

Church & Village News

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

June 2026



Church Lane towards Plumstead
Photograph by Diana Muir

Newsletter Team

Issue No 124 / June 2026

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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 Aqarone MP
Steff.aqarone.mp@parliament.uk

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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
Sax with Corp Lesley Last 01263 587782
 Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584 221

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 Councillors

Andrew Brown - Holt Division
andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk
 Callum Ringer - Erpingham division
callum.ringer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

What's On

JUNE

Mon 1	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations Summer decorations	Village Hall
Wed 3	10.30am	Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Fri 5	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-up	Village Hall
Fri 5	7.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Film Night <i>Hamnet</i>	Village Hall
Sat 13	10.00am	Hempstead Social Saturdays	Village Hall
Sun 14	9.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Breakfast	Village Hall
Sun 14	2.00pm	Hempstead Centenary Hog Roast + Entertainment	Village Hall
Tues 16	12noon	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Lunch Club	Village Hall
Sat 20	2.00pm	Baconsthorpe Fete	Village Hall
Sat 20	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations -Mosaic bird bath	Village Hall
Wed 23	10.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Tea & Tech	Village Hall
Thur 25	10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations Working with clay	Village Hall
Fri 26	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-up Pub	Village Hall

JULY

Sat 11	7.00pm	EdgeFest	Village Hall
Wed 15	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Fri 17	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe A Comedy of Errors	Village Hall
Sat 18	10.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Weekend Events	Church Yard
Sun 19	10.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Weekend Events	Church Yard
Sat 25	6.00pm	Matlaske Music in the Park	Barningham Hall
Sat 25	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Northanger Abbey	Baconsthorpe Castle
Thur 30	3.00pm	Hempstead Music with Harpist Keziah Thomas	Village Hall

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

Sept 5-6	Hempstead Arts
Oct 9	Saxthorpe Harvest Supper
Oct 17	Edgefield Craft Fair
Nov 21	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair

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

4 June / 2 July / 30 July

Matlaske	12:40	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	13:00	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Baconsthorpe	14:30	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows
	14:50	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
Hempstead	15:05	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
Edgefield	15:45	NR24 2AL	The Memorial
	16:10	NR24 2AX	The Street
Corpusty	16:35	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cotts

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

Banksy's extraordinary statue in London, and the Revd Lucy Winkett's *Thought for the Day* on 6th May struck a chord as I contemplated the appalling events around the world and, closer to home, in particular the hideous burning of ambulances and attacks in Golders Green.

I first saw Banksy's art on the highly disputed separation wall in Bethlehem, which divides communities and families, making living in Bethlehem so difficult. Navigating the wall for the pilgrim is difficult; for Palestinians it is a nightmare. Workers have to queue for hours and the UN have documented women going into labour and emergency deliveries as a result of the queues.



Banksy Statue, Waterloo Place, London

Winkett once placed a wall between her church door in Piccadilly and the pavement. She illustrated that the walls we build divide us not just physically but in our minds as such barriers deepen our distrust of those around us.

In her broadcast, Winkett describes how she walked to Waterloo Place with its memorials to the hundreds of thousands who died at Waterloo and Crimea. As she walked, she saw Banksy's statue of a well-dressed man holding a flag. The man in one hand holds a flag that has blown into his face so he cannot see where he is going, his other hand is clenched in a fist. One foot is raised, suggesting he is about to walk off the plinth into...oblivion.

Looking up, Winkett imagines a conversation with him, concerned that he risks falling into the mud with those who have fallen at Waterloo and in the Crimea.

"Sir," she says "you don't have to stay... there's a chance you recover yourself and turn your flag, no doubt colourful and vibrant, into a symbol of a different kind of unity. You could use it to bind the wounds of war, to wipe the face of Christ on his way to be crucified. You could use it to make shade in the heat, bring warmth in the cold."¹

Grounded in the compassion of Christ, Winkett is calling us into a new way of living. Is this the vision that we need for our communities? I am worried for communities I love: for the Jewish family that welcomed me to their home in North London to share the Sabbath, now living in fear amid rising antisemitism; and for our friends whom we lived with in the Holy Land living with grief, violence and insecurity.

At a time when antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of hatred are horrifyingly being voiced, Winkett and Banksy provoke us to imagine another way. One that is not blinkered by division or fear, not trapped behind the walls we build around race, religion or identity, but looking up and seeing one another anew.

Christ calls us into communities not separated by race or religion, but bound together by peace, mutual respect and compassion.

David

¹Revd Lucy Winkett, *Thought for the Day*, BBC Radio 4, 6 May 2026



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for June

3 rd	Wednesday	
6.00pm	Meditation	Matlaske
4 th	Thursday	
9.00am	Corpus Christi	Edgefield
7 th	Trinity I	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Saxthorpe Matlaske
14 th	Trinity II	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Barningham Winter Edgefield
17 th	Wednesday	
6.00pm	Meditation	Plumstead
21 st	Trinity III	
8.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	Eucharist Eucharist with Archdeacon Catherine Family Church	Plumstead Baconsthorpe Edgefield
28 th	St Peter & St Paul	
8.30am 10.30am 5.00pm	Eucharist Eucharist Evening Prayer	Bessingham Hempstead North Barningham
5 th July	Trinity V	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Matlaske Saxthorpe

Country Mice Baby & Toddler Group
Tuesdays 10am-12noon (term time) Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Coffee, Cake & Chat
Wednesdays 10am - - St Andrew's Saxthorpe
Details of all our services: <https://tinyurl.com/mvxfajre>



John Perry-Warnes Education Fund exists to help those in education who reside in the Matlaske Benefice. If you would like to apply for this fund, please submit an application, stating why the funds are required along with the cost of each item, and a description of your educational situation. Please email submissions to rector@matlaske.org.uk, or post The Rectory, The Street, Matlaske, Norfolk NR11 7AQ by 1 September 2026. For more details email rector@matlaske.org.uk.

Help with energy and household costs: If you know anyone who needs help with their energy or other household costs please contact Revd David Longe rector@matlaske.org.uk Cromer Food bank can also help with food provisions and with following household bills including pre-paid meters, and meters paid on receipt of bills, gas, coal, oil and wood.

Baconsthorpe

200 Club £50 Karen Worboys, £25 Emma Youngs, £10 Mitch Fitton

Church News

Long ago the church was a beacon to guide travellers (later to be replaced by Google Maps!) and a place of refuge. How nice it was to see a bunch of students on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition using St Mary's to rest from their long walk, put plasters on their blisters and experiment with the tubular bells.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Lady Anne Heydon

Some time ago the portrait of Lady Anne Heydon was exhibited in St Mary's Church next to the Heydon memorial in the south aisle (pictured). Many new to the village may have missed a chance to put a face to the memorial. Lady Anne died on January 28th 1642 and is buried at Baconsthorpe. Thanks to Tom Worboys for the information.



Don't Forget to Save This Date!

On Friday July 17th at 7pm local actors will be performing *A Comedy of Errors* in the garden at the village hall. The version will be approximately 40 minutes and is free of charge. Limited seating available so bring your own and arrive early to get a good view. Food will be on sale from the kitchen and drinks from the bar. In the event of torrential rain we can perform in the hall.

Another Date to Save!!

Moving Parts Theatre Company will be performing Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* at Baconsthorpe Castle on Saturday July 25th at 7pm. A 20% reduction on ticket prices is available to readers of this newsletter using the code VILLAGE20. For more information call 07946545607.

Village Hall News

Bake Off is Back!

Our Village Fete is on Saturday 20th June from 2pm and once again the Great Baconsthorpe Bake Off is back, along with stalls, games and refreshments. For the Bake Off we are hoping for at least 30 cakes for the chefs from Byfords to sample and judge. Bring your cake along any time before the fete opens. Judging will take place at around 2.30pm. The winner will be announced and then the cakes auctioned.



Pop-up Pub Friday 26th June with ham, egg and chips on the menu from 6.30pm and the bar opens at 6pm. All welcome.

Coffee Morning at the Village Hall is on the first Wednesday of every month from 10.30am. Fresh coffee and cheese scones are served. No charge, just donations.

Village Hall AGM will take place on July 15th at 6pm in the village hall. Anyone interested in coming along will be made welcome.

Numbers are still available for the 200 Club. You could win £50 every month.

Look Out for Boo Boo

Our sweet Boo Boo has been missing since Thursday 9th April. He's 17 with medium length black fur. He's still very active but is new to the area and doesn't know his way around yet. It would be great if you could check sheds, garages etc and keep a look out for him. Also if you think you've seen him please let us know. We have dropped flyers in Baconsthorpe, Hempstead and Plumstead but this magazine covers more of the surrounding villages. We're on the new development, Meadow Grange, near Pitt Farm in Baconsthorpe. Please call Martin on 07985 418406 or Pete on 07508 041402. Thank you!



Barningham Winter



Charity Trail Run Tops £20,000!

Saturday 25th April saw Barningham Winter host the fourth Little Lifts Run to raise money for gift boxes to lift the spirits of those suffering with breast cancer. Over 400 enthusiastic



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250

runners and supporters gathered in front of Barningham Hall. Bathed in sunshine, they all warmed up to upbeat music and start their amazing fund-raising journeys up the avenue and beyond through beautiful North Norfolk countryside. All participants commented on the warmth of the day. The final total is still being tallied but it will be well over £20,000. Huge thanks to Georgie Rodwell and the Little Lifts Team who worked tirelessly to make it seem effortless on the day.

Join us at St Peter's

Please put in your diary Sunday, June 28th, 5pm for the Patronal Festival service at St Peter's, North Barningham. It is a wonderful way to enjoy music and community in this fascinating church with its soft light, pink interior and wonderful monuments.

Help and Ideas for Fete

We are looking ahead to the Matlaske & Barningham Winter Pizza in the Park fete on Saturday, 25 July. If anyone would like to help or has any ideas for fun things to add please contact Amelia on: amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk.

Edgefield

Church News

The church was filled with the delicious scent of baking bread at our last family service when, after learning about Jesus being the Bread of Life, sixteen adults and nine children made flatbreads. These were then enthusiastically eaten with various toppings and cake. All agreed it was a very enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Our next gathering is at 4pm on Sunday 21st June - all are welcome.



Richard Peaver
01263 587486

We now have a small music group who lead the congregation during the singing of parts of the 10.30am Eucharist service and perform during the taking of communion. We have had some lovely feedback about this and hope to continue this addition to our worship.

At the recent Annual Meeting of Parishioners (also known as the 'Vestry Meeting'), Alison Mawson and Emma Cletheroe were re-elected as Churchwardens.

Alison Mawson

Village Hall News

Edgfest tickets for 11th July are now selling well, so if you don't want to miss out on what is always a great evening, contact Jim Frost on 07946 854901 or James.frost59@hotmail.co.uk or via the Village Hall FB page to order. £15 - which includes a hog roast and two music acts. There will also be a cheap licensed bar. It would be lovely to see as many Edgefield people there as possible!

April's 200 Club winners: 1st Heather Brown (£50), 2nd Tom Fox (£30) and 3rd A Buller (£20).

Jim Frost

Parish Council News - Help Tackle Speeding

Edgefield Parish Council have recently had our SAM2 vehicle speed detection sign refurbished. We need a volunteer to move it between two locations on the Holt Road and download the data from it every couple of months (laptop provided). Your assistance will be of great value to help reduce speeding through our village, and keep the police informed. If you are interested, please email clerk@edgefield-pc.gov.uk. Many thanks.

Hempstead

May 200 Club Winners: £50 J Keen; £25 D Sanders; £15 J Matthews; £10 R Hall

Coffee & Catchup Friday 5th 10.30am - 12noon - all welcome.

Crafty Creations - June meeting dates

Monday 1st 2pm - 4pm - topic Summer party decorations

Saturday 20th 2pm - 4pm - topic Mosaic bird bath

Thursday 25th 10am - 12noon - topic Working with air dry clay

Village Hall Centenary Party

Our village get together for the whole family is getting closer. If you haven't booked your tickets as yet, please contact Lesley to get your name on the list for this village celebration. We need numbers for catering in advance - thank you.

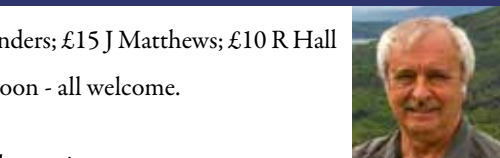
Also, if you are able to help with setting up and/or clearing away after this event we would love to hear from you. Much appreciated, thank you.

Lesley Lennox 07446 777660 lesley.lennox@project21.co.uk

Village Hall Committee

Music in Hempstead Village Hall Thursday 30th July 2026 at 3.30 pm

We welcome the return of internationally acclaimed harpist Keziah Thomas. She will be joining local musicians to play an arrangement of Debussy's *Petite Suite* and d'Indy's *Sarabande and Menuet*. Both lovely pieces to play and listen to. Join us for tea and cake followed by the music at 4pm.



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369



Village Hall Working Parties

Thank you to all that have given your time so far to help us give our hall a tidy up. Don't forget there's another working party from 10am on Saturday 30th May. Please come along if you haven't booked your time. Thank you.

Social Saturdays

Following on from the recent Village Hall AGM, we've listened to your ideas and from that we started a new regular event in May. Throughout the summer on the second Saturday of each month Social Saturdays will be held in the hall from 10am. Coffee/breakfast rolls/cake will be available to purchase whilst you have a catch up with friends and neighbours. Please come along and meet in the hall for this new social event. All welcome

Hempstead Arts

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



Mike Thody Exhibition

I would like to thank you for taking part in the celebrations and viewing of my family's art work on Saturday 25th April at the Village Hall. Every artist needs their work to be viewed, it gives us the energy that keeps us motivated, thank you very much for taking time out to view. I think you will agree that

the presentation of the show was very special, masterminded by David and Dean.

I would like to thank Gemma, Lizzie, Kass, Bella and Angel for providing and organising the catering. Here I must apologise for not personally thanking those of you who very generously gave me birthday presents, the labels got mixed up and lost I am afraid to say. I sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Mike Thody

Welcome! April Dawn Sanders

Arrived 21st April 2026. Daughter for Nicholas and Ellie Sanders, little sister for Erin, Granddaughter for Paul and Joanne Sanders and Great granddaughter for Pam DoyTim Venes.

Hempstead Loss - Geoffrey Harris

Geoff died in March aged 94. He came to Hempstead in 1993 after retiring from the Hertfordshire Constabulary, though he initially deflected attention from this by replying to enquiries saying he had worked in local government. No one was interested in that. He subsequently relented and had many amusing tales to tell of his time in the police force. He liked to be involved in village life - enjoyed a good chat and supported all the social events. His principal retirement hobby was as an active and talented photographer. He was a highly respected stalwart of the Leica Fellowship where he served on their Council in various capacities for many years. Over the years he cultivated the persona of a grumpy old man. Those who knew him as a kind and helpful neighbour never took this seriously and he seemed to enjoy the inevitable teasing and banter he provoked. His later years were marred by illness, which he bore with courage and without complaint and he remained stubbornly independent. We will miss his plain-speaking, various idiosyncrasies and genial presence, notwithstanding the grumpiness.

Joanne Sanders & Yvette Gibson

Matlaske

100 Club winners: £25 M Leeder, £10 G Ashwell, £5 A Gillard

From the Archives - Norfolk Chronicle - Saturday 30 December 1843

To be SOLD by AUCTION, By Messrs CLARK & SAYERS, At the New Inn, Holt, On Friday, the 5th day of January next, At Three o'clock in the Afternoon A MOIETY of the undermentioned SMALL ESTATE situate in the Parish of Matlaske, viz:

A Messuage, now used as a Beer Shop, with the Outhouses, Yards, Gardens, and Piece of Arable Land, containing about One Acre, now in the occupation of Robert Cooper.

Two Cottages, with Outhouses, now in the occupation of James Winny and William Leeder. Also a Blacksmith's Shop, in which a good business has been carried on.

The above Premises are situate next Matlaske Street, and are all Freehold, subject to a Land-tax of 8s 8d per annum. For particulars apply to Messrs Repton and Scott, Solicitors, Aylsham; on the Premises, at Matlaske; at the Place of Sale; or of the Auctioneers, Holt and West Beckham.



Duncan Wood
01263 570293

Plumstead



Bric a Brac Sale

Between Friday 10 and Sunday 12 April Plumstead held a Bric a Brac Sale on the Flagpole Garden to raise funds for our Church. It was initially to be held within St Michael's Church but interior renovations meant the sale had to be held outside.



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239

The event was organised by Nicholas Coulson who was ever present over the 3 days and deserves much credit for the success of the sale.

Many villagers volunteered to put up and take down the numerous gazebos and village marquee, together with supervising the stalls over the weekend. The event raised over £600, which considering the weather at times was a fantastic effort by all.

Works to St Michael's Church

The works to the church continue and are progressing well. We look forward to celebrating this and being able to offer services again soon.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Brownies 40th Anniversary

On 21st April a cheerful group of ex-leaders and Brownies joined the current group at their meeting to celebrate this milestone. An earlier group, led by Miss Wakefield, that met in the school, had closed and a new Brownie Pack was started by Helen Ledger in 1986 with Sue Hall and Anne-Mary Stubenbord as helpers and has been running ever since. It was lovely to share memories, achievements



John Birchall
07810 016976

and photographs and to sing songs together. A delicious tea, much of which had been made by the Brownies, was enjoyed by all. Two new Brownies made their Brownie Promise around the toadstool, which has been in use for 40 years. The cake was cut by Donna, one of the first Brownies and now mother to 2 Brownie daughters, who wore her own Brownie uniform to the party! We are always willing to welcome new Brownies and volunteers so do get in touch if you would like to be part of this fun group: alisonmawson@hotmail.com



Three Years of Coffee, Cake and Chat!

The start of May three years ago saw the very first Wednesday morning Coffee, Cake & Chat at St Andrew's, Saxthorpe. Since then it has been held as regular as clockwork at 10am every Wednesday - and doubts about whether many people would come have long since gone. Over that time the event has featured many special activities, from hand bell ringers and plant swap days to pancake races and even teddy bears zip-wiring from the church tower! But it is the promise of good coffee, homemade goodies and lively conversations that has kept so many people coming back. During school holidays whole families descend upon St A's, relieved to have an outlet for young energy, as well as a chance to socialise.

The birthday was marked with (of course) a cake, but it was also a chance to recognise that this milestone has only been reached through the dedication of a team of bakers, led by Lesley Last and Jill Perry-Warnes (pictured), who were presented with lavender plants, courtesy of Heather and Brian Monks. If you've not been yet, drop in on any Wednesday morning at 10am and be sure of a warm welcome.

Bus Shelter Goes Up

The promised bus shelter has gone up on the north side of Aylsham Road (B1354/B1149). Paid for by the Parish Council and County Highways, the wooden construction was chosen to be in keeping with its rural setting. It is hoped that the clearer stopping places for buses will be safer for all road users, and persuade drivers to comply with the 30mph speed limit.



Green Shoots at Allotment Site



The green shoots of recovery (ie grass rather than rank weeds) are starting to show through on the Little London allotment site. The section nearest the road, which had become over-run with weeds, has been sown with grass so that it can be maintained as a grassy meadow. The back portion of the site is available for allotments.

Dates at Village Hall and Old Railway Station

Film Night returns on Friday 5 June 7pm; showing *Hamnet* - featuring Oscar winner (and Norfolk resident) Jessie Buckley; bar open.

Sunday Breakfast is 14 June 9am till 11.30am, Lunch Club is 16 June noon till 1.30pm and Tech & Tea is 23 June, 10am till 11.30am

And in July, everyone is welcome at the Corpusty Weekend on 18 & 19 July at the Village Hall and Old Railway Station

Saturday 18th, 2pm. Music with The Core

Sunday 19th, afternoon. Gospel According to Jazz

Sunday 19th, 7pm. A *Comedy of Errors*; an abridged version directed by Hazel Martin.

All events will be outdoors on the station platform. Entry by donation for each event. Food on sale, bar open.

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



As I write this at the very start of May but happily looking forward to June we are having one of those beautiful steady rainy days that all our gardens have so desperately needed, you can almost sense the trees breathing a sigh of relief... as I know we are! Let's hope we have a few more of them.

Plenty to do in the garden in beautiful June. After promising signs of success with homemade garlic spray that I have been using to control powdery mildew and quince blight on our poor espaliered quince trees, I am now tempted by homemade chive spray. It is supposedly a good fungicide and I finally see a use for an overbearingly strong patch of chives that keeps reappearing despite all my attempts to re-home it! It's an easy recipe, just chop a handful of chives, pour over a litre of just-boiled water, let it steep until the

mixture cools and then strain off the liquid. I will add 30ml of eco washing liquid to help it stick to the leaves. I am going to try it out on one of our roses, it stands right by our kitchen window and has been having a rough time with black spot. Fingers crossed it will make a difference.

Finally for this month I am thinking of shade, last summer was so fiercely hot at times. I recently came across a beautiful photo of Nigel Slater's garden (pictured), all dappled shade and beautiful leaf cover which reminded me how important shade is in our gardens, especially with our changeable climate. Last year we really felt the lack of shade on the hottest days. I am hoping the planting of a vigorous fig tree at the rear of our house will go some way to help. But looking at Nigel Slater's photo I think we have a way to go!

Now for part 2 of Arthur Pentney's question...who asks if we know anything about an apple called Dr Harvey? In Arthur's old family orchard there was an apple tree his father always referred to as Doctor Harvey. Sadly the tree was lost in the Great storm of 1987, but fortunately the East of England Apples and Orchard project not only have a brief history of the tree, but you can order one as a bare rooted half-standard in late summer/autumn. The variety, first recorded in Essex in 1629, is believed to be named after Dr Gabriel Harvey, an Elizabethan scholar who was born and died in Saffron Walden. The apple itself is described as being a large and handsome golden yellow culinary apple. I wonder if the apple was chosen in memoriam to him because it

was a beautiful golden yellow colour? Saffron Walden (originally just Walden) was renamed after the Saffron crocus (the stigmas of the flowers being used as medicine, condiment and expensive yellow dye) which were widely cultivated in that area in the 16th and 17th centuries. Fascinating question and a lovely sounding apple! Thanks very much Arthur.

Please do also keep the questions coming in. Email us at redmapple@btinternet.com. As ever, the most interesting question will be published next month.



Michelle & Mick McCarter

History Watch - Arthur Pentney Gleaning



For the purpose of this article gleaning can best be described as collecting the remnants of a crop from a field after harvesting. This practice goes back to biblical times, certainly pre-Christian, and was considered an instruction from God to allow the poor to collect whatever was left behind. A caring act then for any of these people who were in genuine need.

Gleaning was carried out very early in this country, and documented from the

1300s. Norfolk being such an important agricultural county would have been familiar with it, and those labouring families working the land would have relied on gleaning for their sustenance.

The procedure was well orchestrated, the church bell would be rung at 8am and the gleaners, usually mothers and their children would go into the fields collecting as much as they could until the bell was rung again at 7pm when all work had to cease. A gleaner was often able to procure sufficient grain by this process to enable their family to make bread for a whole year. Their right to do so was supposedly enforceable by law but in 1788 a challenge to the legality of gleaning was brought. The ruling redefined gleaning as trespass and in this country at least it was forced to end.

Other countries remained more liberal-minded, less mercenary, and so gleaning continued certainly in France, for example, well into the 1800s - and it was particularly needed during and immediately after the second World War in Europe. The accompanying pictures of Des Glaneuses - France 1857 - and the post war one taken in Holland clearly shows the need.

The process of gleaning has been re-introduced in a modified way in the UK recently. With some farmers allowing produce not suitable for retail - wrong size, shape etc - to be gathered by volunteers and distributed to those in need. A useful process with many, even in our own supposedly wealthy county, in need and undernourished.





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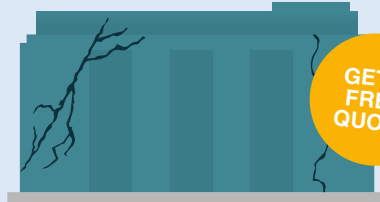
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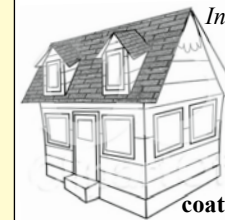
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