

Church & Village News

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

December 2020 & January 2021



Christmas Trees at Blickling Hall
Photograph by James Deveson

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Newsletter Team

Editor Michael McMahon
mjmcm25@gmail.com

Copy Date third Wednesday of the month
Jan 20 / 17 Feb / 17 March

Design and Advertising Karen Hall 577547
Print Barnwell Print Ltd, Aylsham 732767
Distribution Mary Lintott 577718
Treasurer Corinne Youngs 577263

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

Village Correspondents

Baconsthorpe corinne@avyoungs.com	Corinne Youngs 577263
Barningham Winter s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk	Sara Buxton 577207
Edgefield richardpeaver@gmail.com	Richard Peaver 587486
Hempstead dianaspalton@talktalk.net	Diana Spalton 711117
Matlaske jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com	Marion Shepherd 577521
Plumstead mary.lintott57@btinternet.com	Mary Lintott 577718
Saxthorpe with Corpusty saxthorpecastle@gmail.com	Sophia Hodgson 587510

Parish Council Chairs

Baconsthorpe	Jonathan Cooper	577527
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Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Imogen Waterson	587610

District Councillors

Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe
Andrew Brown 07970 298695
andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead
Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306
Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Parish Council Websites or Email Addresses

Baconsthorpe	http://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc
Edgefield	https://edgefieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Hempstead	hempsteadpc@gmail.com
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 558458

County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone
steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk
01603 327827

Church People

Rector Revd Canon David Longe	577252
Lay Minister Gill Peat	734226
Lay Minister Judy Rosser	587584
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf	577292
Church Wardens	
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
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What's On

DECEMBER

Fri 4	11.00pm	Hempstead Sapling Planting	Village Hall
Mon 7	6.30pm	Plumstead PC Meeting	Plumstead Church
Sat 11	11.00am	Edgefield Fuel Fund Distribution	Village Hall

Mobile Library Van

24 Dec / 21 Jan / 18 Feb

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

17 Dec / 14 Jan / 11 Feb

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

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Village Contacts for Co-ordinating Help & Support

Barningham Winter & Matlaske

Revd David Longe 01263 577252 rector@matlaske.org.uk
Marion Shepherd 01263 577521 jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com

Baconsthorpe

Harry Steel 01263 577686 harrysteel73@gmail.com
Corinne Youngs 01263 577263 corinne@avyoungs.com

Edgefield

Emma Cletheroe 01263 587049 ecletheroe@live.co.uk
Iain Mawson 01263 587236 iainmawson@hotmail.com
Richard Peaver 01263 587486 richardpeaver@gmail.com
Angela Turner 01263 587292 ajtuner@btinternet.com

Hempstead

Yvette Gibson 01263 712460 yvettegibson@pondhills.co.uk

Plumstead

Carolyn & Steve Price 01263 577401 clerkplumsteadparishcouncil@hotmail.com
Mary & John Lintott 01263 577718 mary.lintott57@btinternet.com

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Andrea Bell, Cathy Stern and Imogen Waterson
01263 587998 covidcommunityteam001@hotmail.com

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If anyone is in need of food please contact the following who can authorise vouchers for the local Foodbank (we can arrange for individuals to deliver food if necessary):

Revd David Longe 01263 577263 rector@matlaske.org.uk
Michael McMahon 07748 754550 mjmc25@gmail.com
Cathy Stern 01263 587014 cathy.duffy5@yahoo.com
Corinne Youngs 01263 577263 administraor@matlaske.org.uk

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.

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Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All

I want to offer a short reflection this month on that old familiar story, Joseph and Mary, and how the loneliness and difficulties they faced that first Christmas, turned to joy and hope. For, like us, they were unable to connect with their families, and yet somehow light and love suddenly sprung forth out of darkness.

Penning this, I can hear sceptical voices – that Christmas story is far-fetched? How can it be relevant? But I dare you – just for a moment – to put your sceptical concerns to one side and let your imagination run. After all, we are given an incredible ability to imagine, alongside our wonderful intellects.



Reflection

When Joseph learnt that Mary was having someone else's (God's) baby, he wanted to end the engagement. But, following a dream, he decided to marry her and take the baby as his own son. As she approaches the time for the birth, a decree comes out from the occupying Romans that Joseph must register his family in his home town, Bethlehem. (According to googlemaps* Bethlehem is some 156km from Nazareth which is at least a 36 hour walk.)

So Joseph, Mary and a donkey travel to Bethlehem. It must have been a dreadful journey. Not only can the Middle East be bitterly cold in the winter, but imagine Mary walking or being jolted riding the donkey. No doubt Mary and Joseph were plagued by questions – would they be robbed? What happens if they failed to register? How would they cope with the baby? Who will help Mary with the birth? Where is Mary's mother when she needs her? Will Joseph love the baby even though it is not his?

They arrive: cold, tired and alone. Relief turns to dismay as they are sent to a dirty, smelly stable. They are alone. There is no one to help them.

But were they alone? Suddenly, mysteriously, magically – Divinely – angels and shepherds pour into this stable. A new-born's cry echoes. Hearts burst with love. Hope is literally born into a hopeless situation; with it light and joy arrive and heaven and earth rejoice.

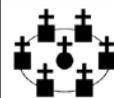
Dare we imagine this? Dare we imagine hope, joy and light arriving even when things are bleak? Are hope, joy and light here with us now? The Christmas story is that Jesus is not only called the Prince of Peace but also Emmanuel meaning God with us. God pours forth his (or her) son into the world, as a sign that we are not alone.

I haven't been able to publish any church services this month, but listen out on Christmas Eve because my goodness we will ring those bells across this Benefice, signalling Hope, Light and Love in this world, remembering Emmanuel, God is with us, and singing on our doorsteps *Silent Night*.

May God be with you all

David

*Have a look at the routes Google shows and you will see google avoids the West Bank. The reason for this is sad, but also a separate discussion.



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for December & January

Please contact Reverend Canon David Longe for further information on any of the events listed below or to be added to the Benefice Mailing List to keep up-to-date as we move into 2021.

6th Dec	Advent II	
10.30	Eucharist	Hempstead
13th	Advent III	
10.30	Eucharist	Plumstead
20th	Advent IV	
10.30	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
24th	Christmas Eve	
5.00	Carols at church (likely to be outside)	Saxthorpe
7.00	All Church Bells will peal - light a candle and sing <i>Silent Night</i> at your door	
11.00	Midnight Mass	Baconsthorpe
25th	Christmas Day	
10.45	Eucharist	Edgefield
27th	John the Apostle & Evangelist	
10.30	Eucharist	Matlaske
3rd January	Christmas II	
10.30	Eucharist (or Mattins)	Plumstead
10th	Baptism of Christ	
10.30	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
17th	Epiphany II	
10.30	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
24th	Epiphany III	
10.30	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
31st	Epiphany IV	
10.30	Eucharist	Edgefield
Wednesday Eucharists in Saxthorpe at 9am 2nd December / 6th January / 3rd February		
December Carol Singing Around the Villages at 5pm		
Sun 13 th	Edgefield meet at War Memorial	Wed 16 th Saxthorpe meet at Church
Mon 14 th	Plumstead meet at Church	Sun 20 th Baconsthorpe meet at Ash Tree Farm
Tues 15 th	Hempstead meet at Church	Mon 21 st Matlaske meet at Church
December Virtual Services - YouTube Channel - Matlaske Benefice		
13 th 5.00pm	Christingle Service - suitable for all children	and 25 th 10.00am Christmas Service
Advent Group - journey through advent exploring themes in the Bible		
10-11am 1 st , 8 th and 15 th December via Zoom please email for details		

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Early Post-War Memories: Life at Home

The seventh in a series of recollections by Arthur Pentney

Any illusion that the end of the war would turn the UK into a land of milk and honey was soon to be shattered. The country was bankrupt and two slogans from these early post-war years summed up the situation perfectly: 'Export or die', and 'Make do and Mend'. Rationing, at times even more severe than during wartime, was to continue until 1953. So it was 'business as usual' for most of the population, with just one bonus, the knowledge that you were no longer likely to be bombed out of house and home.

As a youngster, the economics of the period were lost on me, but certain memories remain that I think are relevant and worth recording:

Attending a church service at Baconsthorpe for the unveiling of the Second World War memorial.

Seeing and eating the first banana I had been given. Our mothers queued for hours to get them.

Remembering the Rev Tippen with his new car, its registration ending in 222. He must have received Divine help to get his hands on one, as most went for export to earn foreign currency.

The completion of the building of the school canteen at Baconsthorpe, with hot cooked meals available to children who used to walk home for their dinner.

Collecting 'Turf' cigarette cards consisting at the time of film stars, footballers, cricketers and railway engines. It was impossible to ever get a full set of fifty even if your father was on forty a day!

Seeing German and Italian prisoners of war working on local farms. Some did not get back home until 1948, and others chose to stay in the UK and set up home here.

Remembering the terrible winter of 1947. By comparison, the 'Beast from the East' was a fairly minor event. The 1947 winter still had snow here in April. As kids, we used to take sledges to the steep slope outside Town Barningham Rectory, trying to avoid the thorn bushes.

Recalling the day when sweets and chocolate came of the ration, sadly a temporary event. There was such a run on them that they were soon back on ration, much to the disgust of us kids.

When feeling hungry we would dig up a swede from a field and carve chunks off it with our shut knives.

1950, and civilisation dawned in Baconsthorpe with the coming of electricity. No more oil or Tilley lamps, and radios with their big batteries could be ditched, and maybe now an electric cooker or fire to make life a bit more enjoyable.

And also in 1950, the coming of the *Eagle* comic, with 'Dan Dare, Pilot of the Future' on the front page. More than a comic, more of an educational delight for us children, the *Eagle* was eagerly awaited each week. One million copies were run off for the initial first print, showing just how popular it was.

Then in 1952, piped water arrived in the village. Did it taste better than our well water? No!



On rare occasions we would travel to Norwich on Saturdays on the 25B service from Cromer. My main recollection of the city in those early post-war years was the terrible bomb damage, large areas of which had been cleared for car parks. Other trips to Norwich were to the first post-war pantomime at the Theatre Royal where all the audience joined in the big hit song of the time, Let him go, let him tarry. And going with my uncle Ray to Norwich speedway at The Firs. The machines raced on cinders at the time and being small and having to be close up to the boards to see anything I came home absolutely filthy, and needed two good washes to get cleaned up. All good fun, of course!

Gary Chapman

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Tony, another uncle, sometimes took me to Carrow Road to see Norwich City play. Despite their lowly position in the league (near the bottom!) the ground was always packed. I considered myself fortunate that on one occasion I saw that great England centre forward Tommy Lawton out on the pitch playing for Notts County. And talking of football, who remembers when Baconsthorpe had its own team, a mixture of youth and experience. I recall they played on a meadow somewhere on the Gresham road.

The radio provided us with entertainment in the home. Our mothers might have listened to Mrs Dale's Diary or Donald Peers singing, but the programme for us youngsters was at 6.45 each evening, Dick Barton, Special Agent, which was always accompanied by that stirring piece of music, The Devil's Gallop.

Another home spun entertainment were the partner whist drives held at the school. My father and I once came home with the booby prize, a pound of sausages – mother was delighted!

A real treat was the eagerly awaited trip for the Sunday School youngsters to go to Yarmouth. Our main destination would always be the Pleasure Beach, with rides on the scenic railway and the bumper cars, and a slide down the helter-skelter.



Aldborough (pronounce it Olbrer) Fair arrived in the week to coincide with the summer solstice, June 21st, and was always visited. Traditionally this was a horse fair, so despite the usual fairground attractions some horse trading was carried out to continue the old custom.

1950 and a visit to the Royal Norfolk Show at Anmer Hall (yes, where Wills and Kate are now). Sitting having sandwiches and seeing King George VI and the Queen drive past.

The first visit to a proper cinema that I can recall was to see a Roy Rogers film. Roy and his horse, Trigger, were big favourites with the children at that time.

Following the snow of 1947 there was typically a lovely summer, and this resulted in the first ever journey out of my native county, a trip to Whipsnade zoo, and another first – an ice cream in a tub, cost sixpence, that's 2½ p in new money.

1951 heralded the Festival of Britain with all good things British on display. Us kids were captivated by the Skylon and the Dome of Discovery. Many schools laid on coach trips for the children to go and see everything. Looking back, I think the Festival represented the start of the country getting back to some semblance of normality after the war. The end of austerity and better times surely lay ahead. Some of these were to include electricity, piped water and television to the village, the Coronation, and the end of rationing in 1953. It had taken eight long years, though.

Baconsthorpe

Little did any of us think when the last newsletter came out that two weeks later we would be in another lock down, but here we are again, coping with another period of isolation.

Please do remember the COVID 19 help group is still active and do not hesitate to phone my number (577263) if you want any help or just a chat.

The Village Van shop is back in action, so do support it and it is a chance to see other people at a safe distance at 10am on Thursdays. This week several of us are making the most of the opportunity to buy fresh mussels and it is crammed with other treats.



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Also during this lock down the church bells are being rung at 6pm each Sunday, a chance to listen to them and reflect quietly at our front doors.

Sadly, and yet again, the gazebo on the playground has been vandalised. What is the point in damaging this much used and popular shelter? The Parish Council will now have to pay to have it repaired.

This edition covers December and January. Details of Christmas arrangements for the church and services are on page 7. This year David Longe will be doing a YouTube Christingle event. He will be demonstrating how to make your Christingle and what the significance of each item is. A free 'kit' will be given to all primary school aged children who would like to join in this event so if you haven't been contacted please do phone me (577263) and I will drop off all you need to make your own Christingle.

None of us have any idea what we will and won't be allowed to do this Christmas, but I do so hope you will find some happiness during the festive season.

Barningham Winter

A VERY happy and safe Christmas to you all and my best wishes for 2021.

It is not too late to order a Christmas wreath for your door so do phone Mrs Tessa Papworth on 01328 822379 for prices etc. I would be only too happy to deliver them to your door and don't forget if you haven't ordered your Christmas turkey yet do look at the Mortons Traditional Taste website where you will find oven-ready turkeys and chickens for sale. These are all home reared by my son-in-law Robbie Morton who farms at Skeyton near Aylsham and once again I would be only too happy to pick your order up and deliver to your door.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

Despite being in a national lockdown and a substantial number of vehicles passing through the village at our remembrance service, it was truly a special morning; the weather could not have been better, and we didn't even have to wear the winter coat. We gathered around the war memorial and all kept to the guidelines of mask wearing and socially distanced, but it was still a very poignant moment, even more so in these times. Thank you to Judy who took the service and all the readers. The collection went to the Royal British Legion. We were so pleased the service could go ahead and it was lovely to see everyone.



Richard Peaver
587486

Emma Cletheroe

Church Mouse News

We have an interesting little creature visiting Edgefield Church every night! Each morning there is a pile of nibbled acorn remains on the step of the main door, where it would appear someone prefers to have their meal! They could squeeze under the door easily in one place, but no, it had decided on its favourite spot and never misses a night. It would be fascinating to see who our visitor is. Does anybody have a camera, such as those put in nest boxes, with which we could film

them? Presumably the camera only works when there is action? It would be so kind and such fun if we could borrow one. A challenge for Lockdown!

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

October 200 Club winners were: 1st Shelagh Barber (9), 2nd Mary Sands (29) and 3rd Sam Smith (85). Stay safe, everyone!

Jim Frost

Edgefield Fuel Fund Distribution

A reminder that, as mentioned last month, the Trustees will distribute a payment of £25 per eligible household in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th December 2020, from 11.00am until 12 noon. No payments will be made outside these hours. To be eligible, you must have reached the age of 60 years, have been permanently resident in the Parish of Edgefield for five years and be a resident on the day of distribution, and apply in person (or the infirm or incapacitated may send a representative, who must bring a written authority signed by the person who qualifies).

Queuing outside may be necessary, so please dress accordingly. Face masks will be obligatory. You will be asked to complete a form with your name and signature. Please note the distribution of the 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.

Edgefield Toad Patrol

During late February and early March this year the amphibians made their annual migration to the village pond from the surrounding gardens and countryside. The toad patrols successfully placed over 650 toads, newts and frogs from the danger of the road and lane to the safety of the pond. A great achievement!

A small group of enthusiastic patrollers made this success story possible. The council has been very supportive and has kindly purchased several toad road signs that will be placed in strategic positions within the village to alert passing motorists to take care when driving and try and avoid creatures on the road.

We would very much welcome additional volunteers to join the teams and help save our amphibians in Spring 2021. If you are interested please contact me on richard.sear@mac.com.

The migration normally starts around mid-February, if mild and wet, through to beginning of March, dusk until 9pm. We create a rota, so that volunteers are normally only required two or three evenings a week.

Hempstead

200 Club

P Loach £50, N Sanders £20, N.Tyabji £10, D Durst £5, S Hawkey £5, J Wood £5

Congratulations to Bridget and Robert Watters on the safe arrival of a second grandson! Welcome home to Ann Udale. Also, congratulations to Geoff Harris on his significant birthday (November). David Durst is still in Docking but improving in health.



Diana Spalton
711117

It is good to see the Mobile shop again on Fridays at 11am in the centre of the village.



Church News

The new thatch at All Saints was blessed by Rev Canon David Longe on November 1st. Sadly the church is closed again for services but is open for private prayer, ie not locked.

Robin Carver has written a new booklet about the church. There are a pile of them along with his Hempstead village history booklet in the church for people to help themselves to and leave a donation in the wall safe.

New Churchwardens Needed

Hempstead PCC are looking to fill the role of two new Churchwardens to look after our delightful village church. After the very sad death of Su Summers and the retirement of

Ann Udale, there is no one in this role. There is a good support team from the PCC, and other general helpers with cleaning and flower rotas etc. Ideally the positions would be held by people living in the village of Hempstead rather than outside it. The church is for the benefit of everyone in the parish, and anyone of any age is welcome to offer their services! Please contact Rev David Longe for more information, he would be delighted to hear from you. YG

Tree Planting - on Monday 4th December at 11am two saplings will be planted outside our village hall. One is to replace the diseased chestnut which has been cut down and one in memory of David Watson Cook. (The chestnut is a cutting from the original tree.)

The Chairman of the Parish Council is very sad to announce that Glynis Williamson, who has been our Parish Clerk for several years, has just died. Please email: paul@sanderscoaches.com

I am sure we are all wish each other a healthy and happy Christmas and a far better New Year!

www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk www.instagram.com/hempsteadallsaints

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Mandy Wood, £10 Colin Airey, £5 Genevieve Protiere Le Brun

This is the last draw this year. The Christmas raffle will take place on December 6th, winners will be notified straight away. Cherry and Marion would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2021.

Neighbourhood Watch

We are very fortunate in the village of Matlaske and its surrounding area to be blessed with a marvellous safe and crime-free environment. It has been this way since time immemorial but unfortunately, just recently, a few isolated incidents have reminded us to be vigilant and support our neighbours, in taking note of any unusual or suspicious activities.

A few incidents of petty criminal damage (to gates), twice to the same gate, during the course of one week, regular night prowling (either late night 11.30pm or early hours of the morning 3.30am to 4.30am). This occurs on a regular basis, often every other day in gardens, which are private premises, with young family present. A post box container has also been stolen. These incidents occurred relating to three premises in Matlaske.

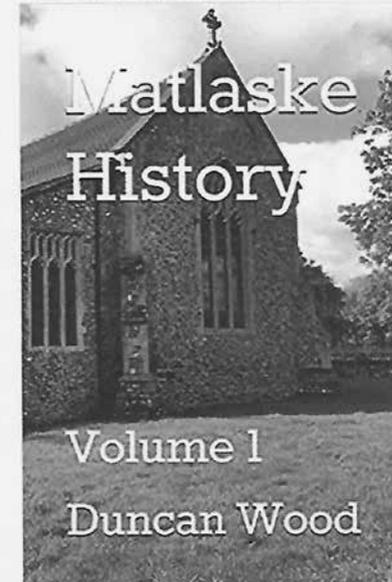


Marion Shepherd
577521

Luckily, we have a very close relationship with our local Police Community Support Officers and they are keen to support efforts to record and reduce crime in our villages. With new technology, those wishing to add extra security can now do so, with the minimum of fuss or expense. You will have heard about Perimeter Alarms, Security Lights and Ring Surveillance Systems.

Now we can add to those defences 'trail cameras', which are inexpensive, easily set up and are camouflaged. They record prowlers and wildlife alike in high definition and great detail. They have night vision, work over good sized areas and provide you or your Police Community Support Officer with video footage or still photographs. Best of all however remains our unofficial Neighbourhood Watch, where we look out for one another. If you can help to keep our village, a safe, crime-free environment by sharing any other incidents, we can work together to ensure that Matlaske remains as it has been over the years.

A great new publication, superbly written and sourced by our local historian Duncan Wood!



Duncan's book covers: - The origins of the village of Matlaske, Norfolk – The early history of Barningham Winter and Barningham Hall- Matlaske parish church and its priests- Barningham Winter parish church and its priests-Soldiers named on the Matlaske war Memorial-Nineteenth Century rectors of Matlaske- The priest, a shell and the railway (a story of two World Wars)-RAF Matlaske-A Matlaske man at Omaha Beach – Matlaske Hall.

The book contains many illustrations and a note on sources. This is the first in a series of volumes covering the history of the civil parish of Matlask (old spelling!), which includes the ancient parishes of Matlaske, Barningham Winter and Barningham Norwood.

It is available through Amazon UK and is very reasonably priced at just £4.89 for the Kindle version, which includes colour photographs, where available and £5-99 for the Paperback Version, which contains black and white illustrations and photographs only.

Duncan has very generously agreed, that the Kindle sale will generate about £3 per copy to church funds and the Paperback copy, a little over £1 to church funds.

It really is a recommended read for those of you with an interest in our local history!

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Plumstead

It seems I generally tend to start this piece with the weather. Since last month the British elements have continued to surprise and it always seems the first point of call in any conversation! Storms, more rain and very mild seems to be the name of the game – I wonder what the next couple of months will bring us? Lockdown and COVID are the other words on our lips and as I write this we are in the middle of Lockdown 2. This of course means that as a consequence there is little news to report and even less to advertise. Let's hope we are able to celebrate Christmas with our families, friends and communities.



Mary Lintott
577718

Defibrillator

As you may know, the village has a defibrillator located in the old phone box. No special knowledge or training is required to use it. In the event that there is a person who is unconscious, unresponsive, not breathing or not breathing normally: dial 999; go to the defibrillator with your mobile still in touch with the emergency services; the notice above the defibrillator unit tells you what to do. Follow the instructions.

Church News

Following the recent inspection of the church building by our architect, we have a list of maintenance work of varying kinds, which we are advised to do. The PCC would be very grateful to have some volunteer help. If you feel you would like to help, please come along to the church on Sat 9th January 2021 10.30am for a cup of coffee (COVID restrictions as necessary) and find out what needs to be done. If you can't make the meeting, please let Eleanor 577868 or Mary 577718 know.



The one good thing about October, and in spite of the importance of following COVID regulations, was the Pumpkin & Dahlia Festival. It was a resounding success with at least 27 entries to the competition which was won by Scarlet aged 6 whose Grandmother lives in Plumstead. Well done Scarlet. The photo says it all. Thank you so much to all those who helped with the event and in particular Julie Cometa and Diana Muir who pulled us all together. Also to John Durdin who had the unenviable task of choosing a winner in our competition.

We raised a staggering £475 which was most rewarding and unexpected.

On the back of this success we are thinking of having a Daffodil Weekend next year – more news of that to follow in due course.

Please remember there will be no magazine in January – the next will be in February. I wish you all a Happy Christmas with good health and time with friends and family.

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Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Walk Drive

We have enormous gratitude for the energetic fundraisers of Corpusty and Saxthorpe who ventured out in fine weather on 12th September by cycle, foot and car and raised a record-breaking sum of £785 for the Norfolk Churches Trust (NCT). This is a fantastic amount and thank you very much to them all. This sum will be boosted by £112.50 'Gift Aid' giving a total of £897.50.

They were Edward (8) and Ellie (13) Beales, Merlin Waterson, Brian and Heather Monks, Claire Foster, Caroline Randell and Yvonne Tyndall. The largest individual amount was £460 raised by Yvonne who visited 22 churches in 30 miles by bike. The NCT will return half of this amount to Saxthorpe with Corpusty Parish for St Andrew's and St Peter's.

We are also indebted to the recorders who stayed at the church to welcome visitors from other parishes. They were Bob Stern, Cathy Stern, Judith Banks, Angie Dew and Kevin Beales.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Charles Tyndall

Broadland Housing Development

Broadland's acquisition of the land on both sides of Adams Lane has previously been reported. Project plans have progressed quickly, involving meetings with representatives of the Parish Council.

Projected next steps are:

- the preparation of a full layout design for public presentation;
- a virtual presentation to the village by mid-December;
- planning application to be submitted by end of January.

Highways

Following the traffic survey, discussions have progressed with the Highways Authority (HA). Key issues being progressed are as follows.

Link Road Junction with Norwich and Irmingland Roads

HA has registered residents' concerns about safety issues at this junction. As the road is of modern design with good visibility in both directions, and there have been no serious accidents, HA has no funds to change the infrastructure, save for increased 'white-lining' and adding signage to alert drivers. At a site meeting HA observed that the double white lines were regularly crossed and that speeds appeared to exceed the 50 mph limit. HA also heard evidence of vehicles dangerously overtaking on the wrong side of the refuge island. HA identifies these behaviours as enforcement issues. It is therefore arranging for traffic monitoring equipment to be deployed which will detect the number of vehicles passing in each direction, recording speeds as well as any dangerous overtaking across the wrong side of the refuge island. This should take place after lockdown. HA will then have some data that will evidence the need for any further interventions. HA is in contact with the Traffic Management Officer at Norfolk Constabulary specifically about this location and will agree next steps based on the findings presented by the traffic survey.

The Junction of the Holt and Briston Roads

Unlike the link road, this is an historic junction with limited visibility. The SAM2 speed monitor has recorded regular speeding at this location, with speeds in excess of 90 mph from the Holt direction

having been registered more than once. The parish council has argued for some time that if the priorities at this junction were changed by the introduction of a mini-roundabout, drivers would have to approach the junction more cautiously. Previously, HA did not support this initiative, but has looked again at the options for this junction and now considers that the creation of a mini-roundabout is likely to be possible. A feasibility study will be required before a decision can be taken.

Gated Village Signs

HA has said that it should be possible to introduced gated village signs in the following locations:

- on the Heydon Road approach to Corpusty;
- after the roundabout on the approach to Saxthorpe;
- on the approach to Saxthorpe from Holt;
- and a half-sized gate on the on the approach to Saxthorpe from Briston.

Next Steps

The parish council has decided to apply for gated village signs in the above locations and to proceed with the feasibility study for the introduction of a mini-roundabout at the junction of the Holt and Briston Roads. As regards the link road, further steps will await the outcome of the proposed monitoring.

Off-shore Wind Infrastructure

Many villages are very concerned about the disturbance that will be caused by the on-shore trenches that will be dug to bring the wind farm electricity ashore. An application has been made to the High Court for a Judicial Review to question the legality of the Secretary of State's decision to allow the schemes to go ahead in their present form. The Parish Council has agreed to support the crowd funding bid to allow the Judicial Review to proceed.



Baconsthorpe Church January 2013 by Norman Allen

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OBITUARY

Christa Carman
The Fullmill, Saxthorpe

Born in 1929, Christa lost her mother at 8 years old. Growing up with her father and grandmother in Berlin, she often talked of ice skating on frozen lakes, of opera and student balls and of living in an apartment with a bathroom and central heating!

As a child, she experienced air raids, life under Nazi rule, evacuation and Russian invasion. Deeming it wise to evacuate Christa to family in the countryside, Christa remembers walking across a bomb-ravaged Berlin, holding a water-soaked scarf to her face for protection from the smoke, to the station, arriving to find the train packed full and departing. She remembers being picked up and pushed through a window where she was pulled inside by soldiers!

She returned to Berlin towards the final stages of the conflict. She did not often dwell on her experiences but talked of the time a Russian tank blew a large hole in the side of their apartment and of watching from their rooftop as fires burned across the city!

During the war, Christa's father was an engineer, working at the university in Berlin under the direction of von Braun, of V-2 fame. Christa told a daring story of travelling with her father in the last few days before the Russians arrived in Berlin. Travelling by steam-driven lorry, always under cover of darkness, to deliver 'important machinery' to Austria. It transpired this 'machinery' was connected to the rocket programme; we like to think Christa played her part in the space race!

After the war she worked as a dental technician, before impulsively responding to a recruitment poster for young women to come to work in England. Christa left Berlin, aged 19, via the Berlin Airlift; a few weeks later, with no English, she arrived to work as a nurse at the old Workhouse at West Beckham (locally referred to as 'Beckham Palace'); here she made life-long friends with other German girls also working there.

Christa was invited to a local dance where she met George. Marrying in 1950 and moving into the Fullmill shortly after, Christa often mused about the hardships she endured, moving from a cultured city with electricity, running water and sanitation, to a home with a well, no electricity and no modern facilities. However, things started to improve in the early 1960s when first running water was introduced and then electricity finally reached their corner of the village!

With 5 children of their own, Christa ran the Girl Guides in the village, with George running the Boy Scouts. Tragically widowed in 1983, Christa re-built a life for herself, continuing to travel widely, often linking this to her enthusiasm for Bridge, which she played several evenings each week; she was also a wicked Scrabble player and Cruciverbalist.

Music also played a large part in Christa's life, accomplished in playing the piano and organ, the piano accordion and the guitar. In later years she sang in the Alto line of the Sheringham and Cromer Operatic Society. She also took up handbells, playing with the Marsham Belles. Christa died peacefully at St Davids Nursing Home, Sheringham on October 29th.

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



December is a curious time in the garden. On the surface there shouldn't be a huge amount to do unless you are still catching up on your pre-winter clear up, but for me, December is great for thinking and planning. My favourite part of the oncoming seasonal festivities is the slight hiatus between Christmas and New Year, when the seed catalogues come out and the

sketch book and the lovely task of plotting and planning the veg garden commences. Being able to envisage warmer days and easier times by deliberating what I would like to grow has always been my best antidote to the long dark nights... never more so than this year!

Having said there isn't a huge amount to do in the garden, there is always SOMETHING to do in the garden! First up is the green house and or cold frames, so if you want to score brownie points with yourself next year, then make the time to clear all past season debris inside the greenhouse and give it a really good clean, inside and out, whilst it's not the pleasantest of tasks you will feel positively angelic afterwards. Next up are all the pots and seed trays, give them a good clean then stack and store them. If we are fortunate enough to get a nice brisk clear day then do take the time to paint or treat any garden woodwork that needs some attention, also check any tree stakes and ties to see if they are either loose and need replacing or redundant and need removing.

Happily we can (as I write this) still visit garden centres and nurseries, so now is a good time to think about winter colour and also winter fragrance, two of my utmost favourites are Viburnum Bodnantense and Lonicera Purpusii both of which have modest flowers but glorious scent which lifts the mood every time you brush pass them in the garden. Finally for winter colour I would always go for Hellebores, I find their flowers a joy in these somewhat trying winter months.

This month's question is from Noel Wise who asks "I would like to buy a tree for my partner, we have a small garden so it would need to have compact growth". Noel, I have the perfect tree for you, which is the Euonymus Alatus 'compactus' otherwise known as the Spindle Tree a small to medium sized tree it really delivers on both foliage and colour and is easy to look after as it requires no pruning... Good Luck!

Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet as ever the most interesting question will be published in the New Year.

We would both like to wish you all a good Christmas and a hopeful New Year!

Michelle & Mick McCarter



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Meet the Neighbours

Duncan Wood – Matlaske



Duncan and his wife Mandy retired to Matlaske two years ago from Essex. Matlaske was not unknown to them as Mandy was born and brought up in Norfolk. Her parents lived at Matlaske Hall when they ran it as an old people's home in the 1950s.

Duncan grew up in Oldham and won a scholarship in history to Peterhouse at Cambridge University, the oldest Cambridge college founded 1284. Here he studied theology, an academic discipline that is part historical and part literary in approach.

After university Duncan worked in the voluntary sector, the Home Office in London, and then at Essex County Council. After further study in psychology and statistics, he ended up as head of research. A role that involved things as diverse as opinion surveys, predictive risk modelling for social services, public health intelligence and setting up Healthwatch Essex.

Duncan has written *Matlaske History – Volume 1*. This started with looking at the history of his and Mandy's house and Matlaske Hall (which was demolished). The war memorial in St Peter's church caught Duncan's eye and he decided to find out more about those men, whose experiences made his hair stand on end, and then RAF Matlaske in WW2 was an obvious topic. But the story that astonished Duncan the most was that of Donny March's experience as a 17 year old lad under heavy enemy fire at Omaha Beach on D-Day. He has also included the history of St Peter's church and its clergy – including the story of the priest, a shell and the railway. Duncan says that the research was not difficult, but time-consuming and the residents of Matlaske have helped with memories, stories, facts and photographs. Volume 2 is well under way and will include Jeremy Norman's research on the local Home Guard and the experiences of the men on the war memorial at Barningham Winter.

Duncan has really thrown himself into village life and as well as writing the history of Matlaske he is also acting church warden.

Matlaske History – Volume 1 can be bought on Amazon for Kindle (£4.89 with £3.00 from each copy going to church funds) and paperback (£5.99 with £1.00 from each copy going to church funds).

Emma Youngs



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