or as few as you wish - just ask family, friends and neighbours to sponsor you before you set off. Hempstead has raised record amounts in the past - last year



£1,675 thanks to the generosity of our supporters - and we hope to continue this but many of our long-standing loyal participants have retired and we do need fresh blood to take their place. Contact me for further details and sponsorship forms (01263 712460) or sign up on the Norfolk Churches Trust website.

Yvette Gibson

### Crafty Creations

After our summer break we will resume craft meetings again in September. By popular request we are revisiting some of our previous workshops. We will be doing a two stage project - if you are only able to attend one of the two sessions, that's fine, you will have time to complete making something. Look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 2pm - 4pm - Decorated Trays (using different media)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 10am - 12noon - Resin (1 of 2)

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm - Resin (2 of 2)

## Matlaske

**100 Club** £25 Dick Fiddian, £10 David Thompson, £5 Mandy Wood

### Music & Pizza in The Park



The weather forecast was not looking good and by late morning the rain had started but the show must go on!

What a performance by Holt Ridge Morris Dancers, who cheerfully and stoically performed throughout the afternoon, not being put off by the weather. They set the scene for us by example. Thank you so much HRM!



Duncan Wood  
01263 570293

The delicious pizzas and BBQ sold out, only a plate of delicious desserts left and a bar with not much left (that Pimms was certainly scrumptious!).

It was obvious that the rain had not deterred people, there was a good turnout, who chatted, ate, drank and listened to the excellent music. In short, the weather didn't stop us from having great fun!

Thank you to those that came and supported the musicians, performers, the stall holders, especially those who did not have a shelter and to everyone who donated and made this another successful event.

## Plumstead

### Welcome

We welcome Sean and Andrea to Oak Tree Cottage. We wish them much happiness in their new home and look forward to meeting them around the village.



Harriet Rossi  
01263 577239

## Saxthorpe with Corpusty

### On Your Bikes Again!

There can't a better reason to brush off the cobwebs, pump up the tyres and oil the chain on that trusty bike sitting in the shed! Yes, it's the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride on Saturday 13 September. And if the saddle's too hard, you don't even need a bike - walk, or even drive, to some of our wonderful churches. Just make sure you get a few friends to sponsor you. Sponsorship forms are available in St Andrews, or on the Norfolk Churches Trust website.



John Birchall  
01263 584290

### Better Bus Stops

Bus users - including school children - may soon be enjoying better bus stops on the B1149 Aylsham Road, Saxthorpe. County Highways has proposed proper bus stops on either side of the road on the Aylsham side of the junction with The Street. A new footway in the verge from The Street would serve the new stops, including dropped kerbs where people need to cross. The plans have been backed by the Parish Council, which will consider whether a bus shelter can be provided on the north side. (The Council meets on 10 September.)



### Top Guitarist to Play at Harvest Supper

Classical guitarist Estevao Divides will be playing at this year's Harvest Supper, which will be at Millers Barn, Saxthorpe, on Friday 10 October. This is the third year that Lesley and Niven Last have hosted the supper, with £25 tickets including a drink upon arrival and a fabulous supper, as well as a chance to appreciate a superb musician - all in aid of St Andrew's Church. So get in quick! Tickets from [lesley@saxthorpe.com](mailto:lesley@saxthorpe.com), or at Coffee, Cake & Chat at St Andrews on Wednesday mornings (10-11am).

### Big Station Celebration Plans!



The Village Hall team is planning a Big Corpusty Railway Station Celebration on Saturday 20 September at 2pm to mark the fantastic progress in bringing the building back to life. It is now weatherproof, painted in original MG&N colours and looking much happier. Great work by Andy Bell, David Bates and Paul Peachment in clearing the platform, which in places had almost disappeared under invading trees, scrub and weeds. They needed a digger to make inroads, and the result is impressive.

Plans for the event are still being made, but ideas include old fashioned games, music food and bar. Watch the Village Hall website as plans unfold.





### Tower Dive for Intrepid Teddies!

Teddy Bears took over at St Andrews on 30<sup>th</sup> July, when Coffee, Cake & Chat became the Big Bear Picnic - with the bravest bears being launched from the top of the tower on the zip line. On the 27<sup>th</sup> August our faithful canine friends were invited to Barks & Bakes, with the morning given over to raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Even when it's just plain Coffee, Cake & Chat, there's no better way to spend a Wednesday morning (10am).

### Village Hall Soon Buzzing Again

After a well-earned break over August, the Village Hall's popular Lunch Club resumes on Tuesday 9 September 12 till 2pm; then every second Tuesday. For those who have missed the kitchen team's great Sunday breakfast, the next car boot and breakfast is on Sunday 14 September 8am till noon.

### Yoga and Brunch Returns

After a successful first outing in July, Yoga and brunch returns to the Village Hall on September 20<sup>th</sup> £25 per person, and it begins at 9am. Pre bookings only on 07557 005045

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



September is possibly the most poignant month in the year, full of nostalgia yet of new beginnings as well. The gears in the garden significantly shift this month, gone is the rather ambling meander through August. September is all brand new pencil cases, fresh garden resolutions and renewed purpose. This month everything feels more resolute and with a mind to gathering in and making the most of any golden days we are given.

First up is some sowing! Now is a great time to set coriander and spinach both are prone to bolt in most of the summer months but not this month, whether it's the shorter days or the lower light levels a crop set this month should do well. Next up are winter lettuces, chicories and other winter leaves for the kitchen. Get those set now if you can, if you've not got the room then the guttering method works just as well this time of

year as it did in spring, you will thank yourself for it in the colder months. If, like us, your rocket salad leaves normally get decimated by flea beetle, again September is the answer! As apparently the said flea beetle isn't as prevalent this month. Yet more reasons to be grateful for September!

Next up is making the most of your harvest in the kitchen garden, the trick is to nurture what you've grown so you get the absolute best out of it, be it pumpkin and squashes if you place bricks, tiles or wood underneath them it just raises them enough off the ground so they don't rot. While you're at it also nip out the trailing growing tip so that the plant focuses all its energy on ripening

the fruits it's already started. In the greenhouse you can slow down the watering but keep the floor dampened down, and make sure you remove nearly all the leaves on your tomatoes so that all the plants energy goes again into ripening. Finally get yourself all set for the apple harvest, whether that's making the most of windfalls or getting wooden crates and a cool dry secure place for them to see you through the colder months, it looks to me like a bumper fruit harvest this year so enjoy

This month's question is from Clive Wood who asks if there anything to be done to prevent blossom end rot in his tomatoes. I wish there was Clive! We have been particularly badly hit this year too and we've been at a loss as well. I'm aware that erratic watering can be to blame but as we've been quite diligent I can only imagine it's our erratic summer that's not helping. Good Luck !

Please do keep the questions coming in! Email us at [redmaple@btinternet.com](mailto:redmaple@btinternet.com) as ever the most interesting question will be published next month!

Michelle & Mick McCarter



## History Watch - Early Potato Varieties

"Flowers is all right, but its 'taters that feeds you!" (Tony Hancock, Hancock's Half Hour)

Can't argue with that Tony, especially when you consider all those different ways that the humble spud can be served up to satisfy our appetite.

'Twas not always so. Until the Spaniards discovered potatoes in Peru, early in the sixteenth century, the population in Europe had to manage with alternatives, maybe turnips and swedes.

And when potatoes did get to England it was only the wealthy were able to enjoy them. As late as the mid 1800s there were no spuds on the menu for the poor inmates of our workhouses, cost being a factor presumably.



Early in the 1900s different varieties were cultivated and one of the first, and a favourite of mine was the King Edward. It was so named as it made its entry in 1902 at the start of the reign of King Edward VII. Distinguished by their pinkish markings on white skin, if any potato could be described as attractive then this one is it. And our local celebrity chef Delia Smith likes it so it must be good.

The next variety to appear in 1911 was The Majestic. This was a great favourite from the 1920s to the 1990s due to its heavy yield, You would get a great forkful of Majestic's from each plant in your garden or allotment. Later however modern science took over plant breeding and even better and more disease resistant varieties appeared. And the one we all know of now is Maris Piper, a very versatile spud introduced in 1966 and now our most widely grown variety. Enjoy your potatoes in what ever form they are served up, and thank those Spanish conquistadors for discovering them 500 years ago.



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