

Church & Village News

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

December 2021 & January 2022



Hempstead

Photograph by Jonathan Neville

Meet the Neighbours Corinne Youngs - Baconsthorpe



After twenty-seven years of contributing to the Church & Village News in a variety of roles, Corinne is stepping back at the end of this year.

Born in Felixstowe, Corinne spent most of her childhood in London. Having completed a secretarial course, she went to work for the BBC at Broadcasting House in 1963 – working in the radio sports department for amongst others Harold Abrahams who became a sports commentator and journalist once his athletics career ended. In 1967 Corinne married Richard, who she met playing golf at Sheringham, and moved to Baconsthorpe. She continued to work for the BBC in Norwich in the television outside broadcasting unit for the agricultural department until she had children.

In 1994, during an interregnum, Corinne became editor and printer of the newsletter. Until this point the newsletter had been an A4 sheet, put in with the newspapers, listing church services.

With a grant, she bought a second hand photocopier and produced a booklet style newsletter with a correspondent in each village providing their village news. She and Richard would then print off the booklets and deliver them to the village correspondents who would deliver them to every house – not just those that took a daily paper. After five years Corinne handed over the printing and editing and became a village correspondent and treasurer.

When the five parishes became seven in 2015, Saxthorpe and Edgefield already had a newsletter printed at Barnwells in Aylsham so when the newsletters combined Barnwells continued to print them. In the previous twenty-one years three photocopiers had worked hard to produce the newsletter.

From its humble beginnings in 1994 Corinne has seen the Church & Village News go from a black and white, photocopied booklet with a team of six volunteers to a colour, professionally printed magazine with a team of more than fifty volunteers.

Corinne is handing over the Baconsthorpe baton to Hazel Martin who will gather all the village news and distribute the newsletters to those who deliver them.

Corinne will continue to be the chief marmalade maker for the Baconsthorpe Church Stall and the rector's administrator.

Emma Youngs

The current editor adds: Huge thanks to Corinne from the current CAVN team for all she has done for the newsletter over the years. She has made an outstanding contribution to our community which is widely and rightly appreciated.

Dogs Trust



Your local Dogs Trust branch at Snetterton would like to briefly make you aware of a few services that we provide free of charge:

The first, our Canine Care Card scheme, is a free service for dog-owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, we will look after their dog, providing them with all the care they need until we can find a responsible, loving new home for them. This is often a great concern to the elderly, as their dog may be their only friend and companion – Dogs Trust can give them peace of mind, knowing that their canine companion's future is safe, should the worst happen to them. Every year, we care for more than 14,000 dogs at our nationwide network of re-homing centres and we never put down a healthy dog.

Secondly, we provide free talks to local community groups. I cover the whole of the East Anglia region, to talk about the varied work of Dogs Trust, where we come from and where we hope to be in the future. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses so please let me know if you believe that your local club would be interested.

If anyone has any further queries, or would be interested in booking in a talk, please contact me by emailing emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01953 497912.

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£15 per year – please contact Corinne Youngs

To download previous editions visit:

www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk

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Baconthorpe	Jonathan Cooper	577527
Edgefield	Mark Cook	587735
Hempstead	Paul Sanders	713217
Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Imogen Waterson	587610

Parish Council Websites

Baconthorpe	http://baconthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconthorpepc
Edgefield	https://edgefieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Hempstead	https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc
Matlaske & Barningham	http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Plumstead	https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com

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Plumstead
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Assistant Curate Reverend Judy Rosser 587584
Lay Minister Gill Peat 734226
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf 577292

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Baconthorpe	Tessa McCosh	577611
	Harry Steel	07711 890360
Barningham Winter	Amelia Courtauld	577250
Edgefield	Emma Cletheroe	587049
	Angela Turner	587292
Hempstead	Airlie Inglis	577440
Matlaske	Thomas Courtauld	577250
	Duncan Wood	570293
Plumstead	Eleanor Faulkner	577868
Saxthorpe with Corpusty	Kevin Beales (acting)	585067
	Cathy Stern	587014

What's On

DECEMBER

Fri 3	6.00pm	Baconthorpe Cinema - <i>Military Wives</i>	Village Hall
Sat 4	10.00am	Corpusty Coffee Morning, Bake Sale & Raffle	Village Hall
Sat 4	11.00am	Edgefield Fuel Fund	Village Hall
Tues 7	10.00am	Barningham Hall Wreath Making	Barningham Stables
Fri 10	3.40pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Sat 11	2.00pm	Edgefield Christmas Cheer + Chinwag	Village Hall
Mon 13	6.30pm	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	TBC
Thur 16	5.30pm	Baconthorpe Carol Singing	meet at Village Hall Car Park
Fri 17	6.00pm	Baconthorpe Christmas Concert - The Vocalights	St Mary's Church
Sat 18	6.00pm	Saxthorpe with Corpusty Carol Singing	meet at the Pub
Mon 20	5.30pm	Matlaske Carol Singing	meet at Barningham Hall Gates
Tues 21	3.30pm	Plumstead Carols with Pop-Up Nativity	Church
Tues 21	5.30pm	Hempstead Carol Singing	meet at Church Gates
Wed 22	5.30pm	Edgefield Carol Singing	meet at War Memorial
Fri 31	6.30pm	Baconthorpe Pop-Up New Year's Eve Pub	Village Hall

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 712202
Mon Wed Sat 9.30am-1.00pm
Fri 9.30am-6.00pm

Post Offices

Baconthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 10.00am Village Hall
Corpusty Stores 587202
Monday-Saturday 9.00am – 12.00noon
All services including Euros

Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

The Church & Village News is grateful
for the support of the National Lottery
Community Fund



Mobile Library Van

23 December / 20 January / 17 February

Matlaske	11.40	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	12.25	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Edgefield	1.55	NR24 2AL	The Memorial
	2.15	NR24 2AX	The Street
Corpusty	2.45	NR11 6QP	School
	3.40	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cott's
Saxthorpe	4.10	NR11 7BL	Old Post Office
Corpusty	4.30	NR11 6QJ	Adams Lane
	4.50	NR11 6QL	16 Council Houses

16 December / 13 January / 10 February

Hempstead	3.40	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
Baconthorpe	4.05	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
	4.20	NR25 6LG	Old Post Office
	4.40	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows

You will be required to wear a face covering. One customer (or one household of up to 3 people) at a time. Your contact details will be needed for test and trace. Hand sanitiser will be available and surfaces that are commonly touched will be regularly wiped down. Returned items will be quarantined for up to 72 hours. Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA>

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.

Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

The US Catholic activist Dorothy Day once visited a school and challenged the pupils, by saying that she kept two coats in her wardrobe, one to wear and another to give to the poor.

As the magazine bearing this letter drops on your door mat, Advent will have just begun. All over the world schools and churches will be readying for speaking about the nativity, a story which begins with a heavily pregnant woman travelling uncomfortably on a donkey at night with an anxious husband looking for a place to stay. Inn after inn turns the couple away; finally a stable is given as shelter. This 2000-year-old story will be re-told in a myriad of different languages, in songs, in plays, through scripture, in cartoons, in films and through advent calendars.



The start of the Christmas story is about the rejection of a family in need. It is about keeping them outside, away from warmth and security. (It alludes to how Jesus is abandoned by his friends and rejected by society when on the cross.)

The Holy Family's plight and Dorothy Day's anecdote, reminds us how many there are without shelter this Christmas, from those suffering on the Polish border, to the 1000s suffering in Afghanistan and those forced to live on the streets and under bridges in our streets and cities in this country.

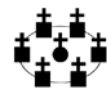
The power and message of the story is that it resonates with so much of what we witness in the world, in our lives and in the lives of our neighbours. God is not revealed in a palace with silk sheets, but revealed in the infant Jesus in a manger warmed by straw and the love of two rejected travellers – Mary and Joseph. A story echoed today in the refugee camps around the world.

Maybe we would prefer to ignore this part of the story– after all it does not tie up with the tinsel image of Christmas, yet reflecting and pondering on Jesus' birth – the birth of the Prince of Peace - has poured hope and faith into the hearts of many, inspiring generous acts of love to those in need.

The mystery of the story teaches us that God is with us. That God is with those on the outside; those who are cold, isolated and rejected; and that each time we respond to their needs, we respond to Christ himself. For with every welcoming gesture, every gift given, we are brought closer to reflecting the love that God reveals to us through the incarnation of Jesus into this world.

I pray that you all may have a wonderful Christmas filled with the love of God, inspiring us all into acts of generosity - of keeping a second coat for those in need. It is, I believe, through our acts of love, that we will experience the joy, the peace, and the hope that Christ brings to the world.

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for December & January

5 th	Advent II	
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
12 th	Advent III	
8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
19 th	Advent IV	
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
4.00pm	Carol Service	Edgefield
21 st		
3.30pm	Crib Service	Plumstead
24 th	Christmas Eve	
5.30pm	Candlelit	Saxthorpe
11.00pm	Midnight Mass	Hempstead
25 th	Christmas Day	
9.00am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.00am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
26 th	Feast of St Stephen Christmas I	
9.00am	Eucharist	Matlaske
Wednesday 1 st December 10.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe		
For Village Carol Singing Concert details please see What's On - page 5		
December Zoom Compline 7pm 5 th / 12 th / 19 th Meeting ID: 403 634 3732 Passcode: Matlaske		
2 nd	Christmas II	
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
9 th	Epiphany I	
8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
16 th	Epiphany II	
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
23 rd	Epiphany III	
8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
30 th	Epiphany IV	
9.00am	Breakfast Church: With delicious breakfast	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
5.00pm	Eucharist	Hempstead
Wednesday 5 th January 10.30am Eucharist Saxthorpe		

Baconsthorpe Village Hall Cinema

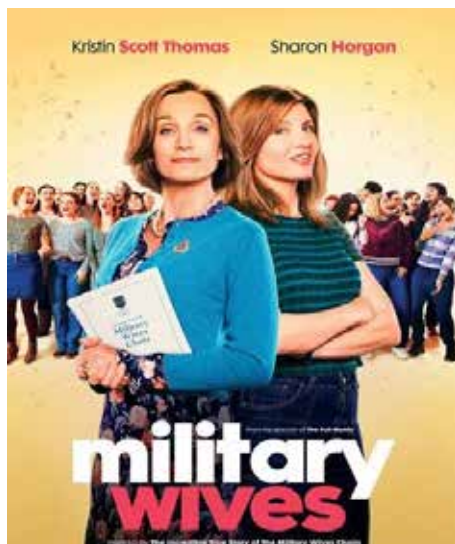
January - April 2022

School Lane, Baconsthorpe, Holt, NR25 6LJ

Tickets £5.00 on the door
Licenced Bar from 6.30pm
Film Starts 7.30pm



secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com



Friday 3rd December 2021



Friday 7th January 2022



Friday 4th February 2022



Friday 4th March 2022

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 M Day, £25 J Benton-Warboys, £10 R Hall, £5 M Gee, S Robinson, E Youngs

We still have some numbers available, contact Sarah Wilson 577200 to sign up and win!



Corinne Youngs
577263

Country Mice Play Group

Country Mice has grown, we have had several new families from the villages, Mums Dads and Grandparents which is a real delight. Our youngest mouse is 13 weeks old and our eldest 3 years. We are very grateful to have received a generous donation plus a toy kitchen, dolly pushchair and some hand knitted dolly clothes. So, equipment and opportunities for the children are growing also, Thank you so much. Our wish list still contains brio train pieces, stickle bricks and simple puzzles. We have had a Harvest theme during October and now turn to Light as advent approaches which involves play with torches, some craft angels and cake & candles. Each week after playing we have snack time followed by singing or a story and the children are learning and engaging well. The last session this term will be 14th December. If anyone would like to assist occasionally in a welcomer role, or to prepare refreshments or just help get out the toys at the beginning which takes an hour currently, please contact below. Thanks.

Kay Harvey Country Mice Playgroup Leader 07941 985635

Carol Singing

On Thursday 16th December the Carol Singers will be going round the village. The plan is to meet at 5.30pm at the Village Hall car park and take a different route to the one we took last year, ending with mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is welcome to come and join in.

Christmas Concert

There will be a concert of Christmas Music held on Friday 17th December in St Mary's Church, Baconsthorpe at 6pm. The Vocalights Choir will be performing Christmas music ending with carols everyone can join in with. Admission is free and mulled wine and mince pies will be served. The church will be fully decorated so come and join in this seasonal event.

Village Hall News

Our next film night is on Friday 3rd December, doors/bar from 6.30pm and we will be showing *Military Wives*, starring Kristen Scott-Thomas and Sharon Horgan. It centres on a group of women whose partners are serving in Afghanistan who come together to form the first military wives choir. A feel good movie inspired by true events. The film showing on Friday 7th January will be *The Personal History of David Copperfield*, a fresh and distinctive take on the Dickens classic. Tickets £5 on the door.

Pop-Up Pub

New Year's Eve Fri 31st Dec - come and see out the old year and welcome in the new, with friends and neighbours. Filled jacket potatoes and festive music to keep the evening going into 2022. Bar open from 7.30pm till after midnight! Fri 28th Jan - chicken casserole from 6.30pm.

The floor of the bar area is due to be repaired in December. We hope it may be available for use by New Year's Eve but will certainly be ready in January.



Christmas wreaths are now available to buy, please call Jane Warner on 07789 001094.

Piers Warner

Village Correspondent

After 27 years involvement with the newsletter I have decided to retire. Hazel Martin has agreed to be your Village Correspondent. As Hazel Gotts (some of us remember her mum Edna who was always very involved in village events) Hazel grew up in Baconsthorpe. She then went away to teachers' training college

and pursued her career in England and abroad. She bought her house in the village in 1995 and became head of drama at Aylsham High School where her productions are legendary. Please let Hazel have any items of news, if she is not told she cannot report it! Her contact details are 07879 414577.

Karen Hall, who already does all the design work on the newsletter and manages the advertisements, is taking on the role of treasurer. Thank you both SO much.

Barningham Winter

Do please soon book a place on the wreath making session at Barningham Hall stables on Tuesday 7th December at 10am. The cost is £20 to include coffee, mince pies and a soup lunch. Contact amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk. Please remember to dress warmly.



I wish you all a Happy Christmas but please remember that sugar beet lorries also work over Christmas and the New Year and with these darker days please be aware of them loading and carting the beet away. There was an accident down our little road last month which involved the air ambulance being called plus countless other emergency services but luckily no-one was badly hurt.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

The Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 19th December, at 4.00pm in St Peter & Paul's church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. All are welcome.

Angela Turner



Richard Peaver
587486

Village Hall News

Just a reminder that we will be open between 2.00pm and 6.00pm on Saturday, 11th December, for mulled wine, tea, coffee and various Christmas nibbles. Please come and join us for a chin wag and some Christmas cheer!

Jim Frost

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 Jill Roy, £25 Mike Thody, £10 Mike Thody, £5 J Wood, J Matthews, D Roy

Those of you who are keeping an eye on the winners will have noticed the occasional member winning more than once. The reason for this is that they have several tickets. There are still some tickets available – anyone wanting to increase their chance of winning can apply for further tickets. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those members who generously donate their winnings.

Ian Summers: ian@isdata.co.uk



Diana Spalton
711117

Music in Hempstead - Friday 10th December

I am pleased to announce that the series of Music in Hempstead will resume after over a year and half when it has either been illegal or inadvisable. I have gathered a group of six musicians to rehearse and play through Beethoven's *Sextet for Two Clarinets, Two Bassoons and Two Horns*. It is a splendid piece. As with previous events in the series, we will meet for the first time at 2pm and an invited audience will join us for refreshments at 3.45pm. We will begin the run through at 4 pm. This is not intended to be a polished performance though we will do our best. All should be over by about 4.30pm. There is no charge. I have a regular list of people who I invite and it has always been possible to accommodate people at the last minute. If you would like to be added to the list to receive a reminder near the date then please ask me.

Hitherto, we have played in the body of the hall but I feel it would be wise to allow more space for the audience by placing us on the stage and having well-spaced groups of chairs and tables for refreshments scattered about the hall. Please bring face masks and wrap -up well so you will be comfortable with the doors and windows open. I would very much appreciate notification of your intention to come even it is a 'maybe'. This will allow me to put out enough chairs in advance. Thank you.

Ian Summers ian@isdata.co.uk

Carol Singing

This will take place on 21st December at 5.30pm when we hope that anyone who enjoys singing will join Rev David Longe, starting at the Church gate. Everyone is welcome, especially children, so please do come and help to spread some Christmas spirit round our village.

A reminder that, as usual, the next copy of the magazine will come out in February.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on January 3rd 2022.

Good wishes for Christmas. I am sure we all hope that we will be able to enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Michael Westgate, £10 Thomas Courtauld, £5 David Tansley

This is the last draw for this year. Cherry and Marion would like to thank those who supported the 100 Club. Unfortunately, there will not be a Christmas party this year as due to Covid we have not been able to fund raise. There will, however, be a Christmas draw and the residual monies will go towards next year's party, details will be e-mailed shortly. We sincerely hope that you will continue to support next year. All that is left to say is we hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Welcome

To John Kingsmill, who has moved into The Green.

David Wooff

David passed away peacefully at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital on 10th November. He was a fine servant and leader of the local community, whose contribution will not quickly be forgotten. Pauline and David retired to Norfolk after spending many happy holidays here, and he soon offered his talents to help his neighbours. One of his first tasks was to help create the village sign, which has been a boon to many a lost motorist! He became treasurer and fabric officer of the parish church, very practical roles for a keen scholar of theology – but ones that he fulfilled efficiently. He established the Church Building Trust, which made several vital but neglected repairs – the heating being perhaps the most important! He also chaired the PCC for a while.

David was a friend and support to the ever-changing clergy. For many years he was a leading organiser of the village fete, a job he enjoyed and in which he certainly achieved much. 'He was a wonderful man,' says one person in the village. 'So kind and welcoming,' says another. There are so many complimentary memories. He was a true Christian, an excellent communicator, a man who mixed with all, a thoughtful man who got things done, quietly efficient, very energetic in the church bike ride, a trusty custodian of our ancient church, a friend to all, loved and respected. Of course, he will be deeply missed by Pauline and Ingrid (who were with him at the end), and by all his friends and relatives, but this writer is sure that David is still very busy in the Church Triumphant.

Pauline and Ingrid would like to thank everyone for the kind and very moving letters and cards which they have received, paying tribute to David, as well as giving support to themselves.

David's funeral will take place at St Peter's, Matlaske, at 2 pm on 7th December.

Remembrance Sunday

The airfield at Matlaske was constructed during 1940, one of nearly forty airfields that transformed the landscape of Norfolk during the early years of the Second World War. It was constructed according to a standard plan – three intersecting runways with a concrete perimeter road. The entrance with the control tower was near Matlaske gap. Personnel were accommodated in Nissen huts in the vicinity of the airfield or, the more fortunate ones, in Barningham Hall or Itteringham Mill. It was not a large airfield. Its runways were not concreted over: they were of grass, supported by rubberised wire netting. It suffered from frequent water-logging and there were problems with flooding in bad weather.

For these reasons, RAF Matlaske was not given full independent operational status and acted, within Fighter Command, as a satellite station to the major Airfield at Coltishall. None the less, when it was barely operational, the airfield was bombed by the Luftwaffe twice in late 1940/early 1941.

In the subsequent years it became a very busy wartime airfield. Not only Hurricanes and Spitfires flew from there but also a full range of Fighter Command planes, mainly acting as Bomber escorts. Two major users of the airfield were Squadron 137 (Whirlwinds) and Squadron 56 (Typhoons).

When the airfield was closed down in 1946, the site was used as a Prisoner of War and then a Displaced Persons camp. It then returned to its pre-war status as farmed arable land. Several of the airfield buildings survived in a ruinous state for decades but were eventually demolished before the end of the century.

In 2011 the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT) erected on the site a memorial stone, dedicated to all the units and personnel based there.

Ten years on, on Sunday November 14th 2021, by kind permission of the current owners of the land, T and J H Neill, a service was held in the open at the airfield site, dedicated not only to those who had lost their lives flying from Matlaske Airfield but also to the victims of both World Wars who had been residents of the Parishes of Matlaske and Barningham Winter.

The service was conducted on behalf of Revd David Longe, by Mr Duncan Wood, Church Warden of St Peter's Matlaske. It was attended by about 15-20 local residents. The names of the fallen from both parishes and both World Wars as well as those who lost their lives flying from RAF Matlaske were read out by Mr Wood. Ms Karen Neill laid a wreath at the Memorial and led the singing of the hymns. The service concluded with the National Anthem played on the horn by young Artie Longe with the congregation singing in accompaniment.



Plumstead

We were saddened to hear that Don Osborne passed away in hospital on 18th November. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jasmin and their family at this difficult time.

The festive season is upon us again, with autumn celebrations focusing on pumpkins and dahlias giving way to the traditional preparations for Christmas. Wishing everyone a peaceful and joyful time in the weeks ahead.



Harriet Rossi
577239



Once again our lovely old church was lit up by dahlias and pumpkins in the lead up to Halloween. Huge thanks go to all those who joined in by decorating, making crafts, cakes and jams and to those who provided us with beautiful squashes. The craft and book stalls were particularly popular and are becoming quite a fixture in the church. Don't forget to pop in for a browse over the Christmas period! Kirsty O'Leary Leeson's creepy crawly art activity for children proved very popular - we're still finding the results hidden about the church. Most thanks, however, go to those children (and parents) who contributed their creativity and ingenuity to the carving competition and to John Durdin who judged the entries. Many of you will know that Mary Lintott, who sadly has left the village now, was the inspiration behind last year's display. She did, however, leave behind one enormous pumpkin for us to remember her by. The winner of the

'guess the weight' competition is probably going to be eating it for some time to come!

Soon it will be time to think about Christmas. The Pumpkin & Dahlia team will be decorating the church this year using their craft skills, on the weekend before Christmas and we are also looking to use our combined skills and enthusiasm for the church to create decorations that can be used year after year. If any Plumstead residents reading this would like to take part please contact Catherine McMahon.

The young children of the village will take part in a 'Carols with pop-up Nativity' crib service at 3.30pm on Tuesday 21st December, followed by festive teas, and there will be a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 9am. Do come and join in with the celebration of Christmas at St Michael's.

Sad Farewell

It is with great sadness that we report the death of "Billy", our postman of many years. He gave many years of service to the community and we will miss his familiar figure passing through the village. The Parish Council sent flowers and a note of condolence to Billy's partner on behalf of the residents of Plumstead.

Diary Date Amendment

Please note that the Parish Council meeting originally set for 6th December 2021 has been rescheduled for 13th December 2021 at the same time.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

There are plans in the making for a village event to celebrate this occasion. This will probably be an informal gathering around lunchtime on Sunday 5th June 2022. If anyone would like to get involved in organising this, or has any ideas for activities or entertainment please contact Harriet Rossi or Nick Fulford.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Coffee Morning, Bake Sale & Raffle

This will be held at the Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 4 December. All welcome!

Carol Singing

In keeping with a long held local tradition, please join us for carol singing around the village, meeting outside the Duke's Head pub for 6 PM on Saturday, 18th December.

Village Litter Pick



Thanks to all who took part in the village litter pick on 6 November. For some days at least the approaches to the villages were litter free! Here are some of the early arrivers taking their bearings and raring to go!



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve – 24 December

We are very happy to announce that the ever-popular Matlaske Benefice Candlelight Service will take place again this year inside the church. The service will start at 5.30 pm on Christmas Eve at St Andrew's Saxthorpe. You will need to be there early to get a seat! It is the most wonderful event to start the Christmas festivities.

Parochial Church Council APCM

This will take place on Monday 31 January 2022 at 6 pm. The venue has yet to be set. If you would like to attend please contact Jill Perry-Warnes (perrywarnes514@btinternet.com), our rector, David Longe, or one of the church wardens closer to the time.

Funds from Broadland Housing Development

When this development proceeds, funds will become available to our parish under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

These agreements are a way of delivering or addressing matters that are necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms. They can be used to support the provision of services and infrastructure, such as highways, recreational facilities, education, health, well-being and affordable housing.

The Parish Council invites suggestions for the investment of these funds. Any suggestion please to the Parish Clerk, Melanie Eversfield (c.sparishclerk@gmail.com).

History Watch - North Norfolk Home Guard

Arthur Pentney



The BBC TV programme *Dad's Army* although humorous in itself does the real Home Guard of 1940 – 1944 no favours. There were no ancient dodderers like Jones, Frazer and Godfrey here – our local platoons comprised much younger men, exempt from military service due to reserved occupations, mainly farm labourers. These chaps would have been fit due to the daily physical nature of their work, and once properly trained, armed, and defending their own villages would have given a good account of themselves in the expected German invasion of 1940 when Britain stood alone.

As a youngster, I recall my father in uniform returning home after Home Guard duties, 'cheese cutter' cap on head, and hanging his sten gun up on a hook on the wall. The Baconsthorpe section met in The Jolly Farmers, a more convivial location I suspect than either the village school or reading room! On one occasion my mother was horrified to learn that the late publican, Arthur "Brew" Burton was lying in his coffin in the same room as where the section was meeting, to which father retorted, "He ent goin' to do us no harm, is he?"

The Home Guard's main attack weapon was the spigot mortar, a nasty looking piece of kit which was attached to – yes – a spigot, fixed into a circular construction of concrete. About four feet in diameter and four feet high, sunk into the ground, these were strategically placed and quite common. One was located in the corner of the playground at Baconsthorpe, now sadly covered over.

With the threat of invasion receding, the Home Guard were put on more prosaic tasks to relieve the regular army, such as night patrols and guard duties. The organisation was kept in place until late 1944, when it was finally disbanded. A useful outfit, I feel, which did not deserve the *Dad's Army* moniker given to it.

I am very grateful to Robin and Linda West for the photograph: taken at the putting green in Sheringham, it shows about seventy Home Guard personnel from our local villages, 'cheese cutter' caps much in evidence.



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The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



Ah, December... the old adages really are true... time is flying! I found myself bemoaning the wall to wall festive ads as being far too early this year, then realised with a start that Christmas is literally just round the corner. This year we will be reusing last year's small Christmas tree – we set it out in good time in the New Year, ensured it wasn't too crowded so any re-growth is even and happy... fingers crossed we will repeat the exercise. If you have got the space I would highly recommend it - every little bit helps, I feel. The trick is to position the tree (when it's inside) in a coolish spot away from radiators in the hope it won't become dehydrated too quickly as the tree will (in a bid to save itself) drop all its needles to conserve moisture, so do also use the largest pot size possible and water well... good luck!

Now off outside! Always lots of clearing and sorting to be done this time of year. Once the majority of the leaves are down, it's a good plan to clear any ponds you might have of the decaying leaves especially if you have fish as they can affect the water quality. Over to the veg plot... a nice task for Boxing day (if you're already feeling a bit Bah Humbug) is to set some onion seeds. The joy of growing onions from seed is the sheer variety. Whilst onion sets have their role it is rather nice to stray off the path a bit and grow such joys as Long red Florence or Keraval Pink, there is also the added bonus of knowing that something you set in the darkest days of mid-winter will come into its own in mid-summer. If you're still desperate to get outside over the festive season, then take a moment to see if you need to put down any new paths... giveaway signs are super worn/muddy areas in your garden, when only the bare bones of your garden is on show over the winter, then it's easier to see how it's working as a whole... so to speak.

Finally, a task whilst in an armchair by the fire! Do take the time to make sure you have ordered any seeds you need for an early kick-off in January (the ones that really struggle to reach productive maturity if they don't have a long enough growing season). By this I mean aubergines, chillies and peppers, which will also need a heated propagator or a nice cosy windowsill.

This month's question is from Jane Ellis, who says that whilst she really loves hellebores (Christmas Roses) and buys a new plant every year, she has never had much success with them. The trick with hellebores is location, location, location! It's unlikely to be an issue with the plants themselves, however where you site them can be a problem. Whilst hellebores tolerate shade, they do not like being either too dry or too damp, meaning they just won't thrive, so I would suggest a different position that is just so... Good Luck!

Finally we would like to wish you all the Merriest Christmas and a Good New Year!

Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet.com and as ever the most interesting question will be published next year.

Michelle & Mick McCarter