

Church & Village News

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

April 2026



Spring Field Work - Baconsthorpe

Photograph by Norman Allen

Newsletter Team

Issue No 122 / April 2026

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Matlaske & Barningham	Lucy Raynes	07894 061571
Plumstead	Ruth Champion-Ridge	
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Guy Hodgson	07771 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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andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk
Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead
 Callum Ringer 01263 802784
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Local MP

Steffan Aquarone MP
steffan.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk

Village Correspondents

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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 Revd Canon David Longe 01263 577252
Asst Priest Revd Judy Rosser 07469 390178
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 Vacant
Saxwith Corp Lesley Last 01263 587782
 Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584221

Safeguarding Officers
 Emma Youngs 07884 432412
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

APRIL

Fri 10	10.00am	Plumstead Bric-a-Brac plus 11 th and 12 th	Church
Fri 10	3.30pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Sat 11	7.30pm	Edgefield Bingo	Village Hall
Sun 12	9.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Breakfast	Village Hall
Mon 13	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Tues 14	10.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Tea + Tech	Village Hall
Thurs 16	6.30pm	Barningham Hall Scrabble by the Fire	Barningham Hall
Sat 18	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Mon 20	2.00pm	Hempstead Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Mon 20	6.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meetings	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Tues 21	12.00noon	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Lunch	Village Hall
Tues 21	6.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies 40th Anniversary	Village Hall
Fri 24	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-up Pub	Village Hall
Sat 25	10.00am	Barningham Hall Little Lifts Charity Run	Barningham Hall
Sat 25	1.00pm	Hempstead - Mike Thody Exhibition	Village Hall
Thurs 30	10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall

MAY

Wed 13	9.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Plant Swap + Coffee + Cake	Village Hall
Sun 17	10.00am	Blickling Lodge Open Gardens in aid of Benefice	Blickling Lodge
Sun 31	6.00pm	Edgefield Concert by The Samphires	Church

Clash Diary to add an event contact

Corinne Youngs 01263 577263 corinne@avyoungs.com

June 14	Hempstead Centenary	July 25	Matlaske Music + Pizza
June 20	Baconsthorpe Fete	Sept 5-6	Hempstead Arts
July 11	EdgeFest	Oct 9	Saxthorpe Harvest Supper
July 17	Baconsthorpe Play	Oct 17	Edgefield Craft Fair
July 18	Corpusty Music	Nov 21	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
July 22	Saxthorpe Picnic		

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

Barclays Bank, 16 High Street, Holt, NR25 6BQ

9am-5pm weekdays
 Monday NatWest Thursday Santander
 Tuesday TSB Friday Lloyds
 Wednesday Barclays

Mobile Library Van

9 April / 7 May / 4 June

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 The Rector, Reverend Canon David Longe
01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” These words of Jesus must have both comforted and haunted the disciples. He uttered them shortly before he was arrested, imprisoned, ensured a sham trial, and then horrifically led to his death on a cross.

They resonate today. I write as the Middle East boils with bombing and misery, and in the knowledge that this letter arrives as Holy Week commences, with the mysterious promise of peace revealed in the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day.

Peace is something we all long for, but I am not convinced that we fully understand it. We yearn for peace in our lives, for those we love, and for our neighbours, yet true peace seems elusive. Sometimes our longing is so intense we pursue it selfishly or violently. As we reflect on the destruction we see daily, we must ask whether violence can ever lead to peace, or whether something deeper is required.

Less than twenty-four hours after Jesus spoke those words of peace at the Last Supper, he hung suffering on the cross and uttered this prayer: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Does peace require forgiveness? What happens if we find forgiveness impossible? And how do hold together forgiveness and justice when a great wrong has been committed?

These are complex questions and it would be wrong to suggest simple answers. Instead, I offer a story: Many years ago, through The Forgiveness Project, Azim Khamisa told a group of young people in the church I served in London his story. In 1995, his 20-year-old son, Tariq, was delivering pizza in San Diego when he was shot and killed during a robbery by a 14-year-old gang member, Tony Hicks. In the face of such pain Azim chose not revenge but forgiveness, drawing on his values as a Sufi Muslim, which emphasises compassion and mercy. He came to see Tony not only as a perpetrator, but also as a child shaped by violence and circumstance.

Azim reached out to Tony’s grandfather and guardian, Ples Felix. Remarkably, the two men formed a partnership: the father of the victim and the guardian of the offender working together to prevent similar tragedies. The Sufi poet Jalāl ad-Dīn Rūmī wrote: “Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure.”

Forgiveness is never easy. Azim explained how he has to find forgiveness in his heart every morning. Desmond Tutu, reflecting on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, said: “There is no future without forgiveness.” Reflecting on 9/11, Pope John Paul II wrote: there is “No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness.”

My prayer this Easter is that, through the mystery of Christ’s resurrection, we may discover ways of peace in our own lives which radiate to our families and our communities,

May God grant you his peace this Eastertide.

David



Elis Angelus, The Crucifixion, c.1420-22 — Public Domain.
“Woeless, ignorant that they do not know what they do.”



The Benefice of Matlaske
Church Services for April

1st	Holy Wednesday	
6.00pm	Compline and vigil for peace	Matlaske
2nd	Maundy Thursday	
6.00pm	Eucharist with foot washing NB you do not have your feet washed! Barningham Winter Preacher Revd Lucy Dallas - Diocesan Director of Ordinands	
3rd	Good Friday	
2.00pm	Veneration of the Cross - Procession from wooden church gates	Saxthorpe
5th	Easter Sunday	
6.00am 10.30am	Dawn Service with fire and Eucharist Eucharist	Bessingham Baconsthorpe
12th	Easter II	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Barningham Winter Edgefield
19th	Easter III	
8.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	Eucharist Eucharist Family Church	Matlaske Baconsthorpe Edgefield
22nd	Wednesday	
6.00pm	Meditation	Hempstead
26th	Easter IV	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Baconsthorpe Hempstead
3rd May	Easter V	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Saxthorpe Matlaske

Tuesdays 10am-12noon (term time) - Country Mice Toddler Group - Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Wednesdays 10am - Coffee, Cake & Chat - St Andrew’s Saxthorpe

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

Baconsthorpe

200 Club £50 H Martin, £25 C Youngs, £25 R Hall

We still have numbers available and you could win £50 every month for just a £1 subscription. See the village website for details of setting up a BACS payment, or cash if you prefer.

Church News

On February 19th at 10.30am St Mary's welcomed the lovely Maxim de Soissons into the church at his christening. It was a delightful service followed by fresh coffee and refreshments.

A Little Piece of Baconsthorpe History



Tom Worboys has sent this aerial view of the centre of the village. I arrived in the village in 1963 and fondly remember his father, with cardigan, running the busy post office and shop. Mr Worboys senior did this from 1958 to 1985 and Tom's aunt was in charge prior to these dates. How sad it is no longer there.

Sadly, I never saw the Jolly Farmers pub, which can also be seen on the map, but I do remember Jolly Lane. What a shame the name changed.

Picture shows (top to bottom) Thorpecote (The Lilacs in 1965), 1-2 Long Lane, Jolly Farmers Cottage, the Post Office (centre of picture). The site of Jolly Farmers pub, demolished in 1950s, was along the right-hand side of Long Lane - then known as Jolly Lane. To the left of the Post Office the large chicken shed has been replaced by Gernon House, and the bungalow at the bottom right is now the site of Isabelles House.

A Baconsthorpe Welcome

How wonderful to report that we have two new families in Baconsthorpe.

Catherine and Niall Dew have moved into Stonefield Bungalow. They have arrived from Yorkshire where they had lived for 35 years. Catherine and Niall have both retired and are looking forward to everything Baconsthorpe and the surrounding area has to offer. They love being close to nature and the beach so Niall can continue with his photography and beekeeping; Catherine enjoys art and walking their old dog called Plod plus their 'grandpup' Duma who comes to stay occasionally. No grandchildren - yet. They are both looking forward to being part of the Baconsthorpe community having already visited the Coffee Morning and Pop-Up Pub.

Trish and Ian Doughty have moved into 4 Old Farm Yard. Trish is Norfolk born and bred coming from South Walsham while Ian originates from Yorkshire. Trish loves knitting and making patchwork quilts. Previously, they have lived in Spain and there they rescued a German Shepherd cross Spanish hunting dog who has travelled home with them. I hope 'Summer' is going to be very happy in Baconsthorpe.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Village Hall News

Coffee Morning Wednesday 1 (first Wednesday of every month) fresh coffee and home-made cheese scones are available, all free of charge. Do come along and meet friends and neighbours.

Pop-up Pub Friday 24 with chilli and baked potatoes on the menu from 6.30pm and the bar opens at 6pm. All welcome.

An important date for your diary: the village fete, Saturday 20 June from 2-5pm. Stalls, games, refreshments, BBQ, produce. We are also introducing some new exciting games – Bar Pong (I have no idea) brewery treasure map, guess the weight of the donkey and more.

Another exciting date: July 17 at 7.30pm in the garden at the village hall you will have a chance to watch another shortened Shakespeare play.

Many of you watched *Midsummer Nights Dream* last year, this time it is *Comedy of Errors*. It is a very funny play which I hope you will enjoy. Some seating will be provided but we are encouraging people to bring their own chairs. Food will be on sale and the licensed bar will be open. The event is free again, so not to be missed.

Hall for Hire: the hall is available for hire at £10 per hour. This makes an ideal venue for your party or event..

Barningham Winter

Little Lifts Charity Trail Run- Saturday 25 April

Most families will have been touched by breast cancer in one way or another, but supporting the Little Lifts Charity Trail Run, either as a runner, volunteer or supporter on the day, is one way of helping people get through it. The event returns to Barningham Hall, kindly hosted by Thomas and Amelia.



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250



There's still time to join as a runner, with 10k, 20k and 30k routes to choose from. The route winds through wonderful countryside, so whether you are a seasoned runner or simply want to take part for a great cause, give it a go! It's a great, inspiring day.

If running's not for you, you can volunteer to help with marshalling, registering runners or baking a cake for the cake stall.

To enter visit: littleslifts.org.uk/events, and to volunteer please email georgie@norfolkcordial.com.

A Reminder: Scrabble by the Fire!

Don't miss the scrabble evening on Thursday 16 April starting at 6.30pm. Tickets are £10 and there will be a raffle. Please email amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk.

Edgefield

Church News

Mothering Sunday

We celebrated this special day with a lovely service in which the Brownies joined us to perform a play of the child Jesus in the Temple and posies were distributed to the congregation.

Seder Meal

During Holy Week on Tuesday 31 March, we will be hosting a traditional Seder meal in the Village Hall at 5pm. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Jewish Passover Feast, what is eaten and why, and to partake of a light meal. It is suitable for all ages and should be a fascinating evening. It's free to attend, but donations will be welcome. To find out more and to book a place (for catering purposes) please email administrator@matlaske.org.uk or scan the QR code.

Family Church

This family-friendly service continues to be very popular. The next service is at 4pm on Sunday 19 April, where we will be looking at Jesus as the Bread of Life and baking bread in church. Do come and join us.

Alison Mawson

Village Hall News

Dates for your diary reminder: Saturday 11 April 7pm Bingo Night and Saturday 11 July 7pm Edgefest 8.

Winners of the February "200 Club" draw were: 1st Kay Harvey (£50), 2nd Iain Mawson (£30) and 3rd Denise Humphriss (£20).



Richard Peaver
01263 587486



Hempstead

March Winners: £50 A Lantaff; £25 D Lennox; £15 M Thody; £10 J Matthews

Hempstead Crafty Creations - Third Anniversary February '26



As is now our tradition we had a group day out with walks and lunch at BlicklingHall. Then at our last meeting of February we celebrated in style with cake and bubbles whilst we worked on changing our Christmas wreaths into Spring wreaths.

Our group goes from strength to strength with new members joining us along the way. Our get togethers with workshops of all sorts of crafts are always filled with friendly chatter and laughs. Anyone welcome to join us no need to prebook just pop along. Thank you ladies for your support over the last three years and here's to many more to come.

April meeting dates: Monday 13 2-4pm / Saturday 18 2-4pm / Thursday 30 10am-12noon



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369



Music in Hempstead Friday 10 April at 3.30pm with music starting at 4pm

Mike Thody

You are warmly invited to celebrate 90 years of creativity Mike Thody paintings, drawings and sculpture with additional works by his family in Hempstead Village Hall on Saturday 25 April between 1pm and 5pm. Join us for food and drink as we celebrate his life in art.

Village Hall AGM Monday 20 April 7pm - all welcome

Village Hall Centenary Celebrations Save the Date!

Hog Roast with entertainment - Sunday June 14 at 3pm. More details to follow next month!

Hempstead Toads

Toad patrols have now ended for this season and many toads (and others) would like to thank all those folk that helped them cross our roads (whether they wanted to or not) as well as the drivers who remained vigilant and slowed in their areas. This years figures are 155 toads for Rookery Pit, 794 toads for Pond Hills, plus nearly 50 frogs (mostly at Pond Hills) and a few smooth newts at Pond Hills Tim Venes did a brilliant job in amassing volunteers and organising the rotas. He will providing a more comprehensive report next month.

New Arrivals

We would like to welcome Kevin and Julie into the village, as they moved into Yew Tree house earlier this month.

Hempstead Arts

Hempstead Arts takes place this year on 5 and 6 September, with the Hempstead residents and artists private view on Friday 4. Please put the date in your diaries, more information to follow nearer the time.

Matlaske

100 Club winners: £25- K Fuller; £10 - M Westgate; £5 - S Pointer.



Derek England

It is with great sadness that the family of Derek England announce his passing after a short illness.

Derek was born in Matlaske and spent his lifetime happy in the village. He was lucky enough to marry 'his girl next door' Freda who survives him along with his two children Michael and Sue. Friends and neighbours will have heard his many stories and are invited to join the family at a service to remember and celebrate Derek's life. The service will take place at Matlaske Church on Monday 13 of April at 12noon.

"I was very sorry to hear about the passing of Derek" writes Duncan. "He was very welcoming when Mandy and I moved into the village, sharing memories of his time as a gardener at Matlaske Hall back in the 1950s, when Mandy's mum and dad ran an older people's home there. Derek will be missed by many folk."



Duncan Wood
01263 570293

Lucie Bell

Many of the readers of the magazine will remember Lucie Bell, who died on March 2 aged 90. Paul Bell was Rector in the Matlaske Benefice in the 1990's and Lucie was a Lay Reader. Lucie had been a Marie Curie nurse at one time in her professional life and her cheery greeting 'Cooee' as she opened the door was her distinctive trade mark! She was also known for her red wellies, many hats (all worn at the same time) and her creaking bicycle!

After Matlaske Paul and Lucie retired to the Isle of Wight where they both continued to be active in their ministerial roles. Paul died in 2020 but Lucie was still very much involved with the local community. She retained the missionary zeal which had motivated her and Paul's life in Rwanda where they originally met.

Lucie's Thanksgiving Service is on April 8 at 2pm at Christchurch Totland, Isle of Wight. Our sympathies go to sons John and David and their many grandchildren.

Long lives are nothing new in Matlaske. *The Norwich Mercury* of Saturday April 1827 carried this report: 'DIED - At Matlask, on Thursday night, aged 91 years, Mr John Parker, carpenter and wheelwright, 80 years an inhabitant of that parish.'

Farewell to Jackie Bortoft

After 23 years in Barningham Place Jackie has moved to Suffolk to be near her daughter. Jackie (a Biologist) was a well known figure walking in the village early morning and evening gathering dandelion leaves for her guinea pigs!

She and Henri ran the plant stall at the village fete for many years, contributing a considerable sum to the final total. After Henri died Jackie remained very active in local groups from Chinese painting to the Community Choir. We wish her an enjoyable new life in Suffolk.

Welcome to Julie who has moved into Jackie's house. We hope she enjoys her new life in Matlaske !

A Date For Your Diaries - Matlaske Music & Pizza in The Park, 25 July 2026.

Plumstead

Toad Watch in Plumstead

Each spring, as temperatures begin to rise and the evenings turn mild and damp, one of the quieter wildlife events in our village takes place, the annual migration of toads returning to the same breeding pond. This is the reason for our local Toad Watch, a small group of volunteers who help them safely reach the pond from where they first hatched.

For many years, the work was carried out almost single-handedly by a dedicated local volunteer who noted a significant reduction in the number of toads returning in recent years. This decline reflects what is happening across the UK, caused by habitat loss, increasing traffic and non-native diseases.

This year, several new volunteers joined the effort to help continue the work. At the start of the season, we focused on the pond at Plumstead Green; however, despite several evenings of apparently perfect conditions, mild temperatures and damp weather, it soon became clear that no toads were heading in that direction, so attention shifted to the pond at Plumstead Hall Farm, where activity proved more successful.



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239

The migration season is now drawing to a close, although we will continue to watch for any late stragglers.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have given up their evenings, often in the dark, cold and rain, to help protect this small but important part of our village's wildlife.

Plumstead WhatsApp Group

A village WhatsApp group has recently been launched in Plumstead, to provide an online alternative to getting out and about to speak with neighbours. It's hoped that the group will be useful in various ways, such as:

Local updates - roadworks, events, lost pets, weather alerts

Community support - to borrow tools, share recommendations, offer help etc

Social connection - meet neighbours, share photos, celebrate village life

Emergency information - quick communication when it matters most eg when feeling unsafe.

To join, please email Mike at whatsapp@plumstead.org.uk, giving your name and mobile number.

Membership is open to all Plumstead residents.

Church Bric-a-Brac Sale

A reminder of the Bric-a-brac sale to be held on 10, 11 and 12 April to raise even more money for the church. If you would like to contribute please get in touch with Catherine McMahon (07799 422840), or Nick Coulson (07422 722369).

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Save our School Petition

Hundreds of people opposed to the closure of Corpusty Primary School signed a petition which has been handed to Steff Aquarone, MP for North Norfolk, for delivery to the Department for Education in London. Steff has also asked Norfolk County Council, as Local Education Authority, to lodge a holding objection so that no final decision to close is taken before the County Council elections on 7 May.



John Birchall
07810 016976

Volunteer Needed for Grass Cutting

St Andrews Church needs a new volunteer to cut the mown areas of the graveyard every two weeks while the grass is growing. Not all the graveyard is cut - some is allowed to grow for wildlife - but keeping the mown areas trim maintains the church surrounds as a peaceful haven for visitors, and for the many parishioners laid to rest there. The church has its own lawnmower and fuel will be paid for. Please contact Lesley Last at lesley@saxthorpe.com.

Many thanks to Kevin Beales, who has been looking after the graveyard for several years and is now moving away from the village.

Through the Magical Wardrobe

The White Witch (pictured - Jill Perry-Warnes) was waiting for children who ventured through the magical wardrobe that appeared in St Andrews to provide a gateway into Narnia. The event delighted all who took part. Many thanks to all who helped



make the event a truly magical experience.

Allotment Opportunity at Little London

The newly-cleared allotment site at Little London provides a golden opportunity for anyone who wants to grow their own veg. The section at the back of the site will be divided up into manageably-sized plots, and with spring now here, there is a chance to get seeds and plants in the ground so that freshly-grown produce will be on your table in just a few weeks. Growing your own does more than just provide good, healthy food. The fresh air (sometimes too fresh) and exercise are good for body and soul - as Michelle & Mick McCarter's gardening column testifies. Anyone interested should contact the parish council clerk at: clerk@corpustyandsaxthorpe-pc.gov.uk



Gateway Signs at Last!

Our village gateway signs have finally appeared on all the main entrances to Corpusty and Saxthorpe. Funded by the Parish and County councils, the gateway signs are designed to welcome visitors and remind drivers that they are entering a village and should respect the speed limits.



1st Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies are 40 years old!

This April marks a special milestone for the 1st Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies, as the group celebrates its 40th anniversary! Over the past four decades, generations of girls have enjoyed fun, adventure, and friendship thanks to the dedication of our leaders and the support of the local community.



To commemorate this occasion, we would love to welcome former members and volunteers to a celebratory reunion tea party at 6pm on Tuesday 21st April. No need to wear your uniform (!) but do bring anything from your time as a Brownie, including photos, badges, uniforms and memories to share. We will have archive photos on display, songs, games and cake. To help with catering please contact the current Brown Owl, Alison Mawson, if you can join us. alisonmawson@hotmail.com mobile 07802 619603 home 01263 587236. Here's to many more years of Brownie adventures!

Village Hall Events

Thank you to everyone who supports our various events at the village hall. The monthly breakfasts and lunches are popular; April dates are Breakfast: 9am till 11am on Sunday 12; Lunch noon till 2pm on Tuesday 21.

We also have Tea & Tech on Tuesday 14 from 10am till 11.30am when Holli is happy to help with any tech issues - phone, laptop, tablet.

A big event to put in your diary is Saturday 18 July at 3pm when The Core will be playing their music on the station platform. We'll have food on sale and the bar will be open. It promises to be a very enjoyable afternoon.

For all the regular groups and future events at the village hall see our website at:

www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk

Screen Printing Workshops



Studio All Day Long

Suitable for all, beginners welcome. Meet new people, learn a new skill and take home something useful made by your very own hands!

More info & sign up visit studioalldaylong.com

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

Thank Goodness for April! As I write this month's article way back in early March, there are 50mph hour winds battering our house, it's a particularly testing day and our most mercurial barometer cat has summed the day up in an opportune dash for the airing cupboard, she is set in for the day and I for one cannot blame her. But if we dare to head outside there are glimmers of Spring everywhere. The hedgerows and trees all have that slight flush of green haze about them, the promise of leaves...the promise of Spring...by the time we reach April we will have turned the page on Winter. There is hope!



So to the garden! If the weather is on our side then April can be one of the busiest in the garden, the trick is not to panic and to just achieve a little bit every day. If time is an issue then make it easier to get things done, so either get a task finished as you think of it or perhaps get stuff ready for the next time you do have some time, it's a good habit to get into. If there really is too much to do then perhaps work out how you make the garden run a bit more easily or efficiently? Whether that's keeping certain tools in an easier spot so there's less toing and froing. Or accepting that what had worked once is actually now too much to maintain. We reduced the size of our kitchen garden last year, it was a tough decision but it's been a good one! We now have less ground space to work on to keep the level of bindweed down, (our garden backs onto a bank that has a big bindweed problem) now nearly all the growing space is in galvanised tanks and it looks lovely and it works so much better as a space.



Now is a good time to look at your spring planting (bulbs etc) to see what could be added or changed, most importantly make a note of any changes you'd like to try, it's so easy to forget what you thought you'd like to do once the season has moved on. We've had a good show from our winter flowering cyclamen this year and as it seems happy in our garden it would appear to be a good plan to introduce more drifts of them, but I am all too aware if I don't make a note of that I will completely forget, until next year when they charm us yet again!

This month's question relates to the garlic spray I suggested in an earlier article that might have some impact on powdery mildew. First of all I was impressed with it, it kept the powdery mildew at bay that had been troubling our espaliered quince trees, so much so that an actual quince harvest was a dim and distant but beloved memory. I was asked when and how often I sprayed the trees. I feel it's important to start spraying them as soon as they start to shoot and at close intervals whilst there is that big surge of spring growth. It took a level of dedication to keep up with the spraying (the homemade spray is a bit of a faff to make) but the trees looked the best they've looked in years. Fingers crossed for a crop of quinces in 2026!

Please do also 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

Nature Watch - Arthur Penteny
Wood Anemone, aka Windflower, Anemones Nemorosa



“Spring comes laughing by vale and hill
 By windflower walking and daffodil”

Should you wish to emulate this songwriter and try ‘by windflower walking’ then early April is the ideal time to do it.

These beautiful little flowers have to arrive early in the year to take advantage of the light and space within the woodland before the leaf canopy arrives on the trees.



For these lovely dainty anemones are a woodland plant, or more precisely a flower of ancient woodland. If then you are fortunate enough to find any of these flowers you can be sure they are growing in an old well established wood. As they do not generally multiply by pollen transfer but instead have to rely on a spreading underground root system which grows very slowly, hence their survival depends on these old established locations.

So if you are really seeking out that ancient woodland here in Norfolk then it doesn't come any more ancient than at Foxley Wood. Visit now and see the Anemones, then go again late April/early May for the Bluebells. Forget Dubai, Benidorm et al, there's no better place to be than our Norfolk in the Spring.




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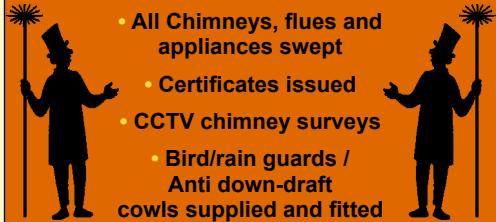
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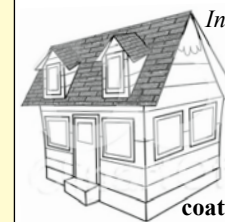
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