

Church & Village News

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

October 2021



Autumnal Fields - Saxthorpe
Photograph by Roger Last

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



After the (hopefully...) gentle golden hazy lead-in of September, October can be a bit of a wake-up call. Days are shorter the nights (dare I say it...) are drawing in. There is still LOADS to do in the garden but perhaps with a slight more sense of planning with the restricted hours. Still plenty to enjoy in October – in recent years we have noticed more and more the really good skies and rainbows bestowed on us during this month, a super backdrop to a good time spent in the garden.

Plenty to do in the veg patch: any areas that are not planted up for the winter can be mulched for the New Year. This month is a good time to start clearing away any support canes no longer in use. Pack them away well so they are in good shape for next year. Round up any seed trays or plant pots no longer in use, clean them up and pack away. Much better to do those sorts of jobs now on a cheerful day, than on a grey cold day in February when you're scrabbling round for a seed tray. This is also a good month to set garlic, so pop that on your to-do list if you're a fan, as garlic needs a stretch of colder temperatures so that the cold and frost can trigger the division of the bulb into cloves. If you are over wintering anything that needs a bit more TLC then do take the time to pop cloches over them now to help keep them warmer.

Now we are off to the cutting garden, a rather grand title for the four raised beds we have set aside for flowers this year, but the dahlias have excelled themselves this year! After a really slow start we have happily been inundated with blooms, three of which have really stood out, Con Amore with a lovely deep wine red colour, Thomas Edison (an absolute joy of a dahlia) and finally Café au Lait, which is so beautiful with a range of subtle tones that just look stunning in a bunch. We would thoroughly recommend all three! Just do keep dead-heading them to get the most out of them before we get hit by frosts.

October is also a good month for moving shrubs and trees (the ground is still warm enough that the roots won't be so adversely affected) so do take a moment to walk round your garden to see if anything would benefit from being relocated. A good question to ask yourself if everything is thriving where it's positioned, if it's not then consider moving it. A shrub or tree that is happy and thriving will be that more resistant to disease etc. The old adage 'right plant, right place' really does ring true!

Almost finally I feel I need to comment on our lawn: it's been rather telling that with lower overall temperatures and increased rainfall it's never looked so happy, it completely bypassed the slightly sorry-for-itself end of summer look, and has been rudely healthy, really lovely to look at. I guess there had to be some compensation for those on repeat rainy grey days in August. Just somewhat tough on the person tasked with mowing...

Now finally this month's question is regarding rhubarb. Ann Tomes asks how to revitalise her rhubarb patch. October is a great month for sorting rhubarb, so using a good sharp spade, cut into quarters and replant the healthiest looking clumps - Good luck!

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

Baconsthorpe Treasure Hunt



Sunday 3rd October 2021

11am - 4pm

By foot, by bike or by car

£5.00 per group

Starting and finishing at Ash Tree Farm

where Refreshments will be available

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Baconsthorpe

Treasure Prize for Winning Team



For more information contact Corinne on 01263 577263

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Parish Council Chairs

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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

Local MP

Duncan Baker MP
Tudor House, Grammar School Lane
North Walsham, NR28 9JH
duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk
<https://www.duncanbaker.org.uk/>
Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm
01692 557140

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Steffan Aquarone
steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk
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* Judy is currently on placement until ordained Deacon 25.9.21

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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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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

OCTOBER

Fri 1	6.00pm	Baconthorpe Cinema - Misbehaviour	Village Hall
Sun 3	11.00am	Baconthorpe Treasure Hunt	Ash Tree Farm
Sun 3	6.30pm	Edgefield Harvest Supper	Village Hall
Sat 9	5.00pm	Edgefield Lawless Pizza	Village Hall
Fri 16	6.30pm	Baconthorpe Supper & Quiz Night	Village Hall
Sat 16	7.00pm	Edgefield Quiz Night	Village Hall
Sat 23	10.00am	Plumstead Dahlia Festival until 31 October	Church
Sat 23	5.00pm	Edgefield Lawless Pizza	Village Hall
Fri 29	6.30pm	Baconthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

Clash Diary 2021

Nov 1	Hempstead 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

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



Holt Library

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

Mobile Library Van

28 October / 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

21 October / 18 November / 16 December			
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.

Is The Parish Church Worth Saving? - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All

Climate change affects people differently – you may find it pretty easy to ignore it, but it has a catastrophic effect on other communities around the world.

I wonder where you sit on the climate debate? The above comment was written by a young person in a report entitled *Burning Down the House: How the Church could lose young people over climate* in 2020 (www.wearetearfund.org/burning-down-the-house). For me, this report is both concerning and inspiring. It is, I would argue, a prophetic call to action from a section of society which can too easily be dismissed as naive.

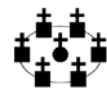
Let me be clear: listening to young people is vital (cf. Luke 18.15-17).

Those writing the report surveyed 630 Christian young people, aged between 14 and 19. And besides the powerful quotations there were two aspects which I would like to highlight:

- A. When the young people were asked which global issues are most troubling, their top three were:
 1. homophobia (72%)
 2. climate change (62%)
 3. poverty (61%)
- B. When the young people were asked for recommendations they noted:
 - Acknowledge the issue [of climate change]
 - Don't dismiss our involvement as trying to be cool, fashionable or worldly
 - Use your gifts to act justly and not see justice as a cause for only some types of Christians
 - Listen to us
 - Support us emotionally and in prayer
 - Take a risk and publicly support actions like the school strikes
 - Don't be afraid
 - Encourage and recognise our activism in church, but don't expect us to do all the work ourselves
 - Divest from fossil fuels
 - Teach about this on Sundays and other church settings
 - Create a culture where responding to climate change is central to what the church does"

I write as rain pounds on my study roof; conscious that Harvest has not all been gathered; knowing that many areas of the world are threatened by floods, and that our beloved Norfolk coastline is at risk.

Caring for God's creation is part of the Christian way of life. You may have noticed that some of our churches have been awarded 'bronze' by Eco-Church (all should have this award soon).



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for October

3 rd Harvest Festival and Trinity XVIII		
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
5.00pm	Benefice Harvest Festival	Edgefield
10 th		
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Matlaske
17 th		
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Hempstead
24 th		
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
	No Evening Prayer	
31 st All Saints		
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead (Patronal service)
3.00pm	Evening Prayer	Plumstead
2 nd All Souls		
6.00pm	Canon Andy Bryant Canon Pastor at Norwich Cathedral	Saxthorpe
7 th Third before Advent		
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
Wednesday 6 th 10.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe		

This award recognises that the Benefice are trying - as best we can - to respond to the situation by undertaking a stringent "eco" audit of all we do, from what we pray about to how we manage our buildings and graveyards.

When we utter Jesus' words - "Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven" - we place before God today's actions, praying that they may prepare the world for tomorrow.

I pray that this Harvest-tide we renew our commitment to become better custodians of this incredible world we inhabit, for '[w]hen the world looks back at the church in 200 years' time, will they think the church helped to stop climate change or were part of the problem? Will they view the church as a positive ... catalyst of change, or [as] outdated?'

David

Baconsthorpe Village Hall Cinema

September - December 2021

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

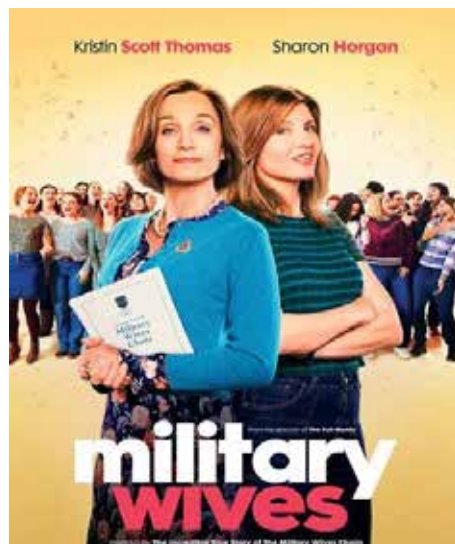
Tickets £5.00 on the door
Licensed Bar from 6.30pm
Film Starts 7.30pm



Friday 1st October 2021



Friday 5th November 2021



Friday 3rd December 2021

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 N Hems, £25 R Hall, £10 H Steel, £5 R Hall, T Venes, J Cooper

Treasure Hunt

Don't forget this is happening on Sunday 3rd October, 11am to 4pm starting and finishing at Ash Tree Farm. By foot, bike or car £5 per group. Refreshments will be available. All proceeds to the church.



Corinne Youngs
577263

Country Mice Play Group

After being closed for a year and a half due to COVID The Country Mice Group restarted on 7th September. Three mothers and their toddlers turned up, and this week eight mothers and their children came along. These children have had little or no contact with other children for most of their lives and this is a wonderful opportunity to socialise. Equally the parents/guardians can get together, have a chat and share the joys and problems of bringing up young children. There is a large selection of wonderful toys to play with and everyone enjoys half time refreshments.

Anyone with a baby or toddler is very welcome to join this group. If you have any queries please phone me on 01263 577263.

Village Hall News

The Pop-Up Pub continues on the last Friday of every month, with the bar open from 6pm and food from 6.30pm. On 29 October we will be serving Lamb Curry and a Vegetable Curry. Cash only.

The Film Night continues on the first Friday of every month (Sept – April). On 1 October it will feature *Misbehaviour*, in which a group of women hatch a plan to disrupt the 1970 Miss World competition. Starring Keira Knightley and Keeley Hawes. Bar opens 6.30pm, film at 7.30pm, £5 (cash on the door).

Quiz Night will be held on Friday 15 October, from 6.30pm. Tickets £5 to include a pasta supper. Bar will open at 6.30pm, supper at 7pm, followed by the Quiz. To book a table please call Emma Youngs on 07884 432412.

We still have some numbers for the 200 Club available. Top prize each month is now £50, for just £1 per month subscription. Contact Sarah Wilson on 01263 577200 for details.

Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

A lovely new wooden seat which overlooks the beautiful view down to the lake has been placed at St Mary's Church, Barningham in memory of Maureen Margaret McGinty. Maureen was the beloved daughter of John and Mary Hook who lived for many many years in Matlaske. Huge thanks to Maureen's family for giving this gift to the church which I know will be greatly appreciated by many people.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

Several people from the village took part in this year's sponsored Bicycle Ride for Norfolk Churches Trust. Our church will receive half of their sponsorship money, which is such a help to us. Thank you very, very much to all of you who took part.

We were delighted that Judith Bank's last Benefice service was in Edgefield, before her move south to nearer to her family. We were very sorry to see her go, and hope she will find a lovely place in which to settle. She has done so much for our parish over the years.

On Sunday 3rd October, at 5pm, we will have our Harvest Festival service, followed by our Harvest Supper in the church. We would love to receive home-grown fruit, vegetables and flowers to display that evening, to show our thanks to God for all his bounty. We would also welcome any gifts for our Supper such as tomatoes, cucumbers, home-made bread?! pâtés and fruit crumbles. Could you please let Emma and myself know if you can contribute? If you have nothing from the garden, perhaps you might like to bring tins or dried food like pasta, which can go to our local Food Bank. We hope to see lots of you there!



Richard Peaver
587486



Church Chain Gang

The Open Gardens weekend in June, kindly organised by Alison Mawson and her team of helpers, raised a total of £3,756 for parish funds. We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped in many different ways to make this event a great success, and in particular to those who opened their gardens for the occasion.

Angela Turner

Greening Our Community

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a 'Greening Our Community' grant of £500 from the Norfolk Community Foundation to encourage greater diversity of flora and fauna in our churchyard by the addition of bug hotels, bird boxes, native seeds and plants. It is our intention to purchase locally wherever possible, including the Cromer-based charity 'About With Friends.' If anyone would like to be involved with this project, please email lesleyrainsford@yahoo.co.uk.

Lesley Rainsford



Village Hall News

A reminder to those who purchased tickets for the Quiz Night originally to have been held last Spring. It is going ahead on Saturday 16th October at 7.00pm. A light meal of soup and bread will be served and there will be a licensed bar. We hope to see you there.

Jim Frost

Lawless Pizza will be cooking pizza on the village green on Sat 9th - Sat 23rd Oct and Sat 6th Nov from 5–8pm each day. Details and orders via their Facebook page or phone 07957 773488.

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 M Gurney, £25 G Matthews, £10 P Tomlinson £5 N Sanders, M Weir, G Harris

Our bus shelter has been smartened up. Many thanks to Jack Parfitt.

Good wishes to Irene Bassett who has been in hospital. She fell and broke her hip but is home now and doing well.

Mike Thody, who gives all his proceeds of art sold at the Hempstead Arts Exhibition to Hempstead All Saints church, is reopening his studio for classes from Tuesday 14th September. Contact Mike on 01263 711282 or email mikthody@aol.com

The Village Hall Committee is happy to confirm that as is customary the proceeds of the recent very successful Hempstead Village Fete have been shared equally between the Church and the Village Hall.

Richard Roy Hon Sec

What a wonderful fete we had this year, a record attendance and proceeds, shared again between the Village Hall and Hempstead All Saints Church. Our thanks to Yvette and Liz and all those that helped organise the day and worked so hard to achieve the results.

MRT

A Very Special Place to Live

What an amazing village we live in. Hempstead has hosted three major events masterminded by villagers for the village. So much help has been given without which they could never have taken place. Support was also given by people outside the village – an amazing contribution and tribute to the enthusiasm to be found in Hempstead. The first two (Open Gardens and the Fete) were essentially outdoor events and, with the lifting of most of the Covid prevention restrictions they did not pose too many organisational problems. The event that has just taken place was Hempstead Arts Exhibition which was held inside the Village Hall. Do we go ahead or don't we? The decision was taken as late as possible but I'm glad we did go ahead. It was a marvellous opportunity for artists to exhibit and for everyone to enjoy the wonderful creativity of 29 artists and sample the brilliant refreshments. Despite having to abandon the Preview Party we still made over £2,600 for Church funds.

What a buzz there was in the air for all these events. Thank you to everyone whatever your role, masterminding various aspects of the events and for all contributions whether major or minor. Well done. This all makes Hempstead a very special place to live. For anyone not involved but who would like to be in the future – please don't wait to be asked – just get in touch when the time comes. All help is always gratefully received.

Ian Summers



Diana Spalton
711117

Hempstead Arts



Hempstead Arts first drew breath at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in 2014 and, last year's COVID restrictions notwithstanding, has taken place annually ever since, raising much-needed funds for our Church. The quid pro quo arrangement we have with artists and other crafts-people for providing a vehicle in which to show, and hopefully sell, their work sees the Church receiving 15% of the value of work sold, with some artists donating all of their proceeds, for which we continue to be very grateful.

Having secured artists for yet another year, Saturday, like much of the two, three, has it even been four months preceding, dawned gloomy, but the Village Hall was buzzing even before we formally opened at 10am and by late morning the sun had come out - and stayed out the whole week-end. It was lovely to see so many people sitting outside beneath the marquees, which were erected to protect people from the rain that we felt must inevitably fall, but in the event prevented sun-burn, and with bunting fluttering in the light breeze it was a lovely, happy week-end that raised £2,684.68 net. Thank-you so much to everyone who helped to put on the show and, of course, to those of you who came and spent your hard-earned money! The sum raised will contribute to the costs associated with improvements planned for the Church, which will include the installation of toilet facilities suitable for people with disabilities. An event such as this requires many months of intensive planning and, indeed, work. Notwithstanding the necessarily early approaches that must be made to artists and other crafts-people to secure the goods that will be required, the design, printing and distribution of associated leaflets must also be done early, along with the placing of advertising boards and securing coverage in the press.

What might be termed 'last-minute' work takes place during the week before, when the mountings required for all the displays are extracted from a nearby barn, erected and re-painted; paintings hung; and craft-work set out. Some 40 cakes were baked (and eaten) this year, most of them the day before (baked, not eaten), and a new menu of savoury foods designed, with bacon butties proving particularly popular. All this, of course, takes time, and there is no doubt that this not inconsiderable load would be much lightened if we had a greater 'workforce' to call upon. So here's an advert: if you have the skills required (handy with a paint-brush, electric drill, and screw-driver would be very welcome, for instance, plus a bit of brawn - or a light touch in the kitchen department - perhaps you have both!), we would love to hear from you. You won't get paid but you will get to know your neighbours better, and wine and beer flow in a convivial atmosphere at the end of Sunday afternoon once everything that was put up during the week before has been taken down.

And finally, although, in a way, most importantly, a most sincere apology. Those of us 'on duty' in the hall, so to speak, became aware that a number of vehicles had blocked The Street as things drew to a close on Sunday. We took urgent steps to rectify the matter as quickly as possible and are really very sorry indeed for the inconvenience that was clearly caused to some of you. Please be assured that plans are already afoot for next year to prevent it happening again.

Diane Collier, Secretary to the PCC

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Jim Shepherd, £10 Maurice de Bunsen, £5 Rob Whitwell

Eco-Church

St Peter's, Matlaske has won the Bronze Award for worship and teaching, management of buildings and land, community and global engagement and lifestyle. But this is just a start. Ambitious plans are being drawn up to improve our stewardship of natural resources.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Plumstead

This is my last piece that I shall be writing and I am so grateful to all of you who have shared news of our village and enabled a wonderful sense of community to continue to flourish – particularly during the last 18 months which has been challenging in many different ways for all of us. I am very pleased to let you all know that Harriet Wormald has agreed to take on the role of Village Correspondent. I am sure you will all support her with lots of information and stories to ensure that the magazine thrives. Like the swallows at this time of year we are travelling south west to Devon and I shall look forward to hearing news of Plumstead via the magazine!



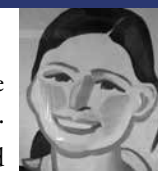
Mary Lintott
577718

Pumpkins & Dahlias - Saturday October 23rd – Sunday 31st October

Excitement is growing for the Pumpkin and Dahlia Festival. As with last year's event children and adults are invited to bring their carved pumpkins to be displayed. Any time from Monday 25th October. Pumpkins will be given to families in Plumstead for this competition. Don't forget to label them otherwise you might lose your chance of winning the competition! There will be prizes! There will also be craft activities for children available every day, organized by Kirsty O'Leary Leeson. Donations of dahlias and pumpkins to decorate the Church would be very welcome. Please contact Diana Muir on diana.muir2@gmail.com. Following an early Evensong on October 31st tea cakes will be provided to complete this lovely Autumn celebration.

Grateful thanks to those who welcomed cyclists and walkers to the church during the sponsored cycle Ride on Sept 11th. Eleanor managed to visit 10 churches and travel 16 miles – a record for her. Thanks to all who sponsored her.

Coffee mornings on Mondays have been enjoyed throughout September, with people coming when they can and enjoying time together. Do come along during October. Some beautifully made craft items are for sale in the church, as well as books to peruse or buy.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Broadland Housing Development

On 26 August the parish council held a public meeting to hear and discuss the views of parishioners about the proposed housing development on Norwich Road.

Various concerns were expressed, principally relating to potential flooding, and traffic and utilities issues. These have been recorded and are to be raised with Broadland Housing at a meeting on 17 September, after the copy date for this issue. If there is further information to pass on following that meeting, it will be reported next month.

New Parish Council Clerk

As Kirsty Cotgrove has been appointed Town Clerk of Reepham, we wish to thank her for her excellent service and wish her well. We have appointed a new clerk to the Parish Council Clerk, Melanie Eversfield, who will start on 27 September.

SOS – Organist Needed

The Parochial Church Council reports that at times we have no organist to play at our services.

If you are an organist and would like to fill the void, please contact the PCC secretary, Jill Perry-Warnes at: perrywarnes514@btinternet.com.

The Bure Valley Quilters & Stitchers

After a break of 18 months due to Covid19 the group recommenced their meetings on 13 September. They meet on the second and fourth Mondays, 2pm till 4pm in Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall. Refreshments are provided and the fee is £10 per term.

New members are always welcome; bring along a sewing or knitting project and join us to sew and chat. For further information contact Maureen Kimbley on 01263 587705

Finally, a fond farewell to Judith Banks

Judith moved last month, she writes:

My warm thanks to all the folk in Saxthorpe, Corpusty and beyond, who have given compassion and caring to Michael and me. You live in a beautiful part of Norfolk and I shall miss you and the scenery. We have had the bungalow since 1987 but only lived in it permanently since 2000. In that time we have made some enduring friendships and I will try to keep in touch. The next few months may be a little busy looking for a new home, and also an active church, but I will continue to pray for your health and success of all or some of your dreams. There will be rough patches, but they can be overcome. To quote Yehudi Menuhin, "One's life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others by means of love, friendship and compassion." You have fulfilled that to us in many ways. Thank you.

FRIDAY EVENING 'CHILL-OUT' AT THE CHURCH

St Michael's Church Plumstead
From 5.30pm to 6.30pm

September 17th, 24th
October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and beyond



Do you fancy a get together
at the end of the week?
A chance to chat and unwind.
Meet in the church, bring a
drink and nibbles plus a bag
for your rubbish and
a contribution to heating.

All welcome!

Friday Evening Chill Out

The August Pond evenings are converting into Chill Out at the Church, from 5.30pm for an hour on Friday evenings.

Bring a drink and a nibble and enjoy an end of week catch up!

Parish Council

Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Plumstead Parish Council is sad to announce the retirement of our Clerk, Carolyn Price.

She has served our village for seven years charmingly and efficiently and in that time put in place systems needed to operate in today's world. For example, accounts are entered onto a spreadsheet, we have internet banking, she has put in place our website, which is easy to update.

She has kindly offered to assist the new incumbent to settle in. The details of the job can be found on our website: <https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc> Perhaps this would suit someone in our group of villages with administrative experience working from home. It has been a joy working with Carolyn and we thank her sincerely.

Pumpkin and Dahlia Display

St Michael & All Angels Church Plumstead

Saturday 23rd - Sunday 31st October

Pop-in Anytime

Prize for the best carved pumpkin
Guess the Weight Competition

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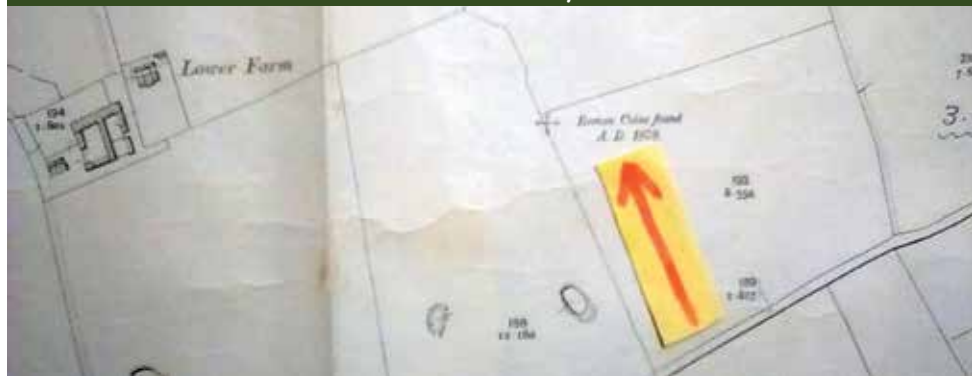
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History Watch - Roman treasure unearthed in 1878

Arthur Pentney



I must thank the Ordnance Survey for bringing the above event to my attention, as their survey of 1885 shows precisely where the hoard was located in Baconsthorpe. Situated midway between Lower Farm (now Breck Farm) and the Lower Bodham New Road, in the corner of a field, the location is still very remote even by today's standards.

The discovery came about when farm workers were ploughing in a field owned by Mr John Thurston Mott of Barningham Hall. The plough struck an earthenware jar, breaking off the top, and the coins were then discovered – some half being appropriated and dispersed before the find was known to Mr Mott.

An eminent archaeologist, Mr Flaxman Spurrell, became involved, and thanks to him and his efforts, and those of a Miss M A Hogg who arranged a cabinet of 500 coins for Mr Mott, we are able to assess both the quantity and age of the hoard, its condition, and also the date when it was buried.

The coins covered the reigns of 25 Roman emperors over just 34 years, from Gordianus Pius III to Aurelian. The earliest coin could be dated to 238 AD and the latest to 272 AD, so we can assume that the hoard's burial also dates to around 272. Mr Spurrell estimated that the coins before being dispersed weighed about one hundredweight (50kg), and amounted to not less than 17,000 in total, of which some 9,000 remained. Some of those dispersed were known to have been offered for sale in Norwich and London, and Mr Spurrell was even offered some himself, "at high prices"!

The earliest examples were in better condition, being silver, and after cleaning, some looked as if they had just been issued by the mint. The later coins, though, are of billon, a copper alloy with just a small amount of silver, the Romans having debased their coinage over this later period. Some fine specimens were identified by Miss Hogg, and others were of considerable rarity. The most numerous were from the emperors Postumus and Victorinus, and there were just four from the start of Aurelian's reign. We may conjecture that these coins were buried by a retreating rebel army, or perhaps they were an offering to the gods – of course, we can never be sure.

857 of the coins are now exhibited in the Norwich Castle Museum should any readers wish to examine them, and a further 509 were deposited for examination by Sir Charles Mott-Radcliffe in 1978, a century after their discovery.

Grateful thanks are due to Dr Adrian Marsden, numismatist at Norwich Museum for much of the information provided for this article.