

Church & Village News

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

June 2021



Fields of Gold – Saxthorpe
Photograph by Lesley Last

Newman's Charity - The Baconsthorpe Benefactor

Recollections by Arthur Pentney



In 1698 Thomas Newman bequeathed £5 annually to the poor of the parish, this income being accrued from field rent. If this generous gesture had been inflation linked it would amount to some £600 today.

During the 1950s Walter 'Copperhole' Hazelwood and my father were the trustees charged with administering the charity, and so it gave me a good

insight into how it worked. A large leather-bound ledger recorded all the names of the recipients together with the amounts they were given.

As each new year arrived, it fell to me to list those names and amounts, mainly by cribbing from the previous year with the odd addition or removal of a few names as advised by my father. This ledger dated back to the 1920s and its purchase cost resulted in a miserly act, deducted from the £5 by the rector of the day, so less money was paid out that year!

Payment was always made from the Reading Room on Easter Monday, although not all beneficiaries turned up to receive it so my father had to cycle round the village handing out money to those who did not show up. On Easter Monday 1957 disquiet broke out when the Rector at that time, the Rev Scott-Little was "unable" to hand over the key to the Reading Room. In those days, the villagers were made of sterner stuff. They procured a ladder, broke into an upstairs window, opened up the Room and the charity paid out as usual. Our photograph shows this event, and it is interesting as females and the local police constable are both conspicuous by their absence!

Sixty-odd years ago the real value of those five pounds had reduced to about a fifth, but it still gave about twenty pensioners four to five shillings each (20p and 25p) so it was worth having at that time. However, our Rev Francis Allen could see the damage inflation was causing to the initial bequest and sought some means to enable this to be increased, but without success.

I am not familiar with what happened to the charity after my father's involvement. I assume it still survives in some form today. What we do know is that Thomas Newman's final resting place is in Baconsthorpe church, centre aisle, marked by an impressive marble inscribed slab and heraldic shield, a fitting memorial to a genuine benefactor of the time.

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Copy Date third Wednesday of the month
16 June / 21 July / 18 August

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Print Barnwell Print Ltd, Aylsham 732767

Postal Subscriptions
£15 per year – please contact Corinne

Editorial meetings are postponed for the immediate future

To download previous editions visit:

www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk

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Hempstead	Paul Sanders	713217
Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Imogen Waterson	587610

Parish Council Websites

Baconsthorpe	http://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc
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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duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk
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Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead
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Lay Minister Gill Peat	734226
Lay Minister Judy Rosser *	587584
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf	577292
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Baconsthorpe Tessa McCosh	577611
Harry Steel	07711 890360
Barningham Winter Amelia Courtauld	577250
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe	587049
Angela Turner	587292
Hempstead Airlie Inglis (acting)	577440
Matlaske Thomas Courtauld	577250
Duncan Wood (acting)	570293
Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner	577868
Saxthorpe with Corpusty Kevin Beales (acting)	585067
Cathy Stern	587014

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Village Newsletter Distribution

We are looking for someone who would be interested in taking on the responsibility of distribution of the Village Newsletter. It involves about two hours a month and journey to Aylsham to collect the magazines from Barnwell's. If this is something that you might be interested in or would like more information please contact Mary Lintott on 577718 or mary.lintott57@btinternet.com

What's On

JUNE

Mon 10	6.00pm	Plumstead Annual Church Meeting	St Michael's Church
Sat 19	12.00noon	Edgefield Open Gardens	Throughout the Village
Sun 20	12.00noon	Edgefield Open Gardens	Throughout the Village
Sun 20	10.00am	Plumstead Midsummer Celebration	St Michael's Church
The Celebration continues until Fri 25			
Thur 24	10.00am	Edgefield Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Sat 26	10.30am	Hempstead Open Gardens	Throughout the Village
Sat 27	10.30am	Hempstead Open Gardens	Throughout the Village

GOVERNMENT IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS HAVE CAUSED
MANY EVENTS TO BE POSTPONED INCLUDING REGULAR EVENTS

Clash Diary 2021

July 24	Edgefest 5
July 30	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub
July 31	Matlaske Fête
August 1	Hempstead Fête & Dog Show
Sept 6	Plumstead PC
Dec 6	Plumstead PC

If you are arranging an event please check with Corinne Youngs that there is not already an event being held that day
577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe 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



Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 712202

Mon Wed Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

Fri 9.30am-6.00pm

Mobile Library Van

10 June / 8 July / 5 August

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

3 June / 1 July / 29 July

Hempstead	3.40	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
Baconsthorpe	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

I want to pose a question: have you ever imagined a better world? And if you have, what did it look like? And if you haven't can you perhaps pause and think of what it might look like?

Part of the Christian tradition is to imagine a better world: to conjure up a vision of a place where all can live freely, happily, equally. A vision of the Heavenly Kingdom. The King James Version of the Bible states: Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29.18a). We need visions, visions of a better place: visions provide us with something to work towards, they give us a hope, and a focus for our prayer.

For me, the vision of the Church in this Benefice is one of prayer and service: prayer for this community, action that serves this community. It is through our prayer that we act, and as we pray and serve all, we welcome all. This reflects and is inspired by Jesus's preaching and teaching.

It provides the basis for building a better world. Yet this is all too easy to write, and hard to put into practice.

This letter is written in the backdrop of an on-going battle between Hamas and Israel. A battle that has rockets landing in Gaza and Israel on innocent bystanders. A battle that is escalating as years of Arab resentment comes to the surface leading to clashes in the Arab/Israeli neighbourhoods in Israel. A battle exacerbated by the Israeli police disrespecting Holy Sites and illegally attempting to evict Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah, an area in East Jerusalem.

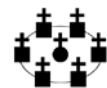
Over the last week I have received messages from Jews, Christians and Muslims urging us to pray for what we are witnessing, and that we must not lose sight of a vision of a better Holy Land. The prophet Isaiah writing around 500 BCE, shortly after the Israelites had been allowed back home, having been exiled in Babylon (the exile is fascinating – have a google to find out more), provides a wonderful image of a better world:

No more shall an infant live but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be. (Paraphrased Isaiah 65.20-23)

Islam too hold similar tenets: a the word "Islam", comes from the Arabic word, "Salaam", peace.

For us looking on despairing at more violence, we need to hold onto to a vision of a better world. Holding it in prayer and motivating our actions towards it. Perhaps we can only do something small, but we must never give up praying and working towards a vision that reflects the beauty and holiness that God calls us towards.

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for June

6 th	Trinity I	
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Matlaske
13 th	Trinity II	
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Saxthorpe
20 th	Trinity III	
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
3.30pm	Evening Prayer	Plumstead
27 th	Pentecost	
10.30am	Eucharist	Corpusty
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Edgefield
4 th July	Trinity V	
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
3.00pm	Evening Prayer	North Barningham
Wednesday 9 th 10.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe		

SAVE THE DATES FOR A UNIQUE SALE

SATURDAY 3RD + SUNDAY 4TH JULY

10.00AM - 4.00PM

CHURCH FARM, SAXTHORPE

WITH THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF NIVEN & LESLEY LAST

THE CONTENTS OF A HOUSE AND GARDEN HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY
BEQUEATHED TO THE BENEFICE AND WILL BE SOLD AT THIS SALE

THERE WILL BE ALL SORTS OF THINGS ON SALE INCLUDING
FURNITURE • CROCKERY • LINENS • GARDEN ORNAMENTS • TOOLS

DEFINITELY NOT TO BE MISSED - PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

Baconsthorpe

Post Office

The mobile post office now visits us on Wednesdays at 10am and I am told it carries a small range of food, including bread, sweets and newspapers. Do please support this new enterprise.

Vandalism at the Castle



Over the past two weeks in May two mindless acts of vandalism have occurred at Baconsthorpe Castle. A car seat was set alight in a fire place in the inner gatehouse between 3rd and 11th and the Heydon Walk sign was completely smashed to pieces between 11th and 14th. Both incidents have been reported to the police and English Heritage. The burnt seat and the damaged sign have been removed and the sign will be replaced in due course. If anyone has information about these incidents please let Tom Worboys know on 07777 699513

and it will be passed on to the police. If you are walking or visiting the castle please can you keep an eye out for any suspicious behaviour.

Village Hall News

The Baconsthorpe Village Hall 200 Club will be relaunched in June and those with existing numbers should have received a letter about this. We are asking people to move to paying by standing order or direct debit, as this will ease the administration of the Club. Please do respond to the letter and mandate form or contact us with any queries. We do have a few spare numbers in the 200 Club, so if you would like one please let us know by emailing: baconsthorpe.villagehall@gmail.com

We hope that the easing of the Covid restrictions will continue and, subject to this, we plan to restart events at the Village Hall in July. We will begin with reinstating the Pop-Up Pub, with the first one taking place on the last Friday in July, the 30th. News of further events will come nearer the time.



Corinne Youngs
577263



Barningham Winter

St Mary's Church, Barningham Winter has had a good spring clean thanks to the few that gave up their afternoon to help the little church look at its best again.

Otherwise quiet in Barningham!



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

John Hopkinson

I am sorry to say that John Hopkinson died unexpectedly on Sunday 25th April. John was a private person but many of us will remember him as the setter of the fiendishly difficult crossword puzzle in the former Edgefield News magazine. He was Janet's stalwart supporter, enabling her to attend various village commitments when she became unable to drive and wheelchair-bound. He was artistic, had a wide range of interests and thoroughly enjoyed working on his immaculate allotment. He will be much missed by his neighbours in The Street.



Richard Peaver
587486

Hubs Sharp

After the service on 18th July there will be a bring your own picnic at Stonehaven, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield – this being the first service following the anticipated end of Covid restrictions. The garden is of reasonable size, so it should be possible to maintain an element of social distancing for those who are uncertain as the restrictions cease. If you want to share food, then please do so. If you don't want to share (or accept shared) food, then that is fine as well. We have a reasonable supply of mugs and quite a few chairs. We won't mind if you feel that you want to bring your own – the past few months have made us all less certain of being out and about.

Andrew Rainsford

Village Hall News

Edgefest 5 on 24th July is now completely sold out! A big thank you to all who have bought tickets.

At some stage during the summer, we intend to open the hall for a weekend in order to display all the old Edgefield photographs we possess. Our intention is to try and identify as many people as possible who are in said pictures so that we can ultimately produce a mural type display for the hall. Look out in this publication and on our Facebook page for the dates. Finally, our first coffee morning back will be on Thursday 24th June (future restrictions permitting).

Jim Frost

Edgefield Open Gardens - Sat 19th - Sun 20th June 12noon - 5pm



Entry tickets and maps can be purchased at the village hall. Adults £5 for both days; children 16 and under free. Ploughman's lunch and afternoon teas in the hall and there will be plant and book stalls and a raffle. All proceeds to Edgefield Church. (Assistance dogs only, please.)

Alison Mawson & Ellie Frost

Hempstead Open Gardens

NR25 6TW

Sat-Sun 26-27 June

10:30 – 5 pm

In aid of Village Hall and Church

Entry by Ticket
£5
on the day

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 M Fitton, £25 J Matthews, £10 M Thody, £5 S Hawkey, P Tomlinson, K Wood

We have had to say farewell to Bridget and Robert Watters. They had been here for over 38 years and we shall miss them. However we wish them well. I think they are going to live in Norwich near one of their daughters and grandchildren.

Welcome to Mark, Kathryn, Charlie and Gwen Terry who have moved into Hill House, Chapel Lane. We hope that they will be very happy in Hempstead



Diana Spalton
71117

Hempstead Open Gardens, 26-27th June, 10.30am-5pm

Not only gardens to view but also classic cars on the playing field and Mo's field, moths and jewellery at Old Church Barn, sculptures and open studio at Orchid Cottage, dog agility course at the Forge, play croquet and then refreshments, wood carvings, textile crafts and plants at the Village Hall. There will be music in the church at noon on Saturday, David and Jodie Ballard will give a flute and organ recital and at 2.30pm the Samphires will sing. On Sunday come and listen to a wind trio play in the afternoon. Children's quiz available when you buy your ticket. Many thanks for all the offers of cakes, biscuits, scones and plants, please can they come to the village hall from 9am on Saturday.

Jo and Jill

Drop In To Your Village Hall - Meet the Neighbours!

After what seems to have been endless months of seclusion with little or no village social contact we are pleased to be able to host an opportunity to meet with friends and neighbours for the first time for nearly 18 months. Come to the Village Hall on Friday 2nd July between 5pm and 7pm for Pimms and soft drinks on the house (if you fancy any other drinks, bring your own). Children included of course. We are keeping fingers crossed for good weather and hope to be gathering outside with plenty tables and chairs. Looking forward to seeing you.

Hempstead Village Fête & Fun Dog Show

We are still on track to hold the fête on Sunday 1st August. As always we need lots of help – cakes for the cake stall and teas, donations of plants and produce, raffle and tombola prizes, books and bric-a-brac. If you can help on the day or in any way please get in touch with Yvette Gibson (712460) or Liz Buxton (714082).

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 John Coulton, £10 Donny March, £5 Stacy Buckley

Matlaske Fête... Hold the date! Saturday 31st July

This year due to Covid, our fête is taking on a different theme. It will be 'Music in The Park'. There will be live music, Morris dancing, pizza, sausages, drinks and of course tea and cake. There will be a space if anyone would like to take a turn to entertain us! Entry will be £5 per adult which will include a raffle ticket. Check out our Facebook page.



Marion Shepherd
577521

British Heart Foundation Closure of the Heartstart Programme

We have been advised by BHF that they are dispensing with the Heartstart Scheme. This means that they are no longer able to provide public liability insurance for their qualified Heartstart Trainers. David Draper, Maureen Nash and Jim Shepherd have been helping to roll-out Defibrillators and CPR Training in our area but will no longer be able to provide this training as a result. The local defibrillators are still functional and for Matlaske, the guardian (Jim Shepherd) will continue to check that our defibrillator is ready for use. It is simple to use and when activated gives voice instructions on its use and deployment. Access remains unchanged and is the same format as advised in the last newsletter. If as a village we wish to have this facility available after the next three years, when battery and pads will need to be changed, then we shall seek your support with fundraising. Any queries please to Jim Shepherd 577521.

Matlaske History - Volume 2



After splendid reviews on *Matlaske History Volume 1*, the greatly anticipated *2nd Volume* is now available through Amazon!

The *2nd Volume* is again beautifully written and includes bringing to life the details of the Leeder family, who were the blacksmiths.

There is a marvellous story of three Victorian girls photographed in The Street, Matlaske. Facts about the Old Post Office, the Smithy after the Leeders, the Edwardian headmaster and other stories about the village school. It discusses mid-20th century village social life but also casts a backwards glance to North Barningham in the Domesday Book. There are also fascinating accounts of the men on the Barningham Winter War Memorial along with the story of Lt Col Charles E Radclyffe, John Thomas Mott and Garibaldi Cottage. Matlaske in the Second World War, the old lords of the manor and a miscellany of newspaper stories from 1785-1908.

Meticulously researched by one of our village authors, Duncan Wood, it is available through Amazon, includes photographs and illustrations, and is priced at just £6.99.

Duncan has again very generously agreed that a portion of the sales income is donated to church funds. Like *Volume 1*, it is a great read and thoroughly recommended!

Plumstead

Finally it seems to be a tad warmer in the past week and it looks like nature is beginning to take advantage of the warmth – certainly I have heard the sound of mowers more frequently recently! I have hardly seen any of our iconic summer visiting birds the swallows but I hope they will now begin to arrive in numbers as it warms up. I thought I might have heard a cuckoo but it might have been my imagination!



Mary Lintott
577718

Parish Council News

There has been a lovely display of cowslips on the wildflower meadow at Plumstead Green. In two or three weeks other wildflowers will be emerging. Hopefully you will visit and walk around the winding path that has been kindly cut by Catherine McMahon. In an effort to encourage amphibians of all sorts to take up residence in and around the pond, we are planning to construct places where they can shelter and hibernate. If there are residents in the village who may have small logs that they are prepared to donate then please get in touch with our clerk, Carolyn Price, clerkplumsteadparishcouncil@hotmail.com

Church News

Midsummer Celebration Sunday 20th – Friday 25th

After our success with the Festival of Thanks we are planning a midsummer celebration – not only to mark midsummer but hopefully an end to Lockdown. I am sure many of us feel in need of some joy in our lives after a very difficult and challenging year. A festival of summer flowers in the Church – a book stall, plant stall and of course a cake stall. There will be a Busy Bee Hunt in the churchyard for the children. All are welcome. Donations would be most welcome. Any Covid restrictions that might then apply will be in place. See page 17 for poster.



On Sunday 20th from 4pm all Plumstead residents are warmly invited to join us in the Flagpole Garden for strawberry tea, cakes and a summer punch. There will be Evensong at 3.30pm to which you are also welcome. Do come and join us to celebrate. We look forward to seeing you.

The PCC have devised a questionnaire which will be delivered to you by the end of May asking for your views as to how your Parish Church could be made more useful to this community. David Longe our Rector and the PCC would be grateful if you could let them know your views so that they can make plans for the building to become a true community resource.

Finally we can announce that there will be another Pumpkin & Dahlia event in our church in October. So do grow a pumpkin and some dahlias – this year we might be able to hold a competition to add a little spice to the event. More details to follow nearer the time.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

I have previously reported that the parish council has been in correspondence with and met our MP, Duncan Baker, with a view to redirecting the current proposals for delivery of offshore energy to the national grid. Currently, connection is proposed by individual point-to-point connections.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

The parish council, in concert with many neighbouring parishes, is lobbying for the projects to be co-ordinated through an offshore transmission network (OTN). Adopting an OTN would stop the proposed multiple trenching of our countryside for the laying of cables, project by project. The establishment of an OTN is now government policy, but an OTN has yet to be established.

Currently Orsted has been granted a Development Consent Order. It is proposing to dig trenches from Weybourne, where landfall will be made, to the Norwich sub-station, for connection to the national grid.

You will have received information from Equinor about the proposed Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension (SSE and DE) projects. The consultation for these projects is open, and closes on 10 June.

Both SSE and DE propose to make landfall and connect to the national grid in the same places as the Orsted project, Weybourne and Norwich. Notwithstanding this, Equinor proposes a different trenching route from Orsted, and seeks permission to lay cables for SSE and DE at different times.

Orsted is planning to lay cables in trenches to the west of our villages, and Equinor to the east. There is no apparent co-ordination between Orsted and Equinor.

The parish council is making a submission in response to the consultation calling for the current projects to be reconfigured so as to deliver power to the national grid via an OTN, and if that is not possible for the current projects to be coordinated so that our countryside is dug up only once, rather than three times via two different routes.

The current proposals will scar our landscape and create thousands of lorry movements over a substantial period, with associated public health issues. If you agree with the parish council that the current proposals are unacceptable, please make your views known to Equinor through their consultation, by 10 June. Comments can be made on the paper forms that have been delivered, or on line at: <http://event.sepanddep.co.uk>.

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



If there is one month lovelier than May then it's June! Everything in the garden comes together in June which can be (when it's behaving itself...) utterly glorious! As I write this we are still in a bright (thank goodness!) but cold patch (shame!) which has done wonders for lengthening the show of tulips; I have some beautiful parrot tulips that still have yet to open and we are over halfway through May! There are new leaves out everywhere and the garden glows with the most perkier greens. It is the most beautiful time of year.

Now to work! It's all systems go in the veg patch with French beans and runner beans able to go out along with any courgettes and squashes you might have; we should be out of the frost zone but it's still worthwhile keeping an eye... if you have a good warm spot then your outdoor cucumbers can head outside too. Happily tomatoes can get outside as well; just remember to keep pinching out the side shoots; this is a good task to do first thing in the morning when the stems are still turgid

so they will snap off cleanly. Don't forget to feed your tomatoes weekly with a good tomato feed or comfrey fertiliser; it's also worth sinking a plastic pot (with holes) next to your tomato plants so any watering you do goes directly to where it is needed. You will need to be on your toes when the weeds get going in June too - everything likes to grow in June! Weeding or rather hoeing is another job best suited to the morning and always in dry weather; this is so the weeds will cut cleanly from the soil and you can let them dry out during the day and compost them later that evening.

June, or rather Derby Day, has always been the traditional day for cutting box hedges; if you are fortunate enough to still have your box plants undevastated by blight it's worth being extra careful when you actually trim them. First off try and choose a day when you have a patch of dry weather to follow. Your box will be extra vulnerable when it's freshly cut, so if you choose a period of dry weather the box blight spores won't be active and it will give the cuts a chance to heal over before anything is affected. So if Derby day is soggy hold fire till it dries out!

This month's question comes from John Burrows who asks, "why do my apple and pear trees drop lots of tiny fruit in early summer, what might I be doing wrong?" The quick answer, John, is that you are doing nothing wrong! The long answer is as follows, what you are in fact describing is the 'June Drop' where the tree is reducing the amount of fruit it is carrying so it can actually successfully ripen the remaining fruit. It's a clever system but you can be one step ahead of the game by removing any super tiny fruits you do have as the tree will shed indiscriminately - prize winners and all! Hope this helps and good luck.

Whatever you do get to do in June make sure you enjoy your garden as this is what all the hard work has been for!

Do 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

Meet the Neighbours

Thomas & Rachel Abbott



Thomas and Rachel moved to Saxthorpe in July 2019 with their three children Theo (8), Nabi (short for Barnabas, 5) and Lovella (2). They moved back to Norfolk after seven years in Thailand and Vietnam and have intentionally moved into Saxthorpe Hall with Rachel's parents, Robert and Elizabeth Glover, having seen the benefits of multigenerational living that is still typical of many families in Asia.

Thomas was born in Solihull, his parents worked for the Birmingham City Mission. When he was 11 years old his family moved to Pakistan where they lived in the north of the country and worked to improve the diet of the local population by improving their agricultural techniques as an act of Christian mission. Thomas returned to the UK in 1998 for further study, and obtained a joint honours degree in History and Media Arts from the University of Surrey. After seeing a poster by the British Council for teachers wanted in China in the Student's Union, he spent the next year (2002-2003) teaching English in Shanghai. During this year Thomas attended the International Church where he met Rachel's family and ultimately Rachel. Having a desire to work in International Development Thomas gained a work experience placement with the charity founded by Rachel's parents, and now 18 years later, still works there as the Head of Projects.

Rachel was born in Norwich, where her father was a social worker, and moved to the Channel Islands when she was 7. When she was 12 Rachel's family moved to Shanghai, China. In 1998 her parents founded a charity called Care for Children, which became the first joint venture social welfare programme between the Chinese and British governments. The mission of the charity is to place orphans and vulnerable children living in orphanages into local and loving family homes. By working in partnership with the Chinese government, the charity saw legislation change in 2014 to support family care for orphans and vulnerable children. To date over 1 million children, all over China, are now living with loving families rather than being placed in institutions. This partnership model has also been replicated in other countries in the region.

Rachel obtained a Midwifery degree from the UEA in 2009, and during this time Thomas moved from China to Norfolk and set up the UK office for Care for Children in Norwich. In 2012 Thomas and Rachel moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand for 5 years where Thomas set up a branch of Care for Children. In Chiang Mai Rachel was able to support pregnant and new mothers with ante and post-natal advice. She recognised that when you are working/living in another country, away from family support, new mothers can feel quite isolated. From Thailand they moved to Vietnam for two years for Thomas to help set up a new Care for Children project based in Hanoi, and Rachel continued her ante and post-natal support for international families.

For now Thomas and Rachel are enjoying life in Saxthorpe, surrounded by family. They are excited about living a 'glocal' (global & local) lifestyle, through their work with Care for Children around the world, but also supporting Reverend Canon David Longe in his service to the Benefice.

For more information on Care for Children please visit www.careforchildren.com

Emma Youngs

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