Church & Village News

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

October 2026

Harvest Home
Photograph by Christine Birchall

Newsletter Team

Issue No 128 / October 2026

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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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Local MP

Steffan Aquarone MP
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harrietwormald@hotmail.com	01263 577239
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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		
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	07540 566766
Matlaske	Thomas Courtauld	01263 577250
	Duncan Wood	01263 570293
Plumstead	Vacant - contact the Rector	
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

OCTOBER

Fri 2	7.00pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Film Night *The Christophers***	Village Hall
Mon 5	2.00pm	**Hempstead Crafty Creations**	Village Hall
Wed 7	10.30am	**Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning**	Village Hall
Fri 9	6.00pm	**Saxthorpe Harvest Supper** tickets lesley@saxthorpe.com	Millers Barn
Sat 10	10.00am	**Hempstead Working Party**	Village Hall
Sat 10	10.00am	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Local Church History**	Village Hall
Sun 11	5.00pm	**Edgefield Harvest Festival & Supper**	Church
Tues 13	7.00pm	**Edgefield in 50s & 60s Film**	Village Hall
Thurs 15	7.00pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Bonfire Meeting**	Village Hall
Thurs 15	10.00am	**Hempstead Crafty Creations**	Village Hall
Sat 17	10.00am	**Edgefield Craft Fair**	Church
Sat 17	2.00pm	**Hempstead Centenary Tea Party**	Village Hall
Tues 20	12.00noon	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Lunch Club**	Village Hall
Sat 24	2.00pm	**Hempstead Crafty Creations**	Village Hall
Sat 24	6.00pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Prize Bingo**	Village Hall
Thur 29	10.00am	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe People's Emergency Briefing Film**	Village Hall
Fri 30	6.00pm	**Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub**	Village Hall

Clash Diary

Nov 1	Matlaske Shoebox Appeal
Nov 7	Corpusty Bonfire
Nov 7+8	Hempstead Autumn Craft Market
Nov 21	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
Dec 5+6	Saxthorpe Holly & Ivy Festival
Dec 11	Baconsthorpe Quiz Night

To add an event contact
Corinne Youngs 01263 577263
corinne@avyoungs.com

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		Halifax
			Bank of Scotland

Mobile Library Van

22 October / 19 November

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

Oscar Wilde quipped: "There is one thing worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about." Human beings are hard-wired to care what people think of us, and we feel mortified when we make mistakes (and all of us, irrespective of who we are, make mistakes!).

In the Gospels, there is a passage in which Jesus, having had a run-in with the religious authorities, says to his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" One gets it right. It's a man called Simon, who acknowledges Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus calls Simon blessed and says: "you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church." Henceforth Simon is known as Peter.

Annibale Carracci, National Gallery

Peter's life is important – in the Benefice four churches are named after him – Corpusty, Edgefield, Matlaske and North Barningham. But, Peter – like us – makes mistakes.

No sooner has he been praised for recognising Jesus as the Son of God, Jesus goes on to say he will suffer. Peter, shocked, says 'surely not!'. Witheringly Jesus says to Peter: "get behind me Satan". Much later, during Jesus' arrest, Peter draws his sword and severs the ear of the High Priest's servant, and that night denies knowing Jesus three times.

It does not stop here: there is the apocryphal story (not in the Bible) of Peter fleeing Rome when it is on fire. Emperor Nero accuses the Christians of starting the fire, and terrified Peter flees. As he leaves, he has a vision of Christ walking to the burning city. He says Quo vadis, Domine (where you are going, Lord?). Jesus responds: "I am going to my second crucifixion". Bravely, Peter turns, follows and eventually is martyred.

Jesus knows we care what people think; he knows we get it wrong. But the Gospel shows that Jesus still loves us, even when we make mistakes. Jesus is full of compassion for humanity and for all of creation.

These stories of Peter illustrate how Jesus chooses ordinary people, those who make mistakes, to do extraordinary things. Jesus choosing Peter should, I pray, give each of us hope: hope that even when we make mistakes, when we face difficult things, God sees us in a different light. God understands that we make mistakes, but still looks on with compassion, perceiving each of us as capable of so much. Capable of deep kindness to another; of being compassionate to those in difficulty, and even – like Peter – capable of remarkable things that we never dreamed we could do.

Of course we are worried about being talked about and making mistakes, yet this is not the way of Christ. Christ sees each of us as full of potential, as wonderfully and marvellously created.

David

Based on two sermons preached in August 2026

The Benefice of Matlaske
Church Services for October

4th	**Trinity XVIII**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
7th	**Wednesday**	
6.00pm	Meditation	Hempstead
11th	**Trinity XIX**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
5.00pm	Harvest with Family Church	Edgefield
18th	**Trinity XX**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
21st	**Wednesday**	
6.00pm	Meditation	Barningham Winter
25th	**Last Trinity**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
1st Nov	**All Saints**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
2nd	**Monday - All Souls**	
6.00pm	Service for those we no longer see	Matlaske
8th	**Remembrance Sunday**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.45am	Services at : Baconsthorpe, Barningham Winter, Saxthorpe and Edgefield Village Hall	

Country Mice Baby & Toddler Group
Tuesdays 10am-12noon (term time) Baconsthorpe Village Hall

Coffee Morning
Tuesdays 10.30am - Plumstead Church

Coffee, Cake & Chat
Wednesdays 10am - St Andrew's Saxthorpe
First Wednesday of the month 10.30am - Baconsthorpe Village Hall

Details of all our services: https://tinyurl.com/mvyfajre

Baconsthorpe

Hazel Martin
07879 414577

200 Club £50 J Cooper, £25 R Hall, £10 V Butler
We still have numbers available for the 200 Club; details can be found on the village website or on the posters at the village hall – you could win £50 a month.

Hot Smoke & Danger at the Village Hall!

Thunder and lightning greeted the outdoor Pop-Up Pub entertainment on August 28th when the Blues Band 'Hot Smoke and Danger' played in the garden, thanks to Jonathan Cooper. The storm arrived while they were setting up, but with such a name they had to go on!

Local boy Luke was on lead guitar and vocals. Leyton on bass guitar and Andrew on drums. The band have played together in various forms for about 25 years. They formed the band 'Hot Smoke and Danger' in 2009, exploring fresh new avenues of blues music, as well as writing original material focusing on their own blues style.

Jonathan would like to thank Niall from Stonefield Bungalow who helped set up and played vinyl music before the band started. Please note that at some time in the future there will be a Vinyl Night at the Village Hall.

Thanks also to Jane and Piers in the kitchen, Izabel and Tim on bar duty – it was an extremely busy night.

Wild Flower Meadow

I would like to say a huge thank you to whoever is responsible for the wonderful wild meadow at the side of our home. As you can see from the photograph they do not only give 'Vincent' a run for his money, the wildlife benefit enormously. I know wild flowers may look natural but they do not flourish without someone's effort and time, so thank you 'whoever.' From Catherine Dew at Stonefield Bungalow.

Thank you to Catherine for sharing this. Anyone can send in news or a photograph about the village – I would be really grateful – a birthday, a new baby, a puppy or a garden in full bloom. Any village news.

Book Club

This little gathering was set up almost a year ago and we have read some fantastic books. We meet in Corinne's kitchen at Ash Tree Farm, gossip and chat on the menu – not always about the book!

Please do call or text me on 07879 414577 or Jo on 07787 553212 if you would like to join. Books are supplied by the library van each month, so no need to even purchase our chosen title.

Village Hall News

Pop-up Pub Friday 30th October bar opens at 6pm and food served from 6.30pm. All welcome.

Coffee Morning at the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, 10.30am until 11.30am. We continue to attract a faithful following of 20-25 people who enjoy the fresh coffee and Corinne's delicious cheese scones – no charge. New faces will be made extremely welcome.

Festive Quiz Night. Friday 11th December – book your table with Emma on 07884 432412.

Barningham Winter

Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250

Classic Cars Gather at Hall!

Coffee, pastries, bacon rolls and sausages sustained intrepid treasure seekers who arrived at Barningham Hall in an impressive array of gleaming automobiles (and other classic vehicles) for the Norfolk Churches Trust classic car event marking its 50th anniversary.

The Hall was one of three start venues across Norfolk, and led the cars to churches across north Norfolk before finishing at Elsing Hall. The rally was held alongside the annual sponsored walk and cycle event to raise funds for the Trust which has distributed some £7m over the past half century to protect and conserve Norfolk's historic churches.

Find out more or join at norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk / Also see page 14 for more details

Edgefield

Richard Peaver
01263 587486

Welcome Visitors

Our church played an active part in the Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored bike ride and walk, which this year included classic cars and these splendid Vespa and Lambretta scooters. Thanks to all who helped on the day and supported such a worthwhile event.

Church News

Harvest Festival and Supper
5pm on Sunday 11th October

A joyful celebration for all ages - come and celebrate the season with us at our Harvest Festival and Supper! Everyone is warmly invited - families, friends, neighbours, and visitors of every age. Join us for a cheerful harvest celebration with well-known harvest hymns, activities for children and adults, the chance to bring donations for the foodbank to be blessed and time to enjoy good company. Afterwards, we will share a delicious supper together. If you can contribute a crumble or other food, please get in touch with Alison: 07802 619603.

Autumn Craft Fair: 10am - 2pm on Saturday 17th October

Our always popular Craft Fair is Edgefield Church. We have a wide variety of crafts on sale, a plant and book stalls and some tasty refreshments. Please come along to see what a wonderful range of talent there is locally and maybe buy some Christmas gifts!

Alison Mawson

Village Hall News

At 7pm on Tuesday 13th October a film will be shown reliving life in Edgefield in the 50s and 60s through the memories of John Kinsley, his brother Barry and John Coe. The memories of Edgefield Primary School are particularly revealing. Then a second film showing a trip along King Charles III Coastal Path from Cromer to Wells taking in sights, sounds and stories along the way. Everyone is welcome at the hall and entry is free.

200 Club

Winners of the July 200 Club draw were: 1st Andrew Chevallier (£50), 2nd Wendy Middleton (£30) and 3rd Jan Brookes-Bullen (£20)
Winners of the August 200 Club draw were: 1st Adrian Grand (£50), 2nd Florence Dewer (£30) and 3rd Andy Hollick (£20). Winner of the annual prize draw was Zack Parsons (£200).

Jim Frost

Tuesday Club & Harvest Lunch

In October we are leaving afternoon tea behind and having a Harvest lunch. If a lunchtime meal is successful then it will continue over the winter months. Please arrive at 1pm at Edgefield Village Hall on Tuesday 20th October A hot two course lunch of jacket potato with salads, followed by puddings. Because of the preparations and costs please let us know if you are planning to come along. Donations for the meal and hall hire gratefully received. Just to mention we do have men and women and can cater for special allergies or diets. If we know in advance.

Kay 07941 985635

Hempstead

Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Coffee & Catchup Friday 2 10.30am - 12noon. All welcome

Social Saturdays Saturday 10 from 10am. Come along and join us or just pop in and collect a takeaway breakfast bap.

Hempstead 200 Club September winners
£50 R Carver, £25 J Wood, £15 I Tyabji, £10 A Middleton

Hempstead Crafty Creations
Monday 5 2- 4pm

Thursday 15 10 - noon

Saturday 24 2-4pm

Topics to be decided. All welcome to any of our meetings just pop along and an enjoy a fun couple of hours with like-minded friends.

Vehicle Street Parking

It would be appreciated, especially by farmers moving large machinery, our dustmen and our local bus company, if care could be taken when parking next to properties on our narrow lanes and roads. If vehicles could be parked as close to the side as possible, so as not to restrict the passage of large vehicles in narrow sections or at a junction, the chances of an accidental scrape or worse can be greatly diminished.

Village Questionnaire

A big thank you to all that have completed and returned their questionnaires. These will help us greatly in our quest to obtain funding to make improvements to our village hall. If you have not returned yours as yet you can still do so. Pop it in the post box in the village hall porch or email to lesley.lennox@project21.co.uk.

Thank you and very much appreciated

Hempstead Arts

This was a super weekend this year with a record amount of art sold. I would like to say an enormous thank you to the key people who make it all happen, namely Ian Summers and Ros Hele, Francis Feilden, Diane and Tony Collier, Paul and Joanne Sanders and Pam Doy.

Many people from the village put in some extremely hard work this year to make it such a success. The weekend had a really happy and relaxed feel and so many people really seem to love it and return year after year. What we also achieve is an extraordinary

gathering of artists, villagers, neighbours and friends, which brings together all sorts of people in a truly unusual community event that we must all be very proud of.

Without the village support and help we could not possibly be able to undertake the work required for this major event which is of course so vital to the church and is its major fundraiser. We raised £4,000 from the sale of pictures, ceramics and cards, as well the delicious refreshments and cakes and another £1,000 from the raffle. Thank you all so much!

The picture shows a few of the many helpers who were around to be photographed at the end of the clear up.

Airlie Inglis, Church Warden

Centenary Afternoon Tea - Saturday 17th October

This will be the last of our events to commemorate this milestone for our village. A fundraising event so please come along and join us. An afternoon of vintage fun, with excellent food, fizz and laughter. Prebook your tickets as numbers will be limited due to hall capacity. Contact lesley.lennox@project21.co.uk.

Celebrate the date of the official opening back in 1926.

Autumn Craft Weekend 7 & 8thNovember

The fourth year of this event - let's make it the best! Book your stall for £25 for both days (£15 for one day). Local crafts and Preloved items. A few extras this year along with all day refreshments while you browse.

Contact lesley.lennox@project21.co.uk

Matlaske

Duncan Wood
01263 570293

100 Club winners: £25 A Dykes, £10 M Hughes, £5 P Dawkins

Shoe Box Appeal

The Benefice is again supporting the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, sending gifts to families and elderly people in Eastern Europe. Please bring your shoebox to Matlaske Church by Sunday 1 November.

From the History Books!
North Norfolk News, Saturday 23 August 1862

Caroline Parker of Matlask, was charged with assaulting Hannah Nichols, of the same parish. The evidence showed that Mrs Nicols went to Mr Bone's shop, at Matlaske, on the previous Monday, when she met a daughter of defendant's there, and by way of correcting her for throwing stones at one of complainant's children, gave her a "shake up." The girl cried, and ran home with the tale of her grievances to her mother, who straightway came in hot haste, and in the most furious manner tore complainant's bonnet from her head and pulled out a large handful hair, which Mrs Nichols exhibited to the bench. Mrs Parker's only defence was – "She beat my child and I dashed her face, and she then fanged my hair and I fanged hers." The shop assistant, however, Walter Trollope, assured the bench that there was no assault whatever on the part of Mrs Nichols. Defendant (whom the magistrates characterised as a trouble to the whole neighbourhood) was ordered to pay 13s fine and costs, or be sent to prison for ten days. She declared that she could not and would not pay the money; but the magistrates, unwilling to send her to jail, and thinking she would doubtless change her mind, gave her till Saturday week to make her choice.

Plumstead

Harriet Rossi
01263 577239

Plumstead Village Pond

The village pond has been given a bit of TLC by some resident mudlarks ... gullies cleaned, pipes cleared and channels dug so that rainwater can flow into it. Fingers crossed all the effort makes a difference. This wouldn't have been possible without the knowledge of long time Plumstead residents so a big thank you to them.

There is still more to do ... vegetation to be cleared, filter pond checked to make sure working well and some repairs to the fencing.

It's a beautiful spot and a wildlife haven. It has been used by residents throughout the summer for a Friday evening catch-up over drinks and often you come across visitors having a picnic.

Thanks to all that gave their time, energy and tools with the mud clearing.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

John Birchall
07810 016976

Sizzle Stretches Summer!

The sausage sizzle on the village Green stretched summer that little bit longer and once again proved very popular, raising around £500 to be shared between St Andrew's Church and the Village Hall. The duck race was keenly contested, with every duck finding a sponsor. Many thanks to the dedicated team who organised the event, and those who helped on the day, including sizzling the sausages (and cleaning the barbecue), running the Friends' tombola, 'selling' ducks and overseeing the race. It was great to see people enjoying a late summer day out. Special thanks to the Reepham Fire Station crew who brought their Fire Engine for the fourth year running.

Village Hall - October Events

Film Night 2nd *The Christophers*
Local Church History 10th all day - info below
Sunday Breakfast 11th on the second Sunday of the month
Lunch Club 20th 12noon on the third Tuesday of the month
Prize Bingo 24th 6pm

Local Church History, 10 October at the Village Hall

Dr Brendan Chester-Cadwell will be leading a study day based at the Village Hall but visiting St Andrew's Church Saxthorpe, St Peter's Church Corpusty and St Peter's and St Paul's Church and the Tower Edgefield. He will discuss the changes in church design and usage - late 13th to 16th century.

An all-day event starting at 10am; £15 per person; bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee provided.

Booking essential - email caroline.randell@hotmail.co.uk

Harvest Supper

There is still time to book your ticket for the annual harvest supper at Millers Barn on October 9th, hosted by Lesley and Niven Last. Tickets £25 a head, which includes a two course meal, entertainment from Jeff and Sue Short and a welcome drink are available from lesley@saxthorpe.com or by calling 07531 065959. All proceeds to St Andrews Church.

Keep in touch with your Parish Council

The Parish Council is inviting Corpusty and Saxthorpe residents to join an email circulation list to keep in touch with news - such as planning applications or road closure - that might affect them as villagers. Anyone interested should email the Parish Clerk:

clerk@corpustyandsaxthorpe-pc.gov.uk

People's Emergency Briefing - Thursday 29th at 7pm at the village hall

A 50 minute film about the climate crisis, and what you can do about it, featuring Chris Packham. There will be time for a short discussion afterwards.

"I'll be honest - I'm sceptical of climate doom-mongering. But this film is different. Really different. Stark facts, yes. But also a genuine sense of agency and even optimism. If you get the chance to attend a screening, I'd strongly encourage it." Peter Harker, LinkedIn

For more information see: https://www.nebriefing.org/ or email Jane jdm35@cam.ac.uk

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

Finally the joy of writing this month's article and there not being a heatwave! So as I look out my study window it looks fairly normal and beautifully green, so the Gardening oracle Monty was right when he reassuringly said not to worry about your lawns as within a few days of the rain falling on our grass, it all revived miraculously. However I am aware that is the least of our worries, but for now I'm grateful.

So to October! And as ever there is a good amount to do. First up is to store your garden produce well, it feels especially important to make the absolute most of anything edible that you've grown. So this month I will be picking and storing our apples, I had been quite concerned that our ripened apples would be very small this year because of the heatwave, but happily they are a fair size. So I will be storing them in a series of dedicated crates in our one secure shed. The emphasis on being 'secure'! Having learned a harsh lesson two years, when our whole apple store was completely and horribly decimated in one rodent based bacchanalian night (which still makes me shudder) so moving swiftly on from that!

I will be re sowing coriander in our herb tank in the hope of having a supply over the cooler months. I have been super pleased that the chervil I set, finally properly got going after the weather cooled down, it's a lovely herb to use and it goes particularly well with steamed carrots. Next on my to do list is to clear all the plants from the greenhouse so I can give it a good clean, if you've been unfortunate enough to have suffered from blight then make sure you add the remains to your bonfire not compost heap, you don't want any blight spores overwintering in your greenhouse, or your compost heap to put you through all that tomato based heart break again. It's been curious watching the plants that really thrived in the heatwaves finally slowing down, I am of course talking about courgettes, we have never had plants quite like them this year and the biggest crop per plant that we have ever had too! As ever we grew my favourite courgette Black Forest, it's a great plant that if supported correctly will trail and climb, I was less impressed with the yellow fruiting courgette plant I grew as well, does anyone know of a yellow variety that has a good flavour too?

Some good news! Finally after much dedicated work with a homemade made garlic spray our two espaliered Quince trees are once again bearing fruit! I consider this a complete triumph after both of them being so laid low with both Mildew, Quince blight and multiple heatwaves. There is something so magical about Quinces and seeing their fruit glowing beautifully against our wall is all the reward I need!

Finally to this month's question, which is regarding the final Box moth spray in October (Any evening from the 10th to 15th October) I was asked why that spray was the most important of the year, Basically it's imperative to spray in that window to catch the box moth Caterpillars before they go into hibernation. Once they go into hibernation the spray won't be effective and as soon as the weather warms up again next year, they will wake up and just get to work again decimating your box plants. If you manage to successfully 'spray' them, then you won't need to start spraying them again until July. So less spraying and less chance of them spreading to someone else's box plants,

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

Norfolk Churches Trust - A Puzzling Day to Remember

Many hardy souls take part every year in the annual Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride each September, with others across our seven villages manning hospitality points with very welcome biscuits and drinks throughout the day.

But this year to celebrate 50 years of the event a classic car rally with added treasure hunt was introduced for those of us less enterprising with the pedals.

Preparing to set off in our 1967 Lotus Elan after a welcome bacon roll and coffee at Barningham Hall, we were faced with a bewildering set of clues before we could even plan our route. While we fairly quickly managed to work out the locations of churches in a places whose name might be linked to fake beer (Aylsham - Ale -sham) or might be an Otter's home (Holt), others were deeply confusing. "Map Here is Mislaid?"* "Strange Wart Dose?"** Having enlisted our anagram-competent son-in-law via WhatsApp, and by dint of poring over an OS map we eventually had a plan to reach at least ten churches before reaching the finish line at Elsing Hall at 4pm.

But that wasn't the end of the head scratching. There was a clue to solve at each church, mostly inside, by investigating paintings, memorials and brasses. A wedding party at Wiveton church looked on bemused as cars of all ages arrived at various points during the day disgorging earnest 'treasure seekers' intent on finding out the tonnage of a sailing ship pictured inside their venue.

All in all it was tremendous fun, and we learnt some interesting things - how many lives had been saved by the Blakeney lifeboat Hettie, that seven, or perhaps eight, soldiers stand on the reredos at Little Barningham Church, that a £20 gift had been made for renovation of Baconsthorpe Church in the 1800s, and that a sailing ship tops the weathervane in Salthouse.

We finished the day unlikely to trouble the leader board, but full of enthusiasm for a similar event next year.

Christine Birchall

*Reepham **Worstead

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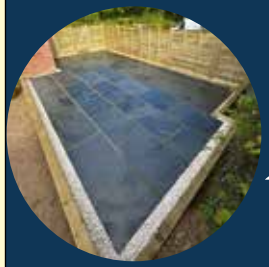

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