

Clenchwarton Your Village News

AUGUST 2022



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Church Wardens;

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Debra McGowan – 01553 773467

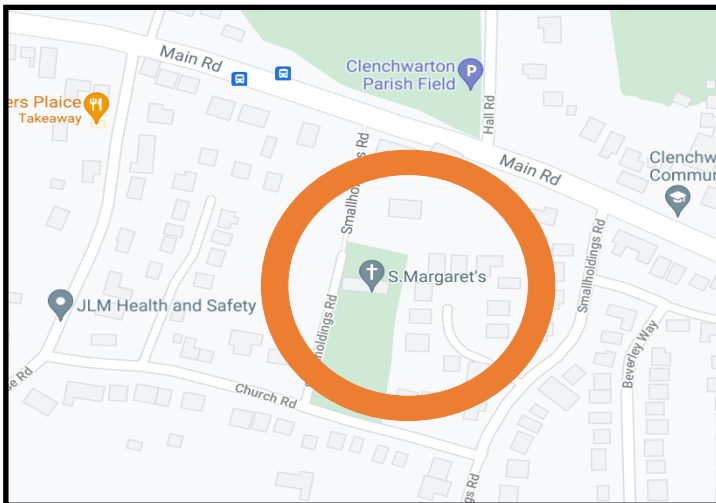
warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk

Please contact Debra McGowan for Baptisms, Marriages, etc

Our church address is :

**St Margaret's Parish Church, Church Road,
Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, PE34 4EA**

Website <https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk>



Welcome to your Magazine

This is a monthly magazine and contains adverts from local businesses near you, village and church news and “what’s on in the village” as well as articles from our parishioners and the church community.

We hope it is a valuable resource for newcomers to the village as well as our long-standing residents.

Village Diary

To all those organising events in the village, please let us know the date place and time so we may publish it in the Village Diary. Thank you.

Save
the
Date

Parish Council meetings are the first Thursday of every month.

Coffee Mornings St Margaret's Every Thursday 10-12 noon
(except 4 Aug at 16 Blackhorse Road

Walking Group. Saturday 13 August 10.30am from the school.

Picnic in Clenchwarton Park Sunday 14 Aug 2-5pm

Learn About Bees Wed 17 Aug 2pm Methodist Chapel

Walking Group. Saturday 10 September 10.30am from
Saturday Market Place

To all those organising events in the village, please let us know the date, place and time so we may publish it in the village diary.

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St Margaret's Church Services

Sunday August 7th Communion

Sunday August 14th Morning Prayer United Service

Sunday August 21st No Service at the Church, instead United Service at Clenchwarton Methodist Chapel

Sunday August 28th Morning Prayer



**All services at the church start at 10.00am
but the Methodist Church Service starts at
10.30am.**

All are welcome at all of our services, no matter what their age.

We look forward to seeing you there

Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday August 7th Service at Terrington Chapel

Sunday August 14th United Service at Clenchwarton Church

Sunday August 21st United Service at Clenchwarton Chapel

Sunday August 28th Family Service at Clenchwarton Chapel

Please note that the services at the Chapels start at 10.30
but the service at Clenchwarton Church starts at 10.00.

All are welcome at any of our services.
Any queries please ring 07792 677891



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Coffee Mornings at St Margaret's Church Thursdays From 10-12 noon

Do come along for a drink and a friendly chat.

The coffee morning on the **4th August will be held at 16 Blackhorse Road**. This is due to a wedding rehearsal taking place in the church that morning.

Please contact Debra if you require transport to get to any coffee morning. We look forward to seeing you.

(Debra McGowan)

Bible Study Group

We will not be meeting during August but we will recommence in September.

Contact Penny Snape on 01553 773142.



Quiz Night Reminder



A reminder of the Quiz on the **29th July** if you get this month's magazine beforehand.

It is at the Chapel at 7.00pm

Cost is £1.50 entrance fee for each person (mistake in last magazine. Sorry!).

Refreshments available.

Teams will be of no more than 4 members.

This will be similar to Pointless.

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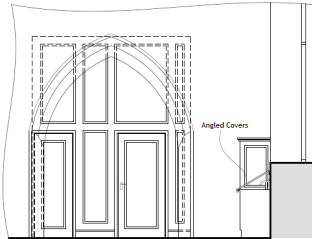
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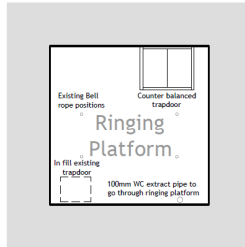
Extract of St Margarets Church Plans Fund Raising Goal £80,000

These drawings are copyright & must not be copied without consent. Richard C F Waite Architects is a Trading Name of Waite & Wallage Architects Ltd.

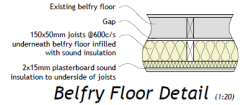
RICHARD C.F. WAITE ARCHITECTS



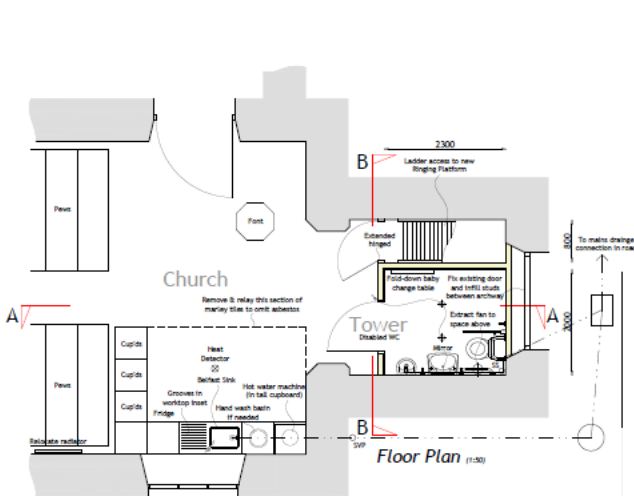
Tower Arch (1:50)



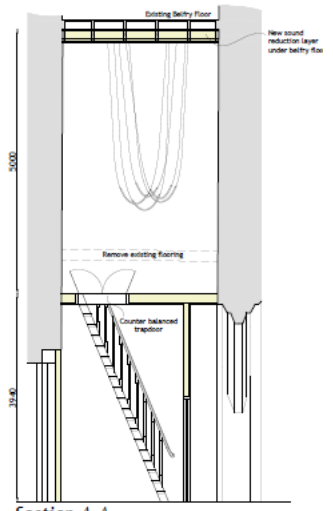
Ringing Platform (1:50)



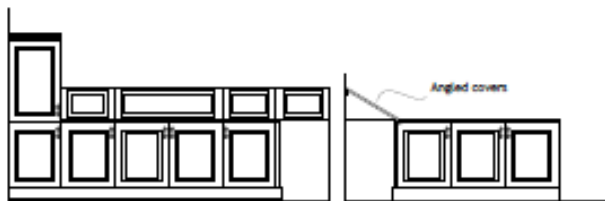
Belfry Floor Detail (1:200)



Floor Plan (1:50)



Section A-A



Kitchen Run (1:50)

Cupboard Run (1:50)

Social Events at St Margaret's Church, Clenchwarton

Your village parish church (St Margaret's) is busy raising funds (£80,000) for the installation of a toilet in the ground level of the bell tower and small kitchen facilities in the back of the church.

We are in the process of applying for grants BUT we still need to raise money from events and donations.

To this end we are busy arranging some events which we are hoping you will come to.

More information and dates will be confirmed as soon as possible through this magazine and the village facebook page.

The programme being arranged so far looks like this:

October – Possible organ recital in Church.

November – Craft Fair in Church.

December – Christmas greenery arrangement workshop. Venue tbc.

Possible Events for 2023.

Village Open Gardens;

Ring Something Simple;

Safari Supper.

**If you have any ideas or can help fundraising contact the
Church Wardens.**

Please continue to sign up with easy fundraising to help St Margaret's Church raise funding.

They will give you a £5 shopping voucher once you have raised your first £5, PLUS we will get a bonus £5 donation.

**Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and
search for St Margaret's Church Clenchwarton**

You can visit our website at
<https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk>



Pastoral Letter August 2022

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



Holidays have been a little bit on the back burner in recent times but some of you may have been fortunate in not only planning a holiday but managing to take one. The word “holiday” was first recorded in English around the year 950, and was written ' halig-daeg' or 'hali-daegh' (literally “holy day”). By the 15th century the 'a' became an 'o', and eventually the word became “holy day”. The spelling we are familiar with, “holiday”, was first recorded in 1460. Originally, the word meant a consecrated day or a religious festival. But in the 1400's, it acquired another, more secular meaning, defined as “a day in which ordinary occupations (of an individual or a community) are suspended; a day of exemption or cessation from work; a day of festivity, recreation or amusement”.

What do we hope for from our holiday and what makes a good holiday? As I pondered this and, thinking back to its origins I began wondering what it would be like to take a holiday with God. What would we pack, where would we go and what conversations might we have along the way? Would we approach the holiday with excitement or apprehension or even dread? What kind of guidebook might we find useful – what wine might God like, or would we be holidaying with a teetotaler? And I wonder what the photos would be like - “here we are with God admiring a sunset, or zip-wiring across Niagara”. And then what about Sunday – would there be an expectation to go to church?

Joking aside, a holiday with God is something we can all benefit from – even for just a day or part of a day. Intentionally putting aside some time to pause, ponder and pray. Time to explore and reflect on where we might be heading and what God might be calling us to be. Where will we go? Any uncluttered quiet or space is a good destination. What will we need to take with us? Nothing at all if that works for us but perhaps a book we have been wanting to read, or a journal to make notes, or something creative which we enjoy doing. What will we do? Nothing if that is what we need, or anything at all if it nourishes us. In choosing to holiday with God we choose a holy day, a sacred time put aside with a creative, hospitable, generous God who loves us and wants the best for us. A chance to step aside from the usual routine of the day and make space to see what emerges.

Whether you are holidaying at home or further afield, whether it is a day or a week or more, I hope you find rest, refreshment, and restoration.

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From the Little Yellow Smart Car



“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

These words come from Genesis, the first book of the Bible, and they are the promise that God makes to Noah after The Flood. When we look at the changes that are being experienced around the world as a result of climate change, it can be hard to trust that these words are true. How can there be seed time and harvests, seasons and cycles of living, when everything is rushing headlong into crisis? There are many who might echo the words of Job from another part of the Bible, where he looks around him and complains, “their portion in the land is cursed; no treader turns toward their vineyards. Drought and heat snatch away the snow waters”.

The world we live in is full of wonders and miracles. It gives to us again and again in so many ways, and there is abundance. There is also a great need for us to relearn how to live in harmony with the world. I confess that that is not a small challenge and one that can feel overwhelming. How can I make a difference? What can I do, that will help to remove climate change? How can I dismantle my familiar way of life and discover a different and better way to live?

Yet, that is what many people are beginning to do, and there is a movement towards slower, steadier and simpler living. There is so much to learn from one another about the ways we can care, share, preserve and grow. I wonder what you are doing.

Maybe this year you have tried something for the first time – planting your own vegetables, making your own clothes, baking your own cakes, recycling or repurposing your old possessions. Maybe you have decided to cut back on something as a way of saving energy – not just because we are all trying to respond to the increase in living costs. Perhaps you have chosen to spend time rather than money on something, or given time for your own wellbeing and mindfulness. The rhythm of life is not just a gift for the world. It is a gift for each and every one of us. When we begin to care for the seasons in ourselves, we want to protect that in the world too.

I pray that August will allow you to reset your own rhythms – through holiday times, through rest times, through spaces for reflection and through prayer. I pray too, that we can enjoy a rhythm of village life which allows everyone to share, care and grow. This way, we will automatically respond to the needs of creation for that same caring, sharing and gentleness which leads to growth and healing.

Every blessing.
Rev'd Jackie Goddard

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Half page. £ 60.00

Full page. £ 120.00

Coloured advert costs:-

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Walking Group



Meetings are generally on **the second Saturday of the month beginning at 10.30am** from the school but **some changes lie ahead to introduce variety.**

The next meeting is on Saturday August 13th from Clenchwarton School. Please join us, anyone can attend. There is no cost as walking and talking are free.

Meetings generally last about 2 hours although we do not go great distances.

The September meeting is on **Saturday 10th September starting at 10.30am from "The Stories of Lynn" from the Saturday Market Place.** We will be fortunate enough to have a Lynn guide giving us one of the guided tours. There will be no charge although any donation towards the service the Lynn Guides provide will be appreciated.

Many of you went on the foot rally of a couple of months back and our **October meeting will be in the form of a foot rally to be held in Ter- rington St Clement.**

More information will be available nearer to the date.



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Nature Watch

As I walked through the Church grounds last week I saw four blackbirds and two robins “sunbathing” on the church path. The birds fluff up their feathers and spread either one or both wings out from their body. They may stay in one position for some time or adopt different positions to expose different parts of their bodies to the sun.

There are several theories about why they do this, one is that lying in the sun helps with feather maintenance known as preening. As fully grown feathers are essentially dead, it is vital that the birds have a way to protect and lubricate them. Preen oil is a special substance that is secreted from a gland near the base of the tail, and it helps keep the feathers moisturised flexible and strong so they do not break in flight. The heat from the sun helps the bird to spread the preen oil around its body and along its feathers. The preen oil has antibacterial and insecticide properties, essential for keeping a bird healthy. This also gives the bird the opportunity to remove any ticks or unwanted insects from their feathers.

We are very blessed with the wildlife that we have in Norfolk and on our own front doorsteps. As well as the Roe Deer and Hares that can be seen in the fields around the village, a Hen Harrier was seen flying low over the wheat field near West Lynn. The Hen Harrier is continuing its recovery from near extinction in England. The British Trust for Ornithology estimated (in a report last year) fewer than 700 pairs in the UK – the species' strongholds are in Orkney, Shetland, Isle of Man and the north and west of Scotland. There are up to 60 pairs in Wales. We are also blessed with having a pair of Buzzards nesting in the village, and my husband saw a Red Kite flying over our garden recently. These birds have been seen down the marsh on a number of occasions.

The hot weather is causing problems for wildlife, so if possible please leave a bowl of water in the garden for the birds and mammals. Any leftover food which is suitable, or cat and dog food can be put out for hedgehogs. I often cut up the food my cats leave in the bowl and throw it out during the day for the birds. With the ground so dry, earthworms can be hard to find and the blackbirds are quick to pick up the food.

If anyone would like to write an article for Nature Watch or on any other subject we would love to hear from you.

Thank you.

(DM)

?? Puzzle Page ??



All of the following cryptic questions lead to the name of countries.

- 1 Is Lanark in this country? Certainly not !
- 2 Sounds cold in this place so they eat hot meals.
- 3 The others walked so yours truly did the opposite.
- 4 is that a hat?
- 5 Sounds like Male Goose contaminated with uranium.
- 6 Sounds like it sprang from thorns according to Isaiah.
- 7 Boil via water. No H2O connection.
- 8 It is plain the same sounding word has become confused.
- 9 There are plenty of sharks in this northern land according to Huckleberry.
- 10 Rest for a beautiful girl? Sounds like it.

Good Luck!

The answers follow on another page of the magazine.

Mobile Library Service Timetable for 2022

Join the Library and you can borrow up to 15 books which include large print books and children's books. Or you can hire a DVD.

IT'S FREE TO JOIN! EVERYONE WELCOME!

We visit Clenchwarton on Fridays, normally every 4 weeks, on the following dates. 26 Aug 2022, 23 Sept 2022, 21 Oct 2022, 18 Nov 2022, 16 Dec 2022.

At the following places and times Clenchwarton:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Coronation Road | 9.40 to 9.55 |
| Margaretta Close | 10.00 to 10.15 |
| Rookery Close | 10.20 to 10.35 |
| Rectory Drive | 10.40 to 10.50 |
| St Annes Crescent | 10.55 to 11.10 |
| Linford Estate | 11.15 to 11.30 |
| Hall Road (Junction Robin Kerkham Way) | 11.35 to 11.50 |
| Blackhorse Road | 1.00 to 1.20 |
| Wildfields Close | 1.25 to 1.35 |
| 36 Station Road | 1.40 to 2.05 |



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Clenchwarton Parish Council.

A very short report this month I'm afraid as various projects around the village are burning up my time but I hope to get back on an even keel in August. The one thing of note this month was that the Parish Council held an **extraordinary meeting on 1st July in** order to try and come to a consensus on what sort of questions (around a new community facility to replace the Pavilion) should be put to the village in the shape of a Parish Poll. The stand out feature of this meeting was that the Chairman, Kevin Pell, made it clear that those members of the public in attendance should also be included in the debate which was refreshing to see and be part of.

As the meeting progressed 3 questions became apparent

- Do villagers want a new building?
- Do they want to sell the Memorial Hall?
- Do they want to contribute towards the cost of the new build?

As the intention is that the Poll should be independently run by the Electoral Services department at the Borough Council, it was incredibly important that everything was worded correctly and it took over 2 hours to get to a point where everyone was in agreement.

Councillors finally voted in favour of the following:

- Do you think the community should build a new multi-use community facility to replace the existing pavilion?
- Should the Memorial Hall be sold to contribute towards the cost of a new community building?
- Are you willing to contribute to the new build through your council tax if there is a shortfall?

The meeting closed around 9.10pm

Parish Council, 7th July 2022

Even though my time is very limited to get this report done, I think it is important that I relay the reports from the County and Borough Councillors as they have the courtesy to bring this information to us every month. Cllr Kemp's report is elsewhere in this issue and Cllr Whitby reported the following; the Council has successfully prosecuted some fly-tippers and in the same vein the issue with a particular resident burning waste to the west of the village has come to a head and a legal stop on his activities has been put in place but people should still report any violations they see.

A £20m bid had been put into the levelling-up fund to renovate the Oasis in Hunstanton. If the Lynn library is relocated to the MUCH (The Multi-Use Community Hub) the existing building will be used for the community, the current date is August 2025 for completion.

Clenchwarton Parish Council. Continued

There was also a plug for summer activities in the Guildhall which are doing several 'A play in a day' sessions for £3.

The complete minutes for this meeting will be added to the PC website sometime in the first week in August.

Finally by the time you read this the renovation of the play park should be finished plus the Jubilee Garden should be close to completion too. There's a really nice buzz about the village at the moment, not only with a resurgence in both football and lawn green bowling but also the people using the basketball nets and hard play area too. If you haven't been over to the field for a while we hope to welcome you to see for yourself how nice everything is looking when we officially open the play area on August 14th – please watch the noticeboards for more information. Thank you to everyone.

(SF)

Parish Council meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month.

The Agenda's are published on the Parish Council website go to <https://clenchwartonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

Coming Events in King's Lynn.

August 6th and 7th Hanseatic Ski Boat races on the river - fun if the sun is shining

August 13th Mods and Rockers on Tuesday Market Place.

August 21st - 90/00 Music on Tuesday Market Place.

August 28th - Simple Sounds on Tuesday Market Place.

Sunday September 11th - Heritage Open Day.

The Minster will be arranging bell tower tours

If you can post whats going on to your village facebook page and let others know also.

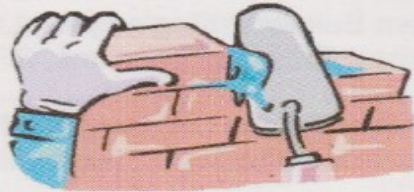


Clenchwarton Village Official Group

Private group · 1.2K members

This group is run for Clenchwarton residents - it's not run by the Parish Council and takes a neutral standpoint in all local issues and matters. Residents are encouraged to contribute but it's under the conditions that we all talk to each other with respect and regard.

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County Councillor Report

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp, Clenchwarton and King's Lynn
South 01553 630329 or 07920 286636.

Incinerator Update

I discovered 6 July's Norfolk Access Forum at County Hall had "Medworth Incinerator" in a list at the end of the agenda. I contacted the Head of Paid Service as to why it was there. The answer came back it was "for information only". So, I asked why the agenda did not say NCC opposes the incinerator, following the cross-party motion that I and Councillor Dark brought to the County Council on June 10th. The Director agreed to tell the meeting about the Council's Motion, and have this minuted. Then the very next day, Thursday 7th July, MVV sent their application for the 625,000 tonne incinerator in to HM Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectorate has 28 days to decide if it will accept the application. It won't accept it if their isn't a Statement of Adequacy of Consultation from the four host authorities who have 14 days to object.

MVV didn't consult properly with local residents, and they set too narrow a circle for the area of consultation, 5km. MVV did not hold a consultation in Clenchwarton. This was illogical, as MVV's pre-application consultation last Summer defined the area potentially affected by the incinerator at 15km. But that area is still too narrow. 15Km extends only to the Pullover Roundabout, conveniently missing out Lynn and surrounding villages like Clenchwarton, and takes no account of the velocity of the winds around the Wash as a potential carrier of particulates and secondary particulates. There is an open and flat Fen landscape between Wisbech and King's Lynn, across which particulate matter and secondary particulate matter could easily travel.

The All Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution in December called for an immediate moratorium on all new incinerators, as research shows that eggs, 10km away from incinerators, have been found to contain dioxins from incinerators. Incinerator matter has been found in children's toenails, and associated with childhood leukaemia. Tellingly, MVV's report also said they won't need to model what would happen if there was an abnormal incident, ie a major incident. This was unbelievable, when we later found out the ash from their Plymouth incinerator, blew up a ship in Plymouth Sound and injured the Chief Engineer. Legally, MVV were not responsible because the ash had left their site but that was little comfort to the ship's crew when it put their lives at risk. Incinerator ash is highly inflammable and would be a risk in transit, not just on site.

The Borough Council asked Parish Councils in West Norfolk if they were consulted. The Borough Planning Committee is discussing the matter in

July. I have asked NCC to put in a Statement of Inadequacy of Consultation and I have written to the Planning Inspectorate again.

Keep writing to the Secretary of State, Kwasi.Kwarteng.MP@Parliament.UK to say no to the incinerator and remind him there is an oversupply of them.

No more Incinerator Motions ever again?

There is an extremely sad and disappointing development in local politics. After the goodwill of the cross-party motion in May, NCC's Administration rushed out a raft of substantial radical changes to the Constitution, which could stop us ever bringing an Incinerator Motion, or any other Motion, to the County Council again. The detail of these new proposals was not included in the Corporate Committee's Agenda report for 23rd May – and were left off the Agenda's copy of the Constitution due to a technical error, till I pointed this out. The first proposals would have ended spontaneous questions to the leader and would have left Cabinet Members off the hook from answering questions on their portfolios. Fortunately, after strong representations from yours truly, the Administration dropped these ideas. They still want to end full County Council meetings on the dot after 3 hours (we only meet every two months as it is) and bring in a new largest group first Hierarchy of Motions. Reducing or preventing any time for any opposition motions at all. But motions and questions at full council are there for the opposition to hold the Administration to full account and to debate issues of local importance.

The changes would also mean if there is no time for your motion, it would be voted on with no debate at all or you would have to withdraw it or you could not bring it back to council for 6 months.

They also want to remove what is known as the Incinerator Clause, the requirement for decision about spending over £100 million to be brought to full council. That would be a bad move for democracy, for financial prudence and accountability. The cost of the Western Link to the new Norwich Road, that the County Council wants to build, has just gone up by £50 million to £251 million.

Grain Dryer on Station Road

The application has now been withdrawn by the applicant.

Norfolk County Council and Recycling.

Norfolk County Council wants to save £13 million and is thinking of closing Recycling Centres on Wednesdays, limiting spraying the weeds to once a year, and review the mobile library service. In my opinion, this would lead to less recycling and more fly tipping around Clenchwarton and I will do all I can to oppose it.

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A Canadian Experience Part 2

Undertaken by Vera and Margaret between September 23rd and October 4th 2005



We were obviously getting used to the time difference as we slept much better. In the morning we walked along the main street of Banff to the park where we saw the large totem pole. Crossing the Bow River we visited the First Nations trading post which was full of their arts and crafts. After lunch we had an excursion to YOYO National Park, stopping on route at a vantage point to see the entrances and exits of the Spiral Tunnels.

When British Columbia joined the Confederation in 1871, it was on the proviso that the then Prime Minister would have a railway built to link them with the rest of the Country. The main obstacle was the Rocky Mountains. Kicking Horse Pass was eventually chosen as the route but the gradient was so steep that many accidents and some deaths occurred. One of the railways' engineers came up with the idea of the Spiral Tunnels based on a system used in Switzerland. This amazing feat of engineering opened in 1909 and with the gentler gradient the descents became safer and delays and costs were reduced.

Following this we climbed higher and higher up the Kicking Horse valley, the coach having to reverse up one section as he could not take the bend. We arrived at Takkakaw Falls, one of the highest falls in Canada, and walked along the trail. After descending we crossed the Kicking Horse River, spotting a little bird on the rocks. It was a Dipper but not the same as our British bird. We travelled to Emerald Lake, so green, just as its name describes. We walked the lakeside path, looking across at Mount Burgess (8,527 ft). Fossils have been found nearby on Mount Dennis, known as the Burgess shales. Fossils of some 120 different types of soft bodied creatures which are more than 515 million years old. The site has been designated as a Unesco World Heritage Site. Back to the hotel in Banff for a bath then out to eat.

Day five began with a 6.30 am alarm call as we had a train to catch. It had snowed in the night and began again as we arrived at Banff station, magical – just like Christmas!. We left Banff on the famous 'Rocky Mountaineer' with Michael serving us breakfast and lunch. He also pointed out interesting views and wildlife as we travelled. We passed Castle Mountain and Lake Louise, followed by wonderful views of the Mount Victoria Glacier at 11,365 ft. Mount Stephen followed (10,495 ft), which was named after George Stephen, the first President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, born in Dufftown, Scotland.

We travelled by the beautiful glacial Lake Wapta, which, at 5,200 ft above sea level, was the source of the Kicking Horse River. We then headed towards the Spiral Tunnels and an interesting part of the journey. Passing through the town of Golden, we followed the Columbia River. The railway goes through Roger's Pass, named after the line's surveyor and engineer, Major A B Rogers.

Over the next ten miles the train crossed three bridges: 1) Mountain Creek Bridge, made with 1,500,000 pieces of timber, built from 1884 to 1889, it is 164 ft high and 1,086 ft long. 2) Surprise Creek Bridge, a wooden trestle bridge built between 1887 and 1889, 180 ft high and 416 ft long. 3) Stoney Creek Bridge, originally wooden but replaced in 1895 by a steel bridge, it towers 325 ft above the creek with a span of 484 ft.

A couple of miles further we entered the Connaught Tunnel, built to avoid the heavy snowfalls and avalanches and completed in 1916. It was named after the then Governor General, the Duke of Connaught. We continued through the Glacier and Revelstoke National Parks then crossed the Eagle River Bridge to Craigellachie and on to Sicamous, home of more than 300 houseboats. Passing through the Salmon Bay Nature Reserve we saw Ospreys and Bald Eagles. Scattered on route were unique rock and clay formations called hoodoes, formed after the last ice age.

Along the South Thompson River bank we passed the site of the Great Train Robbery. It was here that Bill Miner and his gang made their last robbery in Canada, they botched the attempt and got away with just \$15 and a few liver pills !

Eventually we reached the town of Kamloops where we will spend the night after a very interesting and enjoyable day.

.....To be continued.

Puzzle Page Answers. How did you do ?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1 Sri Lanka | 2 Chile |
| 3 Iran | 4 Panama |
| 5 Uganda | 6 Cyprus |
| 7 Bolivi | 8 Nepal |
| 9 Finland | 10 Belize |



Pepper Fen. Episode 18

(The village of Pepper Fen is fictitious and is not based on any particular village. None of the characters are based on real people living or dead.)

Restrictions were gradually being relaxed and it was now possible to get a meal in a restaurant. Tables were well apart and if you moved around it was expected that you would wear a mask. It had been such a long time since Gabrielle had ever been taken to a restaurant. It was like being taken out for the very first time. Usually she felt embarrassed about her job and hoped that her career would never come up in conversation but, of course, Matis already knew about her job so it did not lay in the air during the meal threatening her future happiness.

Matis was a considerate companion, anxious that she liked her food, liked the décor, that he was not boring her with his boring conversation. She laughed, no of course he was not boring her. She wanted to know all about him. She was anxious there was no wife or existing girlfriend, anxious he realised her job would always come first or at least equal first. Matis expressed interest in her police work and asked her how they were getting on solving the murder at Pepper Fen. She had to admit she was not actually part of the investigation team as she was not in CID but she was interested in the case especially as she now lived right next to where the murder victim's body had been found.

"You can still help us with the case" she told him.

He smiled, "But I know so little."

"You know he had acquired a local girl friend" she reminded him.

"I only know he was chasing a young girl".

"And she definitely lived in Pepper Fen?"

"Well that is what I was told".

"Who by?"

"Oh you are a proper policewoman." He laughed. "Guess this is what I am going to have to put up with if I keep going out with you. Well I can't remember who actually told me. It would have been one of the other men. They knew him better than I did. I never liked him"

Gabrielle chewed the piece of chicken in her mouth as she contemplated what she had been told and how she was going to continue to meet Matis. She knew she definitely wanted to see him again.

The meal was over too quickly but at least he did not seem in a hurry to leave. "I hope you enjoyed your meal". "Oh yes" she replied enthusiastically but then panicked as she worried he might think her like a silly infatuated teenager. "Did you enjoy yours?" she enquired. He nodded and smiled the smile she already found attractive. "

Continued.

Pepper Fen. Continued

Do you miss the old country?”.

She considered her answer. “I miss my mother” she replied, “but I like this country. I hope that mother will come here one day but in the meantime, well, she is only a plane journey away. Covid is a nuisance though. I often wish she was closer. And you?”

He looked down at his now empty plate. “My parents are both dead. I have nothing to go back to”

“I am sorry”.

“It happened a long time ago. I am over it now”.

“Would you care for your bill?”. The voice of the waiter awoke both of them from their thoughts and she reached for her bag, but Matis put his hand across to stop her. “No I insist I pay. You have done me a great pleasure to agree to see me. I insist. But next time-- - -”

She heart missed a beat. So there would be a next time.

To be continued

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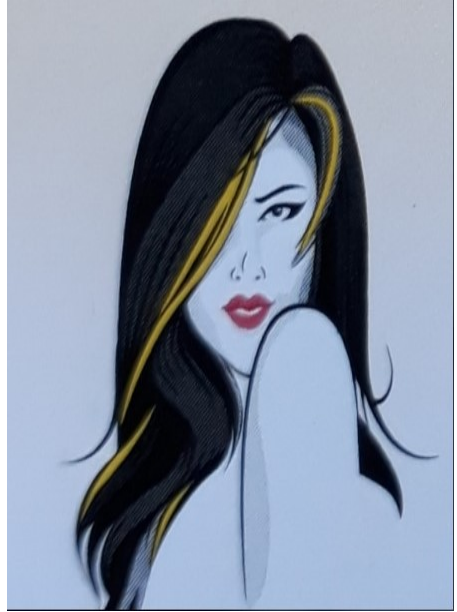
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