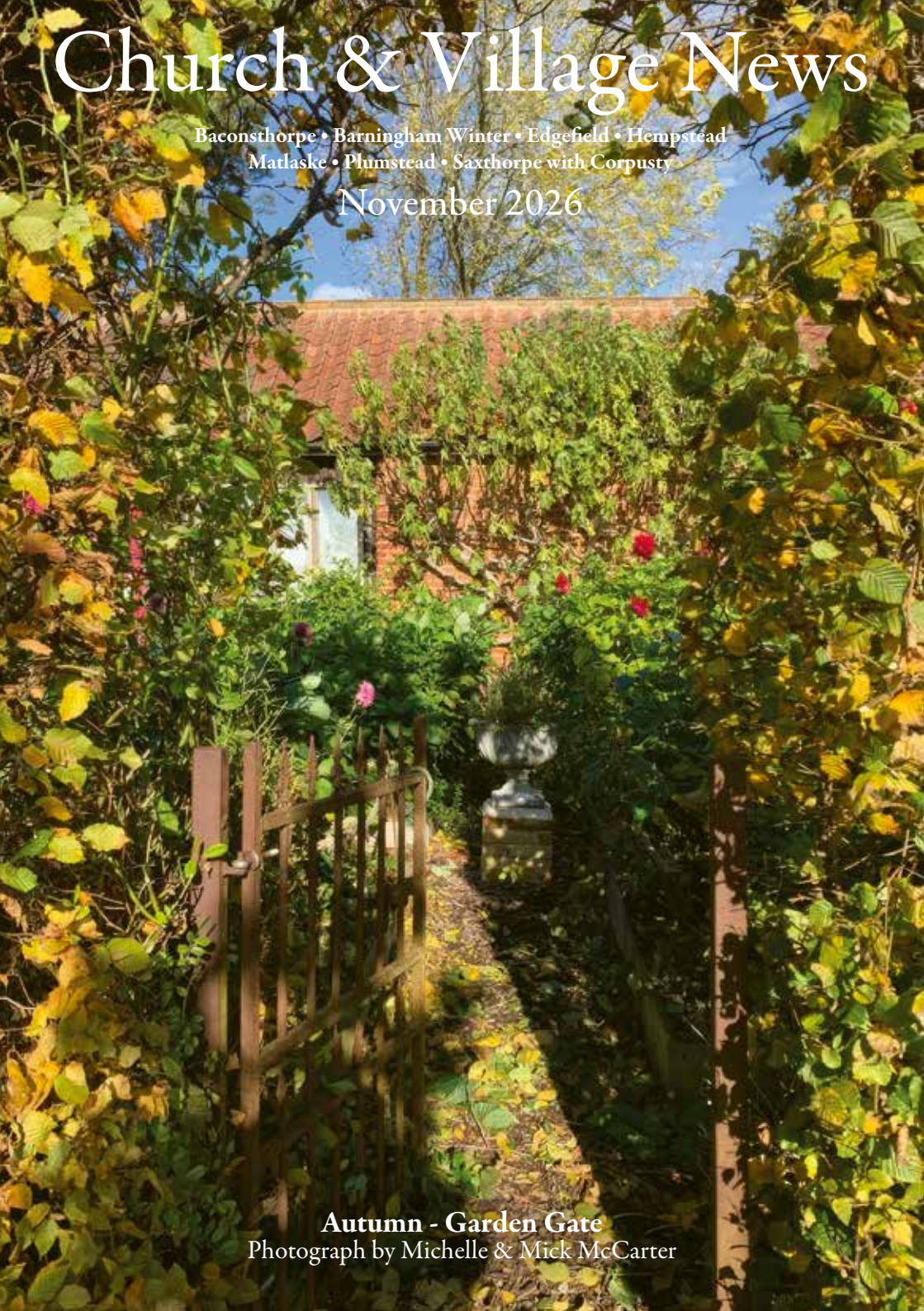
Church & Village News

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

November 2026



Autumn - Garden Gate
Photograph by Michelle & Mick McCarter

Newsletter Team

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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
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https://corpustyandsaxthorpe-pc.gov.uk/

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

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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

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Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team
safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

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Callum Ringer - Erpingham division
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What's On

NOVEMBER

Sun 1	All Day	**Matlaske Shoe Box Appeal**	Church
Mon 2	2.00pm	**Hempstead Crafty Creations**	Village Hall
Tues 13	12noon	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Table Tennis**	Village Hall
Wed 4	10.30am	**Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning**	Village Hall
Fri 6	7.00pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Film Club**	Village Hall
Sat 7	10.00am	**Hempstead Autumn Craft Market** (until 3pm)	Village Hall
Sat 7	6.30pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Bonfire Procession - Fire 8pm**	Village Green
Sun 8	10.00am	**Hempstead Autumn Craft Market** (until 3pm)	Village Hall
Thurs 12	10.00am	**Hempstead Crafty Creations** Needle Felt	Village Hall
Fri 13	3.30pm	**Hempstead Music**	Village Hall
Fri 13	7.00pm	**Baconsthorpe Games Night**	Village Hall
Sat 14	10.00am	**Hempstead Social Saturday**	Village Hall
Sun 15	8.00am	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Breakfast Club**	Village Hall
Tues 17	12.00noon	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Lunch Club**	Village Hall
Sat 21	1.00pm	**Baconsthorpe Craft Fair**	Village Hall
Tues 24	1.00pm	**Edgefield Winter Warming Lunch Club**	Village Hall
Fri 27	6.00pm	**Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub**	Village Hall
Sat 28	2.00pm	**Hempstead Crafty Creations** Christmas Crafts	Village Hall

Clash Diary

Dec 4	Hempstead Music
Dec 5	Hempstead Crafty Creations Family Day
Dec 5	Saxthorpe Holly & Ivy Festival
Dec 8	Barningham Hall Wreath Makingl
Dec 11	Baconsthorpe Festive Quiz Night
Dec 12	Edgefield Christmas Party
Dec 17	Corpusty Carols at the Station
Dec 18	Hempstead Christmas Party

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 - Post Office NOW CLOSED

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

19 November / 17 December

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 Richard Lawry
Retired Rector of the Glaven Valley Benefice



Dear All

First of all, I think I should introduce myself! Even after two years, there are of course still plenty of people in our villages I'm yet to meet! Brenda and I moved to Edgefield in August 2024, after I retired as Rector of the Glaven Valley Benefice, between Holt and the coast. I'm now supporting David in his Ministry Team here in Matlaske Benefice as a retired priest, and with that hat on, I'm delighted to provide this month's letter in the CVN.

I'd like to share a few thoughts about faith and art. They've always belonged together, and enhanced and stimulated one another, from catacombs to cathedrals. One particularly well-known example of faith and art coming together is Michaelangelo's ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome (see picture above). This month, Brenda and I are going to a gathering in London called the Christian Art Conference. This is a day organised by 'Christian Art' which is an initiative led by Fr Patrick van der Vorst, a Belgian RC priest, ordained a few years ago after a career as Sotheby's Head of Fine Art. (We met him a few years ago in a taxi queue in Paris, but that's another story!) Every day – on email or app – Fr Patrick pairs the gospel passage for the day with a painting or other piece of art, and writes a short reflection on how they illuminate each other. And this month, he's organising a one-off conference (now sadly sold out!) to explore these areas in more depth.

One of the joys for me of Fr Patrick's ministry is his original and stimulating ideas on a few set verses, and the background he gives to the artwork he's chosen to pair them with, and how he marries the two. It also regularly reminds me of the God-given beauty of art, and how the arts generally are just one of many ways that we can see God at work. And the evidence of God's work is all around us, of course, from the beauty of the created world, or the drama of a night-sky, to the joy of human love. This season of Autumn can be a particularly spectacular time to witness the beauty of our environment and consider the gift and wonder of the annual cycle of seasons.

If you love art, why not have a look at this free resource? Just google christian.art for more information. Anyone can sign up. It could expand your artistic and spiritual horizons!

And in the meantime, I pray that we will all keep our eyes and minds open – this autumn and beyond – to the wonder and beauty that God provides for us every day, and all the year round.

Best wishes and blessings
Richard

The Benefice of Matlaske
Church Services for November

November is the month of Remembrance where we reflect on and give thanks to all those that have served their country. There will be four services in the Benefice where the names of the fallen of the First and Second World Wars will be read out. See below.

1st Nov	**All Saints**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
2nd	**Monday - All Souls**	
6.00pm	Service for those we have lost	Matlaske
8th	**Remembrance Sunday**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.45am	Remembrance Service with names from Hempstead and Plumstead	Baconsthorpe
10.45am	Remembrance Service with names from Matlaske and Bessingham	Barningham Winter
10.45am	Remembrance Service	Saxthorpe
10.45am	Remembrance Service	Edgefield Village Hall
15th	**Second Before Advent**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
4.00pm	Family Church - faith through talk, craft, prayer, music and shared refreshments	Edgefield
22nd	**Christ the King**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
10.00am	Breakfast Church: Faith, Fellowship and Food	Saxthorpe
29th	**Advent**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30am	Advent Carols	North Barningham
6th	**Advent II**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe

Regular Groups in the Benefice			
Tuesdays	10.00am	**Country Mice Baby & Toddler**	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Tuesdays	10.30am	**Coffee Morning**	Plumstead Church
Wednesdays	10.00am	**Coffee, Cake & Chat**	St Andrew's Saxthorpe
1st Wednesday of month	10.30am	**Coffee Morning**	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Wednesdays 4/18 + 2 Dec	6.00pm	**Meditation**	Hempstead Church

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

Baconsthorpe



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

200 Club £50 D Hall, £25 E Youngs, £10 W Peck
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.

Church News

On Sunday September 13th an evensong service was held at St.Mary's to welcome all newcomers to the village and to thank those who do so much towards our community. Refreshments included wine, sausage rolls, pate on toast, cheese and biscuits and mini scones – a veritable banquet.

Our thanks go to those people who deliver the newsletter, contribute towards the village stall; help care for the church and graveyard and all aspects of catering for various get togethers.

The Bells Rang Out

Once again our church played an active part in the Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored bike ride and walk. This year the participants arrived to the sound of our wonderful tubular bells being played by our resident campanologists Rosie Hardingham and Stuart Grout. Stuart has been a bell ringer for 26 years at both Cromer and Upper Sheringham churches.

Thanks to all that helped and supported our church. I am proud to say we had forty-three visitors throughout the day to this very important and worthwhile event.

Did You Know?

One of the most important archaeological finds recovered in our area is currently on public display. During the 1972 excavations of the Baconsthorpe Castle moat, archaeologists pulled a spectacular 17th century Venetian glass pouring vessel from the mud. It is shaped like a 'fantastic bird' or dragon. Following the museum's recent multi-million-pound renovations, staff have confirmed that this incredible local treasure is on display in the Decorative Art Gallery at the Norwich Museum and Art Gallery.

Many thanks to Tom Worboys for sharing this information

Polecat Sighting



Seeing a polecat out during daylight hours is unusual to say the least. They are predominantly nocturnal, and are only seen in the flash of car headlights as they scamper across a country lane. I was lucky enough to see and photograph one whilst walking our dog, Bunch, through a quiet, undisturbed woodland near our house.

The 'bandit face mask', the unblinking black eyes and the white tips to the ears confirmed that it was definitely a polecat. The photographs might not be a standard David Bailey would have been proud of, but in the heat of the moment it was the best I could do.

I feel blessed having experienced such a special moment.

Stan Martin.

Village Hall News

Pop-up Pub Friday 27th November 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(to coincide with the Post Office van) free, all welcome.

Annual Festive Quiz will be held in the village hall on Friday December 11th. The bar will be open at 6.30pm and supper will be served at 7.00pm. The quiz takes place after supper. A maximum of six people in a team.

Tickets are £15 a head. It is great fun with a wide range of questions – something to please everyone! Do come. Emma Youngs.

New- Games Night on Friday 13th November, 7pm – 9pm. A relaxed evening of board/card games. Bring along your favourite game and play with friends, family or make new friends. £1 entry fee. Drinks available. All welcome.

Barningham Winter



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250

All is quiet in Barningham Winter at the moment but we are very much looking forward to preparing for Christmas with our annual wreath making event on Tuesday, 8th December at 10am. Homemade soup and rolls with delicious mince pies are included in the ticket price of £30. Wreath frames, wire, moss and all greenery will be provided, just bring anything that you would like to add sparkle. Please email amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk to secure a ticket. Places are limited.

Advent Carols at North Barningham



If you have never been to St Peter's Church, North Barningham, the Advent Carol service on Sunday November 29th at 10.30am is not to be missed. Somehow the church has survived in the face of many perils, so to be there in the candle light with its pink-tinged plaster and striking memorials is truly spine-tingling. And you can be sure of mulled wine and sausage rolls afterwards!

Edgefield



Richard Peaver
01263 587486

Church News

NCT Cycle Ride: Thank you to all who were in church to welcome visitors on the day of the sponsored ride. Special thanks to those who used their time to weed the path, which is now looking very smart.

Pudding Party: The church was decorated with lights and bunting and everyone had a great time tasting 15 different delicious desserts. Phil Murrell won the competition with his tasty apple pie.

Remembrance Day: The village Service of Remembrance will be held at 10.45am on Sunday 8th November. It will start in the Village Hall and then move to the war memorial.

Alison Mawson

Tuesday Club



A winter warming lunch on Tuesday 24th November at Edgefield Village Hall: arrive at 1.00pm. Delicious homemade soup and bread, followed by puddings. Donations welcome. Any information required or a lift, contact Kay on 07941 985635.

Village Hall News

A date for the diary. Our ever-popular Christmas party will be on Saturday evening, 12th December. Tickets £10 per head to include a festive supper, licensed bar, plus silly games and general hilarity. You know it by now!

200 Club

Winners of the September 200 Club draw were: 1st Ian Kirkland (£50), 2nd Benjy Fox(£30) and 3rd Chris Sheehan (£20)

Jim Frost

Hempstead



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Coffee & Catchup Friday 6th 10.30am - 12noon. All welcome

Social Saturdays Saturday 14th from 10am. Come along and join us or just pop in and collect a takeaway breakfast bap.

Hempstead 200 Club September winners
£50 Ian Summers, £25 Linda West, £15 Cliff Fisk, £10 Ivan Ames

Hempstead Crafty Creations
Monday 2nd 2-pm 4pm
Thursday 12th 10 am- noon - Needle Felt
Saturday 28th 2pm-4pm - Christmas Crafts
Saturday 5th December 11am-4pm - Christmas Wreaths and Children's Crafts
Monday 7th 2pm-4pm - Christmas Wreaths
Tuesday 17th 10am - noon - Table Decorations

Hempstead's 100 years of Weddings & Christenings



Our exhibition in September was a resounding success with so many fantastic comments by those that attended. So much so, that we held a second showing in October and kept the majority of the display up for our final Centenary Event of a Vintage Afternoon Tea Party that coincided with the original opening date back in 1926. I can't thank those of you that trusted us with your precious garments enough.

This enabled us to make such a fantastic display with adult garments from 1930s and covering every decade right up to date. Even a dress from a wedding in August 2026! The amazing array of Christening gowns went even further back to the 1880s! Thank you so much to all that contributed it was a real pleasure to host this event, which far exceeded our original expectations. Thank you - Lesley Lennox.

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike-Walk-Drive



Thank you to everyone who supported this event. It was good to have a full rota of volunteers in the Church to greet people and with the participation of Lizzy Ames, Charles Inglis, Alec Osborne, Marianne Scarfe and myself, our generous supporters helped us raise over £2,300. A very impressive result for a small village! Thank you all.

Yvette Gibson

Music in Hempstead

Friday 13th November at the Village Hall - doors open at 3.30pm for tea and cake; and the music starts at 4.00 pm.

Village Hall Working Party

A very big thank you to those that came along on Saturday 10th October to our village working party . The exterior of the village hall is looking great and almost completed now with its new green paint work. Your help is very much appreciated. Thank you - Village Hall Committee.

Hempstead Village Christmas Party

We will be holding a Christmas party at the village hall on Friday December 18th from 7pm. Food will be provided along with mulled wine as you arrive, but please bring your own beverages for the rest of the evening. There will be a raffle and games so please bring some cash to purchase tickets and you may win a brilliant gift. This is a free event but if you could advise either Lesley or Sarah if you intend to attend. Thank you

Autumn Craft Market

In the village hall on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November between 10am and 3pm.

All Welcome!



Matlaske





Duncan Wood
01263 570293

Matlaske Church Now Whiter Than White

On Wednesday 7th October a high-spirited throng of people converged on Matlaske Church and its graveyard (or God's Acre, as I call it) at 5pm to tidy and clean the place up. In biblical terms, it was everyone's turn to be sister Martha (doing the housework) rather than sister Mary (listening raptly to Jesus talking), though of course you can do both at once if you want to!

I was inside the church, armed with a vacuum cleaner, waging a war against dust and dirt in the aisles. This reminded me of a classic novel by Georges Bernanos, *Diary of a Country Priest*, in which a nun gets worn away by her constant battle with dirt and decay. I was tempted to sneak off to the pub for a different kind of spiritual refreshment but thought better of it. I have to say that I was full of admiration for all the folk there who obviously knew better than I did how to capture and imprison all that muck.

While this battle with the imps of dirtiness wore on inside the church (as it has for well over a thousand years) great shrieking, grinding and crashing sounds like Armageddon came from the churchyard, and made the windows shake with what to my eye looked like terror. Talk about the wailing of the damned! But it was only a bunch of blokes having fun with big machines, cutting back unruly boughs and carting off rotten logs, making the place beautiful again.

The rector and churchwardens give a big Thank You to all who took part in or supported the big Clean Up. It doesn't matter whether you're religious or not, the church and its garden are places for everyone who is connected with Matlaske to use for their relaxation and refreshment.

Plumstead

There is no specific news from Plumstead this month. However, as the year rolls into its final quarter, I have been reflecting on life in our parish. Despite all the challenges of modern life, we remain deeply rooted in the same traditions and rhythms as those who lived here centuries ago.



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239

A brief look back at life in the UK in 1826 and 1926 reveals major political and social upheaval, from the aftermath of a banking crisis to the end of the historic miners' strike. Another century on, and our headlines haven't actually changed all that much.

Yet, the resilience of the population in times of uncertainty remains timeless.

It is directly connected to how we preserve what truly matters: our communities, our unity, and our shared identity.

I believe nothing demonstrates this more beautifully than the comforting tradition of rural village life that we are all so privileged to enjoy.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty



John Birchall
07810 016976

Corpusty Bonfire - Saturday 7th November



Organisers are continuing in their mission to keep the annual Corpusty bonfire a smaller, more community-focussed event. The procession starts from 6.30pm with the bonfire being lit at 8pm and a good local turn out is anticipated.

If you are able to contribute brush or greenery to the bonfire please bring your materials to the village green on the morning of the event. And if you are able to help before the event or on the day itself even for a short amount of time please contact Ben Dawes 07398 900307; Andy Bell 07745 405065 or Maddy Jones 07811 972224

As this event is primarily for Corpusty and Saxthorpe residents, if you are bringing friends or relatives from outside the village please make sure they park responsibly as there will be no additional parking, and full road access is needed for emergency vehicles.

Work Begins on New Houses



The biggest housing development Corpusty has seen for many years is finally underway. Broadland Housing's plans for 38 new homes were delayed by 'nutrient neutrality' rules before finally being approved. The main contractor, Munnings, has started clearance and ground works on the main site off Norwich Road and Adams Lane, and on the drainage area between the main road and the River Bure.



Action-Packed Day for Brownies



Twelve members of the 1st Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies enjoyed an action-packed day along with three very game helpers as they climbed, canoed and cannoned down slopes in grass sledges at Hautbois activity centre.

The centre near Coltishall offers dedicated badge days for Guides, Brownies and Rainbows to build confidence, skills and teamwork.

Our Brownies enjoyed all the centre had to offer with crate stacking (pictured) coming out as the firm favourite activity.

Bringing the Harvest Home



Between 40 and 50 people enjoyed excellent food, good company and entertainment at the annual Corpusty and Saxthorpe Harvest Supper, kindly hosted by Lesley and Niven Last, with contributions of salad and puddings and sponsorship from local farmers.

A great time was had by all, particularly those who triumphed by winning sacks of Last's potatoes in the raffle, and all in all a healthy contribution was raised for Church funds.

Village Hall

The inaugural September fête at the village hall / old railway station was a great day with a dog show, morris dancers, classic cars, car boot bargains, games and food. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this delightful day.

Future events at the village hall are the regular lunch clubs (third Tuesday each month), breakfasts (second Sunday), films (first Friday), prize bingo on 12 December, and Carols at the Station with mulled wine and mince pies on 17 December.

There is also table tennis at the village hall on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout November from noon till 3pm. Come as a pair or single; partner available.

Other village hall news is that the old village hall is now on the market with Brown & Co. Originally part of the Dukes Head, it was purchased and became the village hall in 1960 until replaced by the new village hall in the late nineties.

Holly & Ivy Christmas Festival

Join us on Saturday 5th December (10am to 4pm) to see St Andrews Church wonderfully decorated for the Holly & Ivy Festival, along with lots of craft, gifts and Christmas produce stalls. Light Refreshments available all day. The event will include the Christmas Draw, and tickets are enclosed in the hope that you might sell them to friends, family and work colleagues.

Please return the counterfoils, including any unsold ones, with cash or cheques payable to Saxthorpe PCC, to the Corpusty Shop, to Coffee & Cake at Saxthorpe Church on a Wednesday morning, or to the Promoter by 5th December. All money raised will go towards the church toilet project.

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



By the time you get to read this month's article the clocks will have changed and we will be in the realm of the dark evenings of November when the daylight hours become fewer and so much more precious. I have found myself looking out for single digit temperatures just to reassure myself our climate can still do 'normal' sometimes.... Oh the irony of finally getting a wood burner robust enough to heat our (very cold and exposed) home when we have entered into potentially warmest year ever. But for the moment I would like to set climate uncertainty/anxiety and irony aside and focus on the here and now in our gardens.

So November can be a tricky month balancing prep for the upcoming seasonal festivities and getting the garden set for winter. Whilst putting the garden to bed isn't the most thrilling thing you can do in your garden it is one of the things that can be hugely satisfying. How much more pleasing will it be come spring time to find your garden shed in order your tools all cleaned and oiled! A fresh stack of clean seed trays and plant pots waiting for you to start sowing and your greenhouse cleared clean and ready to go. So I would suggest having a good weather/bad weather list and dedicating one difficult garden task (cleaning seed trays and flower pots or sorting the potting shed) to each week in November, doing the tricky stuff in more doable bitesize chunks means you won't become overwhelmed by the enormity of the tasks or ground down by them, instead you will slowly see your garden coming into some sort of order. As a treat for all that hard tedious work I would save planting your tulip bulbs to the last week in November a perfect way to crown all your stoical graft!

Needless to say the above won't be the only jobs that need to be done in the garden in November, at some point there will be pruning, clearing and beds to prep too. Don't forget to protect and switch off outside taps, whilst it's very difficult to predict just how this Winter will be, I think erring on the side of caution is no bad thing. Finally I would suggest making sure all your terracotta pots are raised up off the ground to prevent water-logging, just in case we get any significant rain this winter.

This month's question is from Annie who asks if she can make a raised bed out of a galvanised water tank? Absolutely however it would be worthwhile bearing the following in consideration. Whilst galvanised tanks make excellent raised beds, you do need to consider drainage, if your tank is watertight you will need to drill drainage holes in the base, so I'd potentially keep a watertight tank for just that ...water! Whilst rainfall is so unpredictable I would be seriously looking to save as much water as possible. So if you perhaps save those galvanised tanks that aren't watertight for your raised beds, if they are already partly corroded then they will be much easier to drill more drainage holes in which is a bonus, however if they do have quite large holes in them I would consider putting a layer of metal mesh in the base of them, so that your tank doesn't turn into a snack bar for voles or (shudders!) worse rodents if your growing root vegetables in them. Good Luck!

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

History Watch - Arthur Pentney



The Hermaphrodite Waggon

Prior to the Second World War and immediately after, the tumbril was a most useful item of farming equipment. It could carry a ton of roots, crops such as mangolds, sugar beet etc, and only needed one horse to pull it. By contrast the farm wagon needed for haymaking and harvest time was a different device entirely, much bigger, heavier and needing at least two, and possibly four horses to move it around.

Necessity being the mother of invention some clever designer thought that one item could do the job of two and so the Hermaphrodite wagon/cart was created. This device enabled the tumbril to be converted with an extra set of wheels at the front and ladders/raves to sides and front to enable it to do the work that a larger wagon was usually needed for.

Affectionately known as a 'Mophrey' these vehicles were widespread in the Eastern Counties, and although without proof I suspect they are mainly utilised by small tenant farms. These farmers with just a few acres to tend and only one horse to do all the work would have found the 'Mophrey' a very useful piece of equipment.

Some 'Mophreys' remain in agricultural museums and are worth a look, recalling those days when horsepower really meant just that.

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Benefice Advent



Supporting North Norfolk Foodbank

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Matlaske Church and Saxthorpe Church
Before 12 noon on FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER

Benefice volunteers will check everything is ready, for collection the following day. The Foodbank needs: tea, coffee, sugar, healthy cereals, cereal bars, tins of hearty soups, veg, fruit, fish, meat, chilli con carne etc. NO BEANS (The Foodbank is awash with beans!) Hygiene products such as shampoo, conditioner, soap bars, deodorant, toothbrushes and paste. Basic household cleaning items, loo roll etc. These day to day items are preferred so please keep Christmas treats to an absolute minimum. The Foodbank finds it easily gets a glut of seasonal items and a shortage of day to day items. The Foodbank uses cash donations for festive food if necessary.



This grey squirrel was snapped by Hannah Lantaff in Hempstead church graveyard.

Although familiar in gardens and woods, the grey squirrel was introduced from America in the 1800s and has largely displaced the native red squirrels.

The grey is now considered an invasive species, but its clever gymnastics at bird tables can make it an entertaining, if unwanted, visitor.

Choir of Visperterminen



The New Sheringham Singers welcome the Choir of Visperterminen, Switzerland, for a special joint Christmas concert on Saturday 12th December at St Peter's Church Sheringham. It will feature beautiful seasonal songs, sacred and secular - from medieval melodies to contemporary classics, with the Swiss choir singing in all four of Switzerland's native languages. The concert will also raise funds for the Priscilla Bacon Hospice, supporting the important work of the hospice in providing specialist care to patients and their families across Norfolk.

Tickets: £12 (under 16s free) available on the door or from TryBooking.com
Early booking is advisable. For more information phone 01263 768126.

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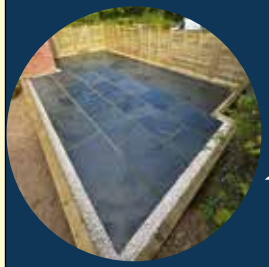
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