

Church & Village News

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

November 2021



Light Painting + Pyrotechnics - Baconsthorpe Castle
Photograph by Ian Drury

Children's Photo Competition



Winning Entry
Toby Mayes-Snelling - year 7

Children in the Benefice were asked by David Longe to submit a photograph of wild life to be judged by Jake Fiennes, General Manager-Conservation at the Holkham Estate.

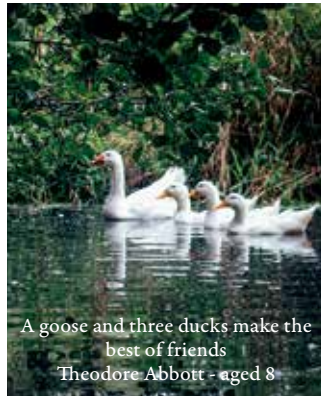
We received seven absolutely beautiful photographs which were forwarded to Jake. He judged the winner to be Toby Mayes-Snelling, year 7, who lives in Corpusty.

This is what Jake said: "This undoubtedly has to be the winner. The antenna and the eyes are beautifully in focus and the contrast between the colours of the buddleia and the red white and black of the wings makes it stand out winner."

Well done, all of you, for taking such beautiful photographs and especially Toby, our winner!



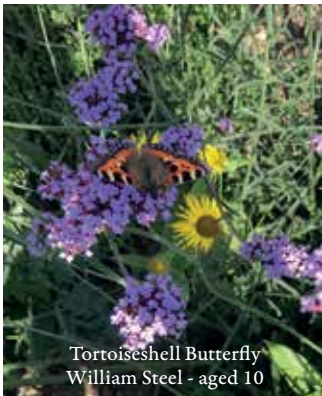
Sycamore Moth Caterpillar
Harvey Brown - year 8



A goose and three ducks make the best of friends
Theodore Abbott - aged 8



Buff tip moth caterpillar feeding on poplar leaves
Ella Kinsley - aged 10



Tortoiseshell Butterfly
William Steel - aged 10



The Barn Spider- Araneus Cavaticus
Artie Longe - aged 9



Red Admiral Butterfly
Annabel Pointen - aged 9

Nature Watch - The Swallowtail Butterfly

Arthur Pentney



The largest and rarest of our native butterflies, the Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon britannicus*) exists only in the area of the Norfolk Broads, which being relatively close is fortunate if you ever wish to see one. This lovely insect is preceded by an unlovely-looking caterpillar, whose sole food is the milk parsley, so if no milk parsley exists, neither will the butterfly. The Swallowtail can only thrive if its fenland habitat is well managed and the reed is cut back to allow milk parsley and other plants to grow. To this end, a conservation programme has been adopted and the Swallowtail's chances of survival are now looking much brighter. I have only been fortunate to see this butterfly on one occasion, and that was during a camping trip to Horsey back in 1957, but it was an experience I have never forgotten. Hickling Broad, Ranworth Broad and Strumpshaw Fen are the best locations to spot one – try a bright summer's day in the early morning, and you might be as lucky as I was all those years ago!



Fly Agaric Mushrooms
by Guy Hodgson

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

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Harry Steel 07711 890360

Barningham Winter Amelia Courtauld 577250
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049

Hempstead Angela Turner 587292
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

NOVEMBER

Mon 1	6.00pm	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	Church
Fri 5	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Cinema - <i>The Father</i>	Village Hall
Fri 26	6.30pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Fri 3	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe 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
Mon 6	6.30pm	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	Church
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
Fri 17	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Christmas Concert - <i>The Vocalights</i>	St Mary's Church
Fri 31	6.30pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

Holt Library

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

Mobile Library Van

25 November / 23 December

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

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



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.

The Season of Remembrance - Reverend Judy Rosser

Dear Readers

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself as the assistant curate to our Seven Parishes of the Benefice of Matlaske. I was ordained a Deacon by Bishops Graham and Jane at Norwich Cathedral, just a month ago. The adjoining photo is of the joyful time afterwards in the cloisters with my family and friends, where the sun shone brightly for us all. The live streamed service took place in the Presbytery of the Cathedral, unusually, as Dippy the dinosaur was occupying the nave. Dippy diplodocus will now have returned to the Natural History Museum. I so hope readers managed to visit him in the Cathedral and have unforgettable memories, as I do of the Ordination Ceremony.



November is the season of Remembrance. It is an opportunity to engage with the extraordinary power of love we have for one another, the grief of bereavement as well as honour those persons who have died in past conflicts. On 2nd November there will be an All Souls Service at Saxthorpe, with prayers for the deceased and a chance to light a candle in Remembrance of a loved one, with quiet time for reflection. We will be reminded that the light of Christ shines out of the darkness.

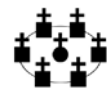
On Remembrance Sunday, six churches of the benefice will have their own service with a time of silence and the Kohima Epitaph. You are very welcome to join us.

Kohima Epitaph.

When you go home tell them of us and say: "For your tomorrow, we gave our today".

Bishop Graham of Norwich, Lead Bishop for the environment, has endorsed a call for churches and cathedrals to ring their bells on the eve of the United Nations Climate Conference in Glasgow, or COP26. I trust that the resonance of the bells and all they signify will be inspirational and truly worth remembering. Church bells ringing are usually associated with a call to worship or a wedding, but their other historic function is to ring out a warning. The Ring Out For Climate Change Campaign is cleverly championing the bells ringing out for 30 minutes as a warning of the climate emergency. Bishop Graham has reminded us that the bells are a sign of hope too, that the conference will lead to restorative action on all our parts, at home and in those places where climate change is ruining the poorest communities and destroying lives.

This transformational prayer which follows is being read aloud in our 7 churches and throughout the Diocese before and during the summit.



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for November

2nd All Souls		
6.00pm	Canon Andy Bryant Canon Pastor at Norwich Cathedral	Saxthorpe
7th Third before Advent		
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
14th Remembrance Sunday		
8.00am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.45am	Remembrance Day Service	All Benefice Churches *
21st Christ the King		
10.30am	Eucharist with Confirmation & Baptism Officiant and Preacher: The Right Reverend Dr Jane Steen, Bishop of Lynn	Edgefield
27th Toys & Tins		
4.00pm	Please bring toys for the Salvation Army With special guest	Saxthorpe
28th Advent Sunday		
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Carol Service	North Barningham
Wednesday 1st December 10.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe		
Advent Carols at St Peter, North Barningham - Sunday 28th November 10.30am		
Do come and join us! Beware! In the past, this service has taken place half an hour later. The church will be very cold. It has no heating or lighting and will tend to conserve the coldest of night temperatures. Ignore fashion and style and dress as for an arctic expedition. Whatever the weather, a warm welcome awaits you and refreshments will be offered after the Service. We look forward to seeing all of you there.		

COP26 Prayer

"Creator God, Giver of life, you sustain the earth and direct the nations. In this time of Climate Crisis, grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor. Challenge us to change our lifestyles. Guide our leaders to take courageous action. And foster within us a renewed vision of your purpose for your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by and for whom all things were made".

Amen

In closing, let us forever remember those whom we see no more, as we hold them securely in our hearts and minds. With renewed energy and focus let us pull together, to nurture and restore our homeland, the wider world and all of humanity as we create new memories.

Judy

* Remembrance Sunday There will be no service at Barningham Winter and the Matlaske service will be at the airfield

Baconsthorpe Village Hall Cinema

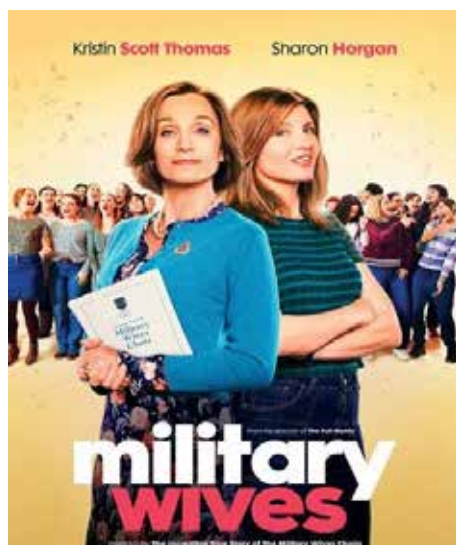
September - December 2021

baconsthorpe.villagehall@gmail.com
School Lane, Baconsthorpe, Holt, NR25 6LJ

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



Friday 5th November 2021



Friday 3rd December 2021



Country Mice Playgroup

Baconsthorpe Village Hall

School Lane, Baconsthorpe NR25 6LJ

Every Tuesday 10am - 12noon

Small & friendly

Toys, crafts & fun for all

Refreshments and snacks provided

£2 per family

All welcome: parents, grandparents and carers
Contact: Kay - Playgroup Leader 07941 985 635

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 J Warner, £25 H Steel, £10 R Youngs, £5 I Worboys, W Peck, M Day

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



Corinne Youngs
577263

Country Mice Play Group

It is with great delight we are able to tell you the Country Mice now have a new Group Leader. She is Kay Harvey who lives in Edgefield and has a wealth of experience with playgroups and children. This will give the group stability and we do thank Kay so much for taking this on. The group grows in strength each week and really do need more volunteer helpers. Could you spare one Tuesday morning a term, 2 hours from 10am – 12noon to “meet and greet”, prepare the refreshments and generally help as you feel able. The group would also like a few specific toys and if you have any of the following in good condition the Mice would be delighted to receive them: a parachute for games, a soft ball, stickle bricks, brio style train track, small Ikea type play kitchen, tuff tray, foam play mats. Also we very much welcome anyone in the community who could make or knit doll clothes and anyone arty to paint some stones for story telling! If you are able to help with any of this please contact Kay on 07941 985635.

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.

Wanted

A black kitten to keep me company – Daphne Allard 577 345.

Village Hall News

A very successful Quiz Night was held on 15 October with a fun quiz and delicious food. Many thanks to those who attended and to Emma Youngs and Jane Warner for their work in making it all happen. We will run another quiz in due course.

A reminder that the Pop-Up Pub in November will be on the final Friday, the 26th, with lasagne on the menu. As the Pop-Up Pub in December falls on New Year's Eve we will start the evening a bit later and finish shortly after midnight, so you can welcome in the new year with friends and neighbours. More details next month.

The next Film Night is on Friday 5 November when we will be showing *The Father*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman. Tickets £5 on the door.

Following their previous success we will be making Christmas wreaths again this year. These lovely wreaths, made from natural seasonal materials, will be on sale from the beginning of December. Please contact Jane Warner on 07789 001094 to place an order for one.

Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

Wreath making is making a welcome comeback this year on Tuesday 7th December in the Stables at Barningham Hall at 10am. Please let Mrs Courtauld (amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk) know if you would like to come along to this popular event. The cost is £20.00, which includes coffee and a soup lunch.

The Revd David Longe christened Rudy Philip Thomas Buxton, son of Joe Buxton and Olivia Beeson at St Mary's Church, Barningham on 19th September. The little church looking beautiful on a sunny day was full with Rudy's family and friends.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

Jane Manklow's ashes have been buried next to her husband, Ivor, in our graveyard, and also Betty Grand, who died recently, has just been buried with her husband. Our sympathies go to the families.

Thank you to all who helped with our Harvest Festival. We had a lovely service and many people stayed afterwards for our Harvest Supper. As always, it was a cheerful and friendly time, and I hope that all enjoyed it. Also thank you to the offerings given for the Food Bank, some after the day. We have our Remembrance Day Service on 14th November in the Village Hall. We will meet at 10.40am and hope to see you there.



Richard Peaver
587486

Angela Turner

From the Treasurer

Thanks to a grant from The National Lottery Fund, we have been able to purchase a 'fogging machine', to be shared with the Village Hall, which will enable large spaces to be disinfected, if necessary, before hosting gatherings that would involve many people. At the same time, we have acquired a contactless card reader that allows collections in church, or any other donations, to be made by credit or debit card. Collections in church (up to £20 per individual donation) thus made are eligible for Gift Aid, under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, without the need for any form to be filled in. Other donations (ie made outside the church building) would be eligible for Gift Aid in the normal way, if a Gift Aid declaration has been completed. The card reader is linked to the church bank account by a confidential password, so even if (Heaven forbid!) it were to be stolen, a crook would only be able to donate money to the church!

Additional funding was provided by TNLf for casters to be affixed to the central pews to allow them to be moved if necessary, so that community events could take place in the church. A further amount was allocated towards heating the building for the rest of this year.

Richard Peaver

Village Hall News

Our quiz night proved to be a successful and enjoyable evening and it was lovely to get back into the hall and not see a mask in sight! This year, we will not be holding our traditional Christmas party, but instead, on Saturday 11th December between 2.00 and 6.00pm we will be open for tea, coffee, mulled wine, mince pies, etc, so please come and join us for some Christmas cheer and a chin-wag. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.

Jim Frost

Edgefield Fuel Fund Distribution

The Trustees will distribute a payment of £25 per eligible household in the village hall on Saturday 4th December between 11.00am and 12noon. No payments will be made outside these hours. Covid 19 requirements: face masks will not be compulsory.

To be eligible: (a) you must have reached the age of 60 years; (b) you must have been permanently resident in the Parish of Edgefield for five years and be a resident on the day of distribution; (c) you must apply in person; (d) the infirm or incapacitated may send a representative who must bring a written authority signed by the person who qualifies.

Please note that the distribution of funds is at the discretion of the Trustees. Rude and abusive behaviour is not acceptable and is likely to result in a refusal to release a payment to an applicant or their proxy.

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 Y Gibson, £25 K Hurrell, £10 M Thody £5 M Williams, M Thody, M Sewell

Welcome

To Danny Bullen who has moved into the Knoll. We hope he will be happy in Hempstead. We also welcome David and Lesley Lennox who will be moving into Marl pits.

David Durst will be ninety-nine on November 8th! Many congratulations to him and all best wishes for a very Happy Birthday. David, his wife Margaret and their daughter Jenny came to live in Marl pits in the early 1970s and they took an active part in village life for many years. Margaret died in 2010 and David stayed on until about two years ago, when he went to live at Letheringsett Hall.

Music in Hempstead Friday 10th December at 3.40pm Beethoven's *Wind Sextet*.

Our Bus Shelter

We feel it fitting to give Jack Parfitt a thankful mention
For taking on a task, well overdue, of his very own invention
He has single-handedly upgraded our rather sad little bus shelter
Returning it to its former glory, it now looks a right little "belter"
If we care for it, it could last for many more years to come
Providing our parishioners with protection from the pouring rain or the blazing sun.
So thanks again from us villagers to our benefactor Jack,
Much deserving of our collective appreciation and a huge pat on the back

TS

Norfolk Churches Cycle Ride

Once again Hempstead has excelled – with our exceptionally generous sponsors and enthusiastic cyclists we have raised just under £5,000. Thank you to everyone who has contributed – our cyclists Ian Summers, Buster and Bruce Hannah, Charles and Lorne Inglis and friends Robbie Hayes and William Jolly, and Airlie Inglis and Diane Collier who manned the church throughout the day to offer refreshments to visiting participants. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this remarkable achievement.

Y

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Shaun Boyhan, £10 Roger Legge, £5 Pauline Wooff

Thanks

Matlaske Parish Council would like to thank Ian Fitzpatrick-Swallow for the work he has done to our village sign. It is great to see it upright again.

Church Clear-Up

We had a clear-up day in church and churchyard on 27th September. The altar was moved forward in the sanctuary, so that the celebrant can face the congregation. This revealed, alas, several dead birds. They had found their way under the table but could not get out. The grave slabs underfoot are rather uneven, so these will need attention too, lest a human end up under the table. In the churchyard, a memorial bench was scrubbed clean (though the woodwork still needs treating), several graves were tidied and lots of dead branches were removed from the historic graves of Mr and Mrs Bumfrey, early Victorian leaders of the Matlaske Primitive Methodists.

History Trail

Plans are being drawn up for a Heritage Lottery bid for funds to create a history trail around church and churchyard, the centrepiece of which will be the grave of the Revd Thomas Settle (1555-1622), Rector of Matlaske and Barningham Winter, and author of a rather stern catechism, who as a young man was an ardent congregationalist. He was kept in prison for many years by the Archbishop of Canterbury and was lucky in fact not to be executed like some of his fellow radicals. He eventually conformed and found a refuge in this tranquil part of Norfolk (possibly with the help of the Paston family of Barningham Hall), though his strange jottings in the church register suggest a mind not entirely at rest. Either that, or he took up calligraphy as a hobby.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Plumstead

In a month of many comings and goings and changing of seasons I am delighted to be taking over as village correspondent. I would like to express the gratitude that we all feel to Mary Lintott for all her hard work over her time in the role. We wish Mary and John all the very best for their new adventures in Devon and look forward to hearing their news from the south in due course.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Farewell Evensong 26th October

Sunday 26th September was a special day and an emotional day in Plumstead. The Patronal Service of Evensong enlivened by incense from Jordan was followed by a get together of over 30 people to say farewell and thank you to John and Mary Lintott who have lived at Church Farm House for nearly 35 years and have given themselves so generously to events and projects in Plumstead. We will miss their wonderful enthusiasm and humour but their spirit of community will be a lasting legacy for Plumstead. We wish you well for the next chapter of your lives somewhere in Devon!

Emma Stimpson



The farewell get-together for John and Mary Lintott
Garden and Churchyard. Keeping the numbers up results in perhaps three cuts a year. Mower and fuel is supplied. Please email Nick Fulford: nickfulford@hotmail.com"

Plumstead Church Bookstall

It has been said that "a room without books is like a body without a soul". So where better to have a book store than in a church! Thanks to a very generous donation of good quality books from John and Mary Lintott (and CDs as well), 'The Good Book Stall' in Plumstead Church is bursting with a wide range of books to keep you occupied in the cosy fireside evenings ahead. At three pounds a book it's a bargain – and we have plenty of books to add to the collection. We would love to display works written by villagers: poems, short stories, anything (anonymous if you want). Who knows, one day we may have a famous Plumstead Literary Society of our own. Why not!

Keith Harding

Coffee & Chat in the Church

These meetings will continue through November at 10.30am on Mondays, all are very welcome.

Sponsored Cycle Ride

Eleanor Faulkner would like to thank all who sponsored her for the Cycle Ride. Through JustGiving and with local donations, she has raised £591 this year, most of which will be Gift Aided. Half of this money will come back to the church with the rest going to The Norfolk Churches Trust.

Remembrance Service

There will be a Remembrance service, in church, on Sunday 14th November, starting at 10.45am. This will be followed by refreshments in the church.

Village equipment

The village furniture and catering equipment has been stored in Matthew Sewell's buildings for several years, but he now needs the space. We are very grateful to him for having the use of his building for so long. Thomas Courtauld has kindly offered us the use of one of his small barns and so we plan to move the items on Friday 5th November. Offers of help on that day will be gratefully received – contact Eleanor on 577868.

Welcome

As Mary and John depart we are delighted to welcome a new family to Church Farmhouse. Nick, Flora, Jago, Gussie and Romy move in on October 22nd. On behalf of the village I would like to wish them all the best in their new home and look forward to seeing them around the village once they have settled in.

With the departure of John Lintott, there is a wonderful opportunity for a volunteer to take his place on the grass cutting rota cutting the grass on the Flagpole

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Norfolk Churches Trust

Charles Tyndall has asked that anyone who is raising money for the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike and Stride fundraiser in cash with a form from the NCT please deliver the form and the money to him by 1st November posted to Cottleston, Heydon Road, Corpusty. The quicker alternative is to use Justgiving or go through the NCT website page. Thank you.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Village Litter Pick

The next litter pick has been scheduled for Saturday 6th November at 10am. Please meet by the phone box at Corpusty Green. All volunteers will be warmly welcomed. Some picking paraphernalia will be available, but it is recommended that you bring suitable gloves with you, and ideally a spare bin bag.

Thanks

Mrs Audrey Lincoln of Post Office Lane, Saxthorpe wishes to thank all of her friends who have sent cards and good wishes to aid her recovery during a long spell in hospital. In her words, "Everyone has been so kind, thank you."

St Andrew's Church Events

All Souls' Service 2nd November

We are delighted to welcome Revd Canon Andy Bryant from Norwich Cathedral, who will be leading the All Souls' Service at Saxthorpe Church on Tuesday 2nd November at 6pm offering an opportunity to remember all those from our communities that are loved but no longer seen.

Remembrance Day Service 14th November

This year's Remembrance Day service will be led by Heather and Merlin and will take place at 10:45 am.. Please join us to show appreciation for the generations who gave so much. As is customary, a collection will be raised towards the support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Toys and Tins with a Visit from Santa 27th November

In readiness for the Christmas season, our popular Toys and Tins service will take place on at 4 pm with singing provided by our local Brownies group. Please bring new UNWRAPPED children's gifts or confectionery tins/tubs in support of the Salvation Army Toys and Tins appeal. More information on the range of gifts can be found at www.salvationarmy.org.uk/toys-and-tins-appeal

Santa will be joining us by the Christmas tree in Church where he will be presenting a small gift to each child present.

Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve 24th December

We are very happy to announce that the ever-popular Matlaske Benefice Candle Light Service will take place again this year inside the church. The service will start at 5.30pm and you'll need to be there early to get a seat! It is the most wonderful event to start the Christmas festivities.

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!

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www.hayesandstorr.co.uk

Bure Valley Community Centre
Itteringham

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Indoor Sports/Recreation etc.
For bookings etc call 01263 587659

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire

Facilities include tables & chairs,
plates & cutlery for up to 80; stage;
overhead projector suitable for films
and computer presentations
Contact Richard Roy 01263 715851
richardjohnroy@gmail.com



Saturday 9 / 23 Oct + 6 / 20 Nov 5-8pm
Edgefield Village Hall
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The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



November can be (if the weather is on our side) a great time to catch up, take stock and set the scene for the new year. So here's hoping we will have some crisp clear days to get ourselves on track!

Firstly the veg garden: last call for garlic to be planted, but the main focus is on clearing weeding and prepping beds for the next season. It's a good time to cover raised beds in organic matter so that it breaks down over the winter months. Keep clearing and tidying and if you get a dismal wet day and you still want to keep on track, then have a good sort out of your potting shed – you will thank yourself come the new year when you have lots to do outside and a nicely sorted shed to work in or from. If we are still in the shed, then do either service your mower now or get it booked in so again you are all sorted for the new year. It's worth remembering for these final cuts of the year that you can raise the blade on your mower just so it keeps the lawn in check and tidy but doesn't catch any worm casts in the lawn, that can make the lawn look muddy and unhappy. Another good tip for your lawn is to trim up all the edges; it adds a good level of definition and can make the whole garden look more together. Garden furniture can be safely tucked away now too, it's worth casting an eye over everything to see if anything needs repairing or replacing, better to do that now when you might have some rainy days to sort them out!

This month is a good time to check in with any paths you have round the garden, if they are made from brick/stone it's a good idea to hose them down and then brush sharp sand over them to reduce the build-up of algae etc.

I am sure we mention this every year, but do give some thought to setting bare root trees or shrubs, yes you have to be so much more patient but we are quite convinced that you do get a better tree or shrub at the end of it. In our experience, bare root get going much better than larger potted trees, who seem to pause for several months before they get themselves established. It's also extremely satisfying and much much cheaper! Your patience will be repaid and if you do suffer any losses, it's not the big knock-back that losing a larger tree would be.

Finally it's time to plant your tulip bulbs, a good positive job to get done which will be joy to behold in the spring!

This month's question is from Peter Davis who asks as he missed pruning his plum tree during the summer is it OK to prune it now? Sadly not, Peter! Plum trees are particularly prone to silver leaf that enter the tree through any open wounds e.g. fresh pruning cuts. As the silver leaf spores are active from September to April it's far better to be patient and wait till next May at the earliest, Hope that helps.

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