

Clenchwarton Your Village News

September 2022



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH



Clenchwarton Church.

Rector; Reverend Barbara Burton

Church Wardens;

Richard Brown – 01553 775200

Debra McGowan – 01553 773467

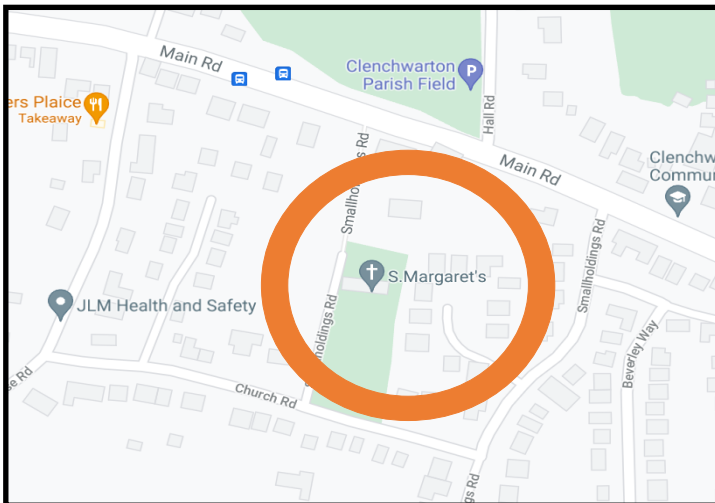
warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk

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.

St Margaret's Church Services

Sunday 4th September 10.00am Communion

Sunday 11th September No service at the Church, instead joint service at the Methodist Chapel 10.30am

Sunday 18th September 10.00am Harvest Festival

Sunday 18th September 3.30pm Animal Blessing at the Church

Sunday 25th September 10.00am Morning Prayers

Special Services

Harvest Festival ---- Come and join us for this lovely family service, we have the pleasure of Roger Darbishire playing the organ for us and all items donated to the church for the festival will be auctioned off at the end of the service. Tea and coffee will be served.

Animal Blessing - - - Please bring your pets to be blessed by the Reverend Barbara Burton. All animals are welcome from the smallest mouse to the largest horse. Please make sure that any animal or spider etc are happy and secure in what ever basket you bring them in. Any animal that doesn't feel comfortable inside the church will be blessed outside.

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

We look forward to seeing you there



Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 4th September.10.30am Holy Communion at Terrington St Clement Methodist Chapel

Sunday 11th September 10.30am Morning Service at Clenchwarton Methodist Chapel led by Judith Semmens

Sunday 18th September 10.00am Harvest Festival at Clenchwarton Parish Chapel

Sunday 25th September 10.30am Morning Service at Clenchwarton Methodist Chapel led by Worship Team

Sunday 2nd October 10.30am Harvest Festival Service at Clenchwarton Methodist Chapel led by Angela Bishop.

Services may be subject to change. Please check Chapel Notice Boards.

All are welcome at any of our services.



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Village Diary



Save
the
Date

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.

Parish Council meetings 1st Thursday of every month.
Coffee Mornings St Margaret's Every Thursday 10-12 noon

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

Kings Lynn Heritage Open Day. Sunday 11th September.

Craft Fair. Saturday 19th November 10.00am - 2.00pm.

**Walking Group. Saturday 8 October 9.30am from Terrington
Methodist Church.**

Talk in the Church Saturday 11 October 2pm.

Christmas Greenery Saturday 10 December. Fee event

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.

The Clenchwarton Lecture

The August Lecture on Bees was very informative. Debra spoke eloquently without notes and was able to answer a large number of questions later. Indeed the number of questions asked by members of the appreciative audience highlighted the quality of the lecture given.

There is no lecture in September but we hope there will be monthly lectures from October onwards. If they are all as interesting as the Bee lecture we are in for a treat.

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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.

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

(Debra McGowan)

Bible Study Group

Meetings recommence in September on Wednesdays starting at 2.00pm.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Penny Snape on 01553 773142.



Craft Fair

We are holding a craft fair at the church on Saturday 19th November from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

If you have any crafts that you would like to sell and would like to book a place in the church for a charge of £5 (non refundable) please contact Debra on 07565 057216 or 01553 773467 after 6pm.

Freya the fortune teller will also be at this event. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will also be available. Money raised from this event will go towards our kitchen and toilet project.

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TALK IN THE CHURCH Saturday 22 October at 2pm

There is a talk on at the church on the Saturday 22nd October at 2pm entitled. '45mph Couch Potatoes - The history and life of greyhounds.

There is no charge for the talk, but any donations received will go towards our kitchen and toilet project. Tea and coffee will be served.

Date for your diary:-

Vera Osborne who used to lecture about flower arranging has kindly offered to hold a Christmas greenery arrangement on the **10th December**. **Vera will supply the oasis and a list of types of greenery to bring.** There is a fee of £10.00 for this event.

More details will be in next month magazine.
Money raised will go towards the kitchen and toilet project.



BIG THANK YOU to all you who are supporting our easyfundraising website.

We have received a payment of £58.55 this month towards our kitchen and toilet project.

Your help and support is gratefully received.

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 September 2022

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



There is an ongoing debate in the Church of England about the 'Parish System', and whether it is fit for purpose or more of a limiting factor. The parish system is the way the Church of England divides the entire country into geographical areas so that every town, village and street is part of a parish, looked after by a parish priest (usually known as a Vicar or Rector). This means that wherever you live, whatever Christian denomination you are, or whether you have another religion or none, you are part of a Church of England parish. You have the right to have your children christened in the parish church where you live, and the right to marry in that church and the right to have your funeral in that church. This is true regardless whether or not you go to church or consider yourself religious. For many this is something which is highly valued and treasured. It is a privilege not enjoyed by other denominations or faiths, and most people don't even know about it. When we treasure something, we look after it, value it and often want to share it with others. The parish system is being questioned because over recent years numbers attending church have fallen steadily, with an inevitable fall in income, which puts the churches in jeopardy. In some quarters there is a move to undo the parish system and have a freer way of worshipping, not tied to buildings or requiring a parish priest.

I happen to treasure the parish system. I treasure our buildings and I treasure the buildings and I treasure the privilege we have of knowing that wherever we live we have a church where we can worship and celebrate life events, with a priest who will have concern for our spiritual wellbeing. I especially treasure the privilege of being your parish priest, and I pray that together we will help our church community grow and flourish and be a blessing to our whole parish.

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From the Little Yellow Smart Car



“Everybody has a story to tell and stories bring people together. We live surrounded by stories – on the News, on social media, through entertainment, in books and magazines, in searching online, in advertising, at work, in the chatter with family, friends and neighbours. We are storytellers and listeners to stories. From an early age, we encourage children to tell stories – ‘what did you do at school today?’ (not that we always get a coherent story!); and even earlier than school, we are helping children to tell and recall stories – ‘can you remember where we’ve been today?’ or ‘who has wobbly knees, and turned-out toes, and a poisonous wart at the end of his nose?’ *

Sometimes stories are uplifting and we want to know more. Other times they are moving and we find our emotions stirred. Some stories invoke anger at injustices; or they cause fear and anxiety. Stories can be powerful and profound, complicated or simple.

Aesop told fables. The brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen and Charles Perrault gave us fairytales. Chaucer gave us pilgrim tales. And writers, poets, film makers, artists and musicians have mined the many types of storytelling to bring new interpretations and ways of telling.

Jesus was a storyteller. He looked around and saw something which prompted him to tell a parable – a story to make people think and to help them understand God in a new or deeper way. He told one-liners: ‘God’s kingdom (of love) is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade’. And he told stories which made sense of what people experienced: ‘A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold’.

He didn’t always explain the stories. They were given away for people to think about and talk about and see where the story took them. It is in that sharing of stories that we learn, grow and discover new wisdom. What seeds have you sown this year, and what harvest will you be reaping this Autumn? I hope that September is a month full of tales for you to tell, stories for you to share and wonders for you to learn.

Every blessing.

Rev’d Jackie Goddard (Tel 07881 952098. Email: j.goddard@methodist.org.uk)

Want to advert in this magazine. Contact Debra on 01553 773467

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Walking Group



The September meeting is on **Saturday 10th September starting at 10.30am from “The Stories of Lynn” in the Saturday Market Place.** We will be fortunate enough to have a Lynn guide giving us one of the guided tours. This opportunity does not come along very often so please take advantage and join us. Walking is good for you and is usually free of charge. To get there most of us will be using the 10.00 ferry service (it now runs half hourly instead of every twenty minutes)

The October meeting is an unusual one for several reasons. Firstly, it is at Terrington St Clement. Secondly, it starts at the earlier time of 9.30am and thirdly there will be a charge as it will take the form of a **Foot Rally** starting from the car park at **Terrington St Clement Methodist Chapel. It will take place on Saturday October 8th 9.30am .**

We will return to our usual time in November and our usual start position outside Clenchwarton school. The exact route has yet to be determined but I know that Audrey is planning using one of the footpaths in the village.



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Nature Watch

It has been announced that the Norfolk Bat Survey has come to an end. I would like to thank everyone who have allowed me access to their gardens and the landowner who has allowed me onto their field over the years. I have heard from the British Trust for Ornithology that sadly the survey is now over.

The Norfolk Bat Survey was launched in April 2013 to improve our understanding of bats and to support their conservation. Since this time, the project has analysed 1.9 million bat recordings from across the county. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, they will no longer be able to continue. A massive project which finally came to fruition in 2020 is an online system which allows users to upload recordings for automatic species classification. The BTO Acoustic Pipeline brings cutting-edge sound identification of bats and other nocturnal wildlife to your desktop. This is suitable for bat groups, ecological consultants and individual users alike.

During the years that I have done the survey the following species of bat have been recorded in the village: Common pipistrelle, Natterer's bat, Serotine, Nathusius's pipistrelle, Myotis species, Pipistrelle species, Leisler's bat and Noctule.

The most common of all British bat species are the two very similar species, Common and Soprano pipistrelle. They are the bats you are most likely to see and were only identified as separate species in the 1990's. They appear fast and jerky in flight as they dodge about pursuing small insects which the bats catch and eat on the wing.

Natterer's bats have a slow to medium-paced flight, sometimes over water, but more often amongst trees, where their broad wings and tail membrane give them manoeuvrability at slow speed. They normally fly at heights of less than 5m, but occasionally may reach 15m in the tree canopy. Much of the prey is taken from foliage and includes many flightless or day-flying insects.

The Serotine is one of Britain's largest bat species and usually one of the first to appear in the evening, often emerging in good light. Its broad wings and a leisurely, highly manoeuvrable flapping flight with occasional short glides or steep descents are distinctive.

Nathusius' pipistrelle is a rare bat in the UK, though records have increased in recent years.

It is a migratory species, and most bats are encountered in autumn, although some do remain all year and breed in the UK.

It is similar in appearance to, but slightly larger than the much more commonly found Common and Soprano pipistrelles, and the fur on its back is longer sometimes giving a shaggy appearance.

Myotis species refers to the recording of a bat in the genus Myotis that cannot be identified to a species with confidence. In the UK this includes Natterer's, Daubenton's, Whiskered, Brandt's, Alcatheo bat and Bechstein's bat.

The Noctule is one of the largest British species and is usually the first bat to appear in the evening, sometimes even before sunset. They fly in the open well above tree-top level, with repeated steep dives when chasing insects. This species can fly at 50 kph.

Leisler's bat is similar to the Noctule, but smaller, with longer fur, particularly around the shoulders and upper back giving it a lion's mane appearance. It was formerly known as the hairy-armed bat. They appear early in the evening. The only place that this bat was recorded was at Hoe Farm on Smallholdings Road. It is the rarest bat in Norfolk.

Last week when I went to lock the church for the night, I found a bat lying on the floor. Amazingly it was still alive so I asked my neighbour Jackie if she would take me to the RSPCA centre at East Winch. As we drove there the bat started to pick up and move around. When we arrived at the centre the lady told us that they had one other bat in their care. She was delighted to see our long eared bat which could be a Natterer's bat. She said that after they had given her some fluids she would receive a nice dinner of mealworms. Hopefully we will have her back so she can return to her roost in the church.

Last weekend we sat in the garden watching the bats flying over the pond. They were probably Natterer's bats due to their broad wing and tail membrane giving them great manoeuvrability at slow speed.

Suddenly we had the pleasure of seeing a Tawny Owl fly over the pond. We have been hearing it most mornings this week and it occurred to me how quiet all the other birds are at the moment. What has happened to the normal dawn chorus that we hear in the early mornings? This is a normal change in the behaviour of our garden birds at this time of year. Birds sing in the spring and early summer to defend a territory and attract a mate. Once the birds have finished breeding they no longer need to defend their territory so vocally. Some of them have started to moult as they finish looking after their broods. Now that their offspring are off their hands they can conceal themselves as much as possible to avoid predators and territory disputes.

Completing a moult of all feathers takes several weeks. During this period the bird looks very scruffy, also when the birds moult their wing feathers they are vulnerable to predators, as they are less able to escape. The late summer abundance of natural food such as grain, berries and ripe fruit also draws the birds away from bird tables. I know that the blackbirds enjoy my figs if they get there before me and I have been told off by them on several occasions when I have interrupted their meal. Mites and other pests can make the birds lose feathers and sometimes gives the poor bird the appearance of a miniature vulture. Leaving water out in the garden gives the birds the opportunity to bathe. Also dirt baths are another way that birds deal with these parasites. If there is a small area of soil in your garden that you can leave for the birds to dust themselves in, that will also help them. Some birds will also begin to gather in flocks at this time of year. This provides safety in numbers as they start to put on the weight that they need to help them to either migrate or build up their strength for the winter.

(DM)

Clenchwarton Parish Council

We apologise but time pressures have meant that we have been unable to produce a report this month. No doubt some of the councillors will be relieved at this!

However, we hope that normal service will be resumed next month and you will be brought up to date with council affairs.

(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/>

Your Letters

Mobile Library Cuts

I saw the report in Friday's paper about the proposals to cut the mobile library budget in half. Did you know there is no paper version of the constitution document – that would enable the non computer literate to have their say. Is the Parish Council intending doing anything to defend one of the few services Clenchwarton has? As I suggested when I tried to speak to someone at NCC, perhaps the mobile libraries could carry a copy for people to fill in – give them a chance to have their say about something which directly affects them.

(Trudie Smart)

(The Parish Magazine mentioned this in the August issue with the report from Alexandra Kemp. Since Trudie's letter she has been busy and acquired some forms which Alexandra has obtained and which have been distributed to as many of the users of the Mobile Library that we can reach. We will have our say thanks to Trudie!) See also this months County Council report.

Clenchwarton Flower and Horticultural Show

As you may remember, pre covid the show committee asked if anyone was interested in helping to run or take on the flower show for the village. We didn't have any response at all which was understandable with today's busy lifestyle. As a result the remaining committee couldn't carry on and had to cancel future shows. Funds held for the running of the show have now been returned to the village in the form of a new bench for the Jubilee Garden. This was felt to be a good place with the gardening connection. We would like to thank volunteers over the years who helped to run the event, also villagers that entered their produce and those that supported the show.

(The committee. Name and Address supplied)

?? Puzzle Page ??



With the new School term starting, this month's questions are all about schools, some fictitious and some not.

- 1 Who attended Greyfriars School in Kent?
- 2 Which School had a Headmaster called Wackford Squeers?
- 3 Which are the two most well known attendees of Linbury Court Preparatory School?
- 4 Which School founded in 1611 by Thomas Sutton was attended by Joseph Addison, John Wesley, William Makepeace Thackeray and Robert Baden-Powell amongst others?
- 5 Which School founded in 1877 as a Boys School and attended by Winston Churchill is now a Boarding School for Girls?
- 6 Tom Brown's Schooldays took place at which School?
- 7 Who is the most well known teacher at the Marcia Blaine School for Girls in Edinburgh?
- 8 What is officially the oldest School in England and indeed the oldest School in Europe?
- 9 In which Country is the oldest School in the World?
- 10 How many Primary and Secondary Schools are there in Norfolk?

Good Luck! The answers are elsewhere in 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. 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
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36 Station Road	1.40 to 2.05



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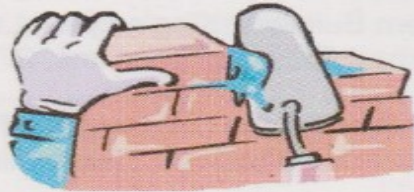


Clenchwarton Village Official Group

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.

Save Clenchwarton Mobile Library Service: Public Consultation 22 July – 14 September

Norfolk County Council is now consulting on its plans to cut £200,000 from its £422,000 mobile library budget and could even stop some mobile routes entirely. I am totally against these cuts. Cabinet has just voted to increase NCC's funding, from £2 million to £5 million, towards the Borough's £12 million project to move our lovely library to the old Argos building. If they have money for that, they have no business cutting vital outreach services for vulnerable residents. The Mobile Library visits Clenchwarton once a month and is a lifeline for residents. There are 10 stops (as listed in the Magazine). NCC wants people to use tablets instead, but not everyone can use them and they cost money to charge up. Please take part in the consultation. Here are ways to do so: Write to Freepost Plus RTCLXSTT- JZSK Norfolk County Council, Ground Floor – South Wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH. You can request the budget consultation in paper form, Easy Read, Braille or Audio by calling 0844 800 8020. Or Email HaveYourSay@norfolk.gov.uk. I have paper forms to give out. Please leave a message on 01553 630329 and I will bring one out to you. It is not reasonable to expect people who use the mobile library to fill out online forms, or go to the library for a form, as many do not have computers or drive. NCC's website said there would be forms on the mobile library vans, but there were not any the first week after consultation started. The mobile library service is a way of getting information out to people who do not drive or have computers. It is a vital prevention service and during the pandemic, distributed supplies of PPE on the library stops

Incinerator Update.

Unfortunately, MVV Energie ignored the unanimous motion of Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council's In Principle Objection, and lodged its Incinerator application with HM Planning Inspectorate on 7th July. The Planning Inspectorate then had 28 days to decide whether or not to accept the application for examination. Everything hinged on whether MVV had carried out its pre-application consultation in accordance with planning law. The stakeholder councils had 14 days to tell the Planning Inspectorate if the Consultation had been "Adequate" or not. West Norfolk's Borough Council's Planning Committee was hastily convened on 20th July. Cllr Stuart Dark, Cllr Michael de Whalley and I each spoke at the Borough Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee reaffirmed Council's in principle objection to the Wisbech Incinerator of 25th February 2001. The chair of the Planning Committee Cllr Vivienne Spikings said MVV should have consulted with all of West Norfolk, instead of within a 5 mile radius. The committee raised a technical holding objection, on the grounds that not all the relevant bodies, like the Equality and Human Rights Commission had been consulted.

At my request, Norfolk County Council wrote a letter to the Planning Inspectorate. The letter said that the County Council thought the consultation was adequate according to the law, but that there was a County Councillor – Cllr Alexandra Kemp – who said it wasn't, because areas of West Norfolk liable to air pollution from the facility, had not been consulted. MVV had persuaded local councils into agreeing the narrow consultation area during the time of the pandemic. So councils were hamstrung in raising objections after the event. Remember, Planning Law does not necessarily follow common sense, democracy or protect the public. On 2nd August, the Planning Inspectorate accepted MVV's application for the examination process. Or, to be precise, the decision was made on behalf of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up under delegated powers. I ask myself how the Government thinks that more air pollution and plastic pollution are going to level up West Norfolk. MVV now have 3 months to “inform people” about their application, and after this, the examination can take up to 6 months.

Call to Action.

The next step is for as many residents as possible to register as Interested Parties. The start date, and how to register as an Interested Party will appear, any day now, on the Planning Inspectorate's website. Google “Planning Inspectorate Medworth” to reach the page. You have to register to be an Interested Party on the Relevant Representation Form. You then have the right to make representations and to speak at the Preliminary Meeting or the Hearings that take place during the application process. You can also sign up on the page for email alerts on the Medworth page. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch about the campaign.

Thank you to residents for the Clenchwarton Play Area.

I would like to pay a heartfelt tribute to all local residents who worked so hard to make the new Play Area a reality. Rob Lucas, Caroline and Brian Coates, Steve Fox, Steve Bearshaw, Gemma Curtis and others have all worked tirelessly. It is fantastic to see this dream come true.

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A Canadian Experience Part 3

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



On the 28th September 2005 we left Kamloops on the 8am train to journey beside the Thompson River, passing the Kamloops Lake which is 25 miles long. We travelled through Ashcroft which is one of the driest and hottest places in Canada. This year (2022) it recorded a record temperature of 48.1 celsius in June. We passed through the Black Canyon, a very scenic part of British Columbia and over the Spence Bridge which was built as a toll bridge by the Canadian government. The train approached the Jaws of Death Gorge, where for the next five miles, the banks of the Thompson River became quite steep and narrow. From a gorge to Rainbow Canyon, so named because the minerals in the rocks reflect a rainbow of colours and give the canyon a painted look.

Next came the small town of Lytton where the muddy waters of the Fraser River meet the clear water of the Thompson. In June 2021 it broke Canada's all time high ending at 49.6C. The following day (June 30th) a wildfire swept through the valley, destroying the majority of the town and killing two people.

Passing Jackass Mountain and Boston Bar, which was originally a gold rush settlement, we arrived at Hell's Gate. This is a very abrupt narrowing of the Fraser River where as much as 200 million gallons of water pound through the 115 feet wide gorge every minute. We continued our journey, crossing the Fraser River Swing Bridge towards New Westminster before arriving at our destination, Vancouver. Another great day.

Next morning we were taken by bus on an orientational tour of Vancouver. We visited Downtown and Gastown and into the beautiful Stanley Park. We also went up the Vancouver Tower in a lift, to view the city in all directions. We spent time in the main shopping area – the Pacific Mall – then walked to the harbour to watch the little Aqua buses going back and forth to Granville Island.

The following morning, after breakfast, we caught the ferry for the one and a half hour crossing to Victoria, on Vancouver Island. There we were taken to the wonderful Butchart gardens where we had three hours to explore. The layout and the colours were amazing, from the Sunken Garden through the Japanese and the Italian Gardens to the Rose Garden. Not one weed in sight! Another lovely day.

October already and we were going Whale watching. The boat was a 28ft catamaran with all modern equipment, sonar and hydrophones. The captain gave us a briefing and we set out to sea. We soon spotted the first of the resident orcas and, at one point, a whale headed straight for the boat and dived under it. It was quite thrilling. We were in an area populated by sea lions which would suddenly surface and dive again.

They seemed to be gathering and looking wary and they were right to be so, for suddenly a whale leapt up, grabbed a sea lion and dived with it. It was amazing. The captain said that there was only a 1% chance of seeing that so we considered ourselves very lucky. After three hours of thrilling activity we made our way back to Victoria.

We wandered along Government Street to the market area where square dancing was going on in the centre. The women wore dresses with full skirts and stiff petticoats underneath and the men wore shirts with boot-lace ties. We also visited the Royal British Columbia Museum which covered the social, cultural and natural history of BC. We also saw the wonderful totem poles in the First Peoples Gallery and, of course, much information about King's Lynn born, Captain George Vancouver. A very full and interesting day.

Our last full day took us on a tour of Oak Bay looking across the Saanich peninsular towards Butchart Gardens. Gloria, our tour manager, thought that we would appreciate seeing more of Vancouver Island and arranged for us to get on the ferry further up the east coast at Nanaimo. Our route took us through Cowicham with First Nations Reserves either side of the highway and a town called Duncan which had totem poles either side of the road. We also visited a small museum before boarding the ferry. One and a half hours later we were back in Vancouver. In time to prepare for the journey home the next day.

On October 3rd 2005 we said goodbye to some of the party who were staying on, then travelled to the airport for the flight home. It had been a truly memorable holiday to look back on with much pleasure.

In Memory of my dear friend, Margaret Boughton MBE who passed away in January 2022.

Puzzle Page Answers. How did you do ?



1. Billy Bunter
2. Dotheboys Hall
3. Jennings and Darbyshire
4. Charterhouse
5. St Georges, Ascot
6. Rugby
7. Jean Brodie
8. King's School, Canterbury established in 597.
9. China. Shishi High School was built around 140 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.
10. In 2022 there are 373 Primary Schools and 98 Secondary Schools.

Pepper Fen. Episode 19

(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.)

Elaine was given permission to restart her Avon round. This meant pushing the small leaflet through people's doors but she knew she could not resist knocking on a few doors. She put on one of her now numerous masks and set off to all her neighbours on Pepper Fen. She loved this part time job. It only earned her pocket money but that allowed her and her daughter to survive. She knew a new person had moved in to her next door cottage and was anxious to meet her and to introduce herself. She also hoped to speak to Sheila Bradshaw if she could get past her aggressive husband.

Timidly, she tapped on her new neighbours door. To her surprise the door was opened very quickly by a tall, young woman in police uniform. Both were surprised by each other. Gabrielle was expecting a work colleague to be picking her up on the way to the station instead she saw a middle aged lady clutching a wad of magazines. It was Elaine who broke the silence.

"I am sorry to bother you but I live next door" and she pointed in the direction of her cottage, "I wanted to meet my new neighbour and to introduce myself. My name is Elaine and I am an Avon representative, but today I will just leave you the booklet and let you peruse it at your convenience. Of course if you are interested in anything – well I am only next door. Once this virus is finally over you are welcome to come round. There is only me and my daughter Freya".

At the mention of a daughter and remembering what Matis had told her, Gabrielle pricked up her ears. "My name is Gabrielle" she said and Elaine was immediately aware that her new neighbour, by her accent, was from somewhere in Eastern Europe. "I have not seen many young people living in Pepper Fen. Your daughter must be very lonely."

Elaine laughed. "Nowadays, the young see each other and talk to each other on their smart phones. Besides, she often goes out at night with her best friend who does not live far down the Main Road".

By Main Road, Gabrielle assumed she meant the road that Pepper Fen came off although it would not be most people's idea of a Main Road. "Is she the only girl living on Pepper Fen?"

Elaine was surprised at the questioning about her daughter but was not unduly alarmed, after all if you could not trust a policewoman who could you trust?

"There is just the young girl living in the square, but she is only at Primary School whereas Freya is fast approaching GCSE's. So difficult for them at the moment. I hope they make allowances in the exams".

Continued.

Pepper Fen. Continued

With this Elaine handed over the Avon booklet, Gabrielle glanced briefly at the cover then put it down inside the house quickly as a police car moved quickly down the narrow lane. "Sorry but it is time for me to go" she said. "I hope to see you again soon. It is nice to meet you. I am so pleased I have seen one of my neighbours".

With that she hopped over to the now waiting police car and was soon in the passenger seat in time for it to resume its speedy journey to the town centre station. Elaine gave her a wave and continued to the next cottage. She knocked on the door. Would she be able to speak to Sheila? The door was opened but to Elaine's disappointment it was not Sheila who faced her. She backed away as she spoke. "Is Sheila there?". Martin surprisingly smiled at her. "Afraid not" he replied, "I thought you knew. She is spending time at her sisters. It is near her mothers and you know what a worry it is having parents at this time – with covid about and everything".

Elaine was disappointed but at the same time pleased she was not under the same roof as her, she strongly suspected, abusive husband.

She moved on. Upstairs, the curtains twitched slightly. Elaine was unaware

To be continued

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Foxy Story

Many years ago my husband and I used to be the bus drivers in Watford, Hertfordshire. Often while we were driving the bus we would come across injured or dead animals, if the animal was injured we would pick it up and take it to the nearest vets. Very early one Sunday morning I was driving my bus through the town centre when I saw a beautiful adult fox lying in the road. I had only two people on my bus, a young couple who had got on the bus together and were travelling to a place called Radlett, which was on the outskirts of Watford. I had to stop to see if I could help the fox, and the young couple on seeing the animal became concerned about it too. Unfortunately the fox was dead but the idea of leaving it where it was in the middle of the road in the town centre didn't seem right to the three of us. I suggested picking it up and placing it on the bus, and once we were outside of the town we would stop and lay it by the fields. The young couple thought that this was a lovely idea and the young lad said that he would pick it up and lay it by my driver's door. So with us all feeling a lot happier about the poor dead fox, we set off on the rest of our journey.

We had only just gone a little further when we came upon an elderly lady waiting at the next bus stop, so I pulled into the lay-by to let her on the bus. As she got on and showed her bus pass she noticed the fox lying on the floor in front of the driver's cab. As the three of us held our breath, she bent down and gently stroked the fox and said, "What a beautiful dog and so well behaved".

I could see the young couple at the back of the bus trying to stop themselves from laughing, not wanting to distress the lady. Luckily for us the lady was only travelling a few stops and she got off the bus at the train station. As she left the bus she stroked the fox for the last time and said "he is a good boy, isn't he?". "Yes" I said, "he is good".

We breathed a sigh of relief as she happily left the bus. Just as we got outside of the town I pulled into a quiet lay-by surrounded by fields and the young lad helped me carry the fox from the bus and laid him in the field.

(DM)

September **by Audrey Winter**

The end of the Summer
when September calls
First days of autumn
when leaves start to fall

Hazy skies and warm days
the farmer works the land
with golden crops to cut,
baled and looking grand

Children going to school
first days for little ones
others to a new classroom
all waving to dads and mums.

The children quickly learn
to do some lovely crafts
whilst gluing autumn leaves
as they chat and laugh.



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The advertising and magazine subscriptions help keep the magazine in print and provides some funds towards the church projects.

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