

# Clenchwarton Your Village News

February 2023



**ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH**



# Clenchwarton Church.

**Rector; Reverend Barbara Burton**

Church Wardens;

**Richard Brown** – 01553 775200

**Debra McGowan** – 01553 773467

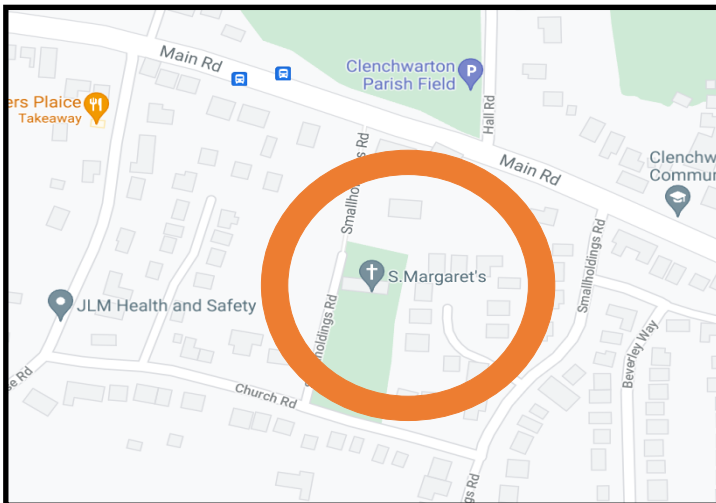
warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk

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 5<sup>th</sup> February** 10.00am Communion

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February** 10.00am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February** 10.00am Communion

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February** 10.00am Morning Prayer

Everyone is welcome to our services, no matter what their age.

We look forward to seeing you.



## Methodist Chapel Services

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am** Morning Service led by  
Rev Jackie Goddard

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am** United Service at Parish Church

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am** United Service at Terrington  
St Clement Methodist Church

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am** Holy Communion led by  
Rev Jackie Goddard.



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

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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.

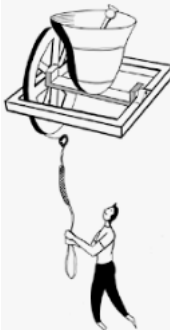
**Parish Council** meetings 1st Thursday of every month beginning at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

**Coffee Mornings** Every Thursday at St Margaret's from 10-12 noon.

**Walking Group** Saturday 4th February at 10.30am at the village school.

**Monthly Lecture** – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm at the Chapel Schoolroom. This month the speaker is Penny Snape. Details back page.

**Bell Ringing Practice** —25th February 3-5pm



## Bell Ringing

**On the 25<sup>th</sup> February we are holding a district practice for bell ringers from 3-5pm at St Margaret's Church.**

This is when any bell ringers from other towers are invited to come and ring anything that they choose on our bells. This ranges from simple bell changes for beginners, to more advanced methods.

If you are interested in learning to ring, or would just like to come and see what we do, please come along and join us,

everyone is welcome.

### Hand Bells

If anyone is interested in learning to ring hand bells, please let me know. These are easy to ring and great fun to learn. Whether it is hand bells or church bells, ringing is a very enjoyable and sociable hobby. Please contact Debra McGowan- telephone and email address on page 2. Or why not come and join us on a Thursday at our coffee evening.

# Norfolk People

Ezekiel Walker

There was in the magazine a series about famous Norfolk people. Now, I am not sure that Ezekiel Walker can be considered famous but he should be. He also was not born in Norfolk but he spent most of his life in King's Lynn and died there.

He was born in 1741 in Haile in Cumberland. He was the third son of William Walker, a Farmer and Churchwarden. Being the third son he did not succeed to the farm but instead became a noted scientist and inventor. He was fascinated by a wide range of subjects including astronomy, chemistry, electricity, light, magnetism and horology. He was also a prolific writer on scientific subjects and was a teacher at a boarding school for young ladies in King's Lynn. He lived in Austin Street near St Nicholas Chapel.

He conceived that chemistry should be advanced by way of the use of experiments and many of his experiments were about the use of light and making it more effective.

The old Hunstanton Lighthouse had been coal fired and made of wood and burnt down in 1776. Walker set about experimenting on Everard's Lighthouse in King's Lynn and constructed new reflectors there around 1778. He now moved on to the newly being built Hunstanton Lighthouse, which was, being constructed once again out of wood. In 1778 Walker constructed eighteen conclave reflectors, each of eighteen inches of diameter at the Hunstanton Lighthouse. In his history of Lynn (1812), Richards wrote that it was, for many years, the only one of its kind in the United Kingdom. It was also the first lighthouse to use oil as a fuel. Before long, other lighthouses across the country were using many of Walker's ideas.



Walker was also responsible for the invention of a walking stick which registered every time it struck the ground, thus enabling the user to estimate the distance he had travelled.

Early in the nineteenth century, Walker turned his attention to clocks, and wrote many treatises on clock pendulums. In 1813 he managed to measure the latitude and longitude of King's Lynn based on St Nicholas Chapel.

In 1823 a Lynn publisher, John Wade, published a selection of scientific essays written by Walker.

Ezekiel Walker died on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1834 at the age of 93 at his home in King's Lynn. He was buried in the graveyard at St Nicholas Chapel but his tombstone is now amongst a row of others by St James House by the Walks. His executors were named as George Holditch and Thomas Cooper who were both gentlemen of King's Lynn

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# The Children's Society

The Children's Society is a charity that supports vulnerable young people and children in the UK. Its work includes supporting young carers, refugee children, exploited children, and children in poverty. As well as providing services directly to children, it lobbies the government and researches issues affecting vulnerable children.

Christmas Eve at 4pm we held our usual Christingle Service, this is a lovely family service which is held to raise funds for the Children's Society.

The Christingle tradition can be traced back to 1747 and a German bishop, Johannes de Watteville. The bishop was looking for a simple way to show the happiness that Jesus brought to people and did this using a candle with a red ruff, or some say a red ribbon around it. The Christingle was then popularised in the UK by John Pensom in 1948 at Lincoln Cathedral. Pensom was, at the time, raising funds for the Children's Society.

During the service, the children are given a Christingle which is made using an orange. The orange represents the world, and a red ribbon (or red tape) is wrapped around the orange to symbolise the love and blood of Christ. Four cocktail sticks are put in each corner of the orange and can represent either the four seasons or the four corners of the world. (North, South, East and West.). Sweets (in our case) or dried fruit is placed on the end of the four cocktail sticks representing God's creations. Finally a candle is placed on the top of the orange and is lit to represent that Jesus is the light of the world, bringing hope to those in darkness. Once the Christingles are lit, the lights in the church are turned off, and with all the other candles in the church already lit, along with the Christmas tree lights the church looks lovely. The Reverend John Smith who was taking the service gathered the children in front of the nativity scene and asked them if they would sing the first verse of 'Away in a manger' by themselves, and they did so, beautifully.

The Christingle Service has grown in popularity over the years and is held in all churches.

Through the generosity of those who attended our service, **we raised £150 for the Children's Society. £100 was raised in the collection and £50 by the auction.** Thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who helped to decorate the church, for the raffle donations, our beautiful tree, the mince pies and mulled wine.

(DM)





**Coffee Mornings  
at St Margaret's Church  
These are on Thursdays  
between 10-12 noon**

Do come along for a drink and a friendly chat.

The coffee mornings are going really well, with a wonderful group of Ladies and Gentlemen joining us every Thursday.

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

(Debra McGowan)

**Bible Study Group**

Wednesdays meetings at 2pm have paused for a few weeks.

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



## Walking Group

Everyone is invited to our next walk which will be on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February starting at 10.30am from the village school.**



It is well reported that walking is really good for you and is possibly better for you than a health club and far cheaper.

It costs nothing.

Furthermore, you get to join in our conversations.

**It could be the best Saturday morning you have ever experienced!**

New walkers welcome.



## Mobile Library Service Timetable for 2023

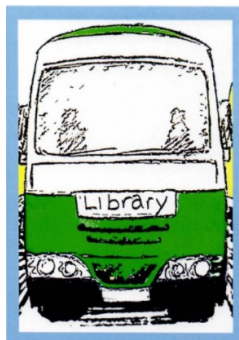
The Mobile Library normally visits every 4 weeks on a Friday.

It will be on the following dates in 2023. Feb 10, Mar 10, May 05, June 02, 30, July 28, Aug 25, Sept 22, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15

It will not visit in April because of a Bank Holiday.

### 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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## Poem by Audrey Winter

### My Mum's Dementia.....I try

I do my best or at least I try, yet I'm still knocked down and  
it makes me cry

Words that have cut like a knife have pulled me down  
throughout my life.

Whatever I do is never enough at a time we should bond I  
just want calm, not the rough.

Being shouted at and sent away told to never go back.  
Nothing more that I can say.

I'm still worried as not a word can make the first step and  
my thoughts are blurred.

Maybe tomorrow will be calmer, the storm will have passed  
as I don't need the drama.

(Words by Audrey Winter).

#### Ask for help.

Alzheimer's Society Dementia Connect Support Line  
on 0333 150 3456

Age UK Advice Line on 0800 678 1602(free)

independent Age Helpline on 0800 319 6789 (free)

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## Your Letters



THANK YOU

### A Thank You in return.

In last month's magazine, Debra said a massive thank you to everyone in the village who contribute in many different ways to the village community.

I'd just like to say a huge thank you to Debra for all that she does too.

(Jane Moore).

## Pastoral Letter

***Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....***



After the rush of Christmas we sped into the New Year celebrations. I didn't make any New Year resolutions initially and then something caught my eye and very quickly I changed my mind. I walked into one of the King's Lynn supermarkets and there, in a very prominent place for all to see were lots of crème eggs; Easter was on the shelf already! And from all the accounts they were on the shelf immediately after Christmas. I made a resolution there and then not to even think about Easter until the season of Lent begins on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. It seems to me that businesses these days lurch us forward from one festival to the next in the name of money without giving us time to enjoy each one separately and with time to relax in between. Everybody needs time for a break from work, daily chores and the speed of everyday life even though at times this seems impossible. We need to make time to pause, reflect and be thankful for what we have and not to be led panicking into the next round of commercial humdrum of buying, preparing and wanting things we don't really need.

Summer holiday companies are flaunting their efforts on TV and then it will be back to school uniforms and equipment and then – whoosh! - Christmas advertising will be upon us in September again. “Where did this year go?” you hear people exclaim – well that's where, whizzing past us at the speed of light every time you turn on the TV or venture inside a shop. Why don't you join me in a resolution? Take just 5 minutes every day, morning, evening, whenever you like but stop, think about how you have been blessed that day, don't think about tomorrow or next week and thank God for the day you have had. Remember what the poet William Henry Davies said – What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?

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## From the Little Yellow Smart Car



I am impressed by all those people who get up every morning and spend hours grappling with the minutiae of some academic field or creative endeavour. They devote their time, and sometimes their lives, to adding their expertise to the ever increasing bank of human knowledge to which we all benefit. It is work which is often only noticed when there is a moment of significance – a new discovery, a eureka moment, the moment when a project reaches completion, or when the fruit of all that work is revealed to the public for the first time.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 1958, James D Watson and Francis Crick announced that they had discovered the structure of the DNA molecule. Their work was built on many scientific steps that had gone before. Nearly a hundred years earlier, in 1869, the first DNA discovery was made in a German laboratory by a Swiss scientist, Johannes Meischer, who was researching white blood cells. In the years that have followed both these milestones, many others have made their contribution and moved our understanding on a little further, applying the knowledge gained to a wide range of other studies. Francis Collins was responsible for the worldwide team which mapped the human genome and he said of that work, “We had seen the language God used to speak us into being”. He has compared the laboratory to a cathedral, where the things of God are explored and worshipped. “You get the chance once in a while, as a scientist, to discover something that no human knew before, but God knew it. It's a little glimpse of God's mind. In a way, that's what science is doing. It's glimpsing God's mind and being in awe of it”.

It is important to allow awe and wonder to flow freely through us as individuals and through our communities, and there are so many different ways to encourage it. Whether we are inspired by science, technology, art, music, nature or silence, we are part of something bigger than ourselves and longer lasting. We may not have a eureka moment which changes the world – but then you never know! - but we may glimpse God's mind and love through the work of others, or in our own work. 'I wonder' is the beginning of many interesting adventures. I wonder what will happen if I try. I wonder whether I can learn. I wonder whether this will work. I wonder what it means.

I pray that you may enjoy wondering your way through the coming days. As we enter the Christian season of Lent, perhaps this year you might wonder again, or for the first time, about God. May your wondering lead you to places of awe.

**Every blessing.** Rev'd Jackie Goddard Tel 07881 952098.  
Email: [j.goddard@methodist.org.uk](mailto:j.goddard@methodist.org.uk)

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# Clenchwarton Parish Council

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## Extraordinary Meeting- 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Regular readers will recall that during December's PC meeting, Councillors decided not to have one in January despite the pressing need to get the Council Tax precept over the line. Fortunately, those of us who are lucky enough to have access to a crystal ball or a local soothsayer were treated to an Extraordinary Meeting in the Memorial Hall where two main items were to be discussed, namely who should volunteer to clear many outstanding jobs around the village and secondly to talk about collapsing down various committees until the elections in May.

Given that the Locum Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer have both resigned, a representative from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) was asked to attend too.

Cllr Pell kicked proceedings off by stating that several things needed to be done and jobs were doled out accordingly. (Interestingly, those with long memories will recall that this is exactly what Cllr Bearshaw tried to do three years ago when he was Chairman and got roundly stabbed in the back for his efforts by being voted down in favour of ex-Councillor Stannard).

Outstanding issues discussed included blocked/overgrown dykes, broken lights, a leak in the Pavilion roof, financial paperwork, staff salaries, tools for the groundsman, the tractor and trailer, repairs to the teen shelter, and the flashing road signs.

The outstanding matter of the Council Tax precept was then discussed given that there is now a very real possibility of upsetting the bean-counters at the Borough Council who have been waiting since October to hear what they should be charging us in the approaching financial year.

The provisional figures have been put together but a full PC meeting now needs to happen to agree everything before they can be submitted up the chain. Cllr R Moore insisted that another Extraordinary Meeting should be convened as soon as possible and it was agreed to hold this in the following week if needed.

An animated discussion then took place (again) regarding the Parish Poll. The lady from NALC was brought up to speed and everyone finally agreed to move on to the next item which was to discuss temporarily removing all committees so that all business is brought straight to the full Council instead. Given that key staff need to be recruited plus the fact that some meetings haven't happened in the past due to lack of attendance this seems like a logical approach and was roundly agreed.

Finally, Cllr R Moore was taken to task by a member of the public regarding an incorrect comment he made around the play area working party to which he retorted that he still hadn't seen an invoice for the work carried out – this seemed a strange thing to say seeing that it had definitely been emailed to the Parish Council and then subsequently paid. (Given that it was also mentioned that the PC hasn't claimed VAT back for a while now and the fact that this currently runs into tens of thousands of pounds which the taxpayer is entitled to recoup, he's probably got bigger things to worry about right now . . . ).

Council then went into private session and the public were told to leave at 8.20pm.

**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/>

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## ?? Puzzle Page ??



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**With Valentine's Day this month in mind, which male do you associate with the following females?**

- 1 Thisbe**
- 2 Desdemona**
- 3 Catherine Earnshaw**
- 4 Jane Eyre**
- 5 Marie Antoinette**
- 6 Catherine Howard**
- 7 Catherine of Brunswick**
- 8 Lady Emma Hamilton**
- 9 Agnes Wickfield**
- 10 Hero**

**Good Luck!** The answers follow on a different page of the magazine.

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# County Councillor Report

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

## Does Norfolk need an elected Mayor?

It's back. The elected Mayor for Norfolk idea. This time it might happen. Though the public rejected it in 2016 – people didn't like the cost, the extra layer of government, and were concerned it gave too much power to one person – that deal cost the County £100,000 in officer time and consultation costs. I was against it from the start. But now, the Conservative County Administration has negotiated a draft “County Deal” with Govt, for an elected Mayor for Norfolk, now to be called an “Elected County Council Leader” but with an “Elected Mayor and Cabinet governance model”. A high-profile political role for a leader of a Political Group in County Hall, with elections for the office every four years from 2024 (first term of office 5 years).

The cost of implementing this County deal, would be £1.632 million over the next two years, paid for by the Government. A lot of money in a cost of living crisis. We don't get to directly elect the Prime Minister, so why the County Leader, already been elected as a Councillor? The Government thinks devolution deals spread opportunity equally. How is it spreading opportunity to concentrate more powers in one person? All the decisions at Norfolk County Council are now made by just 10 people, the Leader and his 9-member Cabinet. So a County Cabinet member who represents Norwich gets to decide to move Lynn's Carnegie Library into the old Argos shop. But won't fund Ferry infrastructure or improvements to the 505 bus.

The Norfolk Deal would bring £600 million over 30 years from Govt to the County Council for infrastructure in Norfolk, plus another £12.9 million for growth. This might sound a lot, but pales into insignificance, when you reflect that West Norfolk needs £862 million now to rebuild the QEH, but Government keeps frustratingly moving the goalposts. Incidentally, the QEH rebuild did not form part of the County Deal negotiations. Nor did the West Winch bypass for the 4,000 new homes Conservatives plan for West Winch which will lead to increased congestion for us all when we use the A10. So West Norfolk's interests were not at the top of the queue.

320 million a year spread over the 7 districts of Norfolk is less than £3 million each.

If the deal is done, will Government roll back on future commitments and say to Norfolk, You've got the deal, now paddle your own canoe?

You will soon have the chance to have your say from 6<sup>th</sup> February for 6 weeks, and I urge you to do so on NCC'S website or by writing to NCC at County Hall.



## County Councillor Report continued

Copy me in. County Council discussed the deal on 17<sup>th</sup> January. The deal takes away the Council's right to elect it's own Leader – a substantial change to the Constitution. This could mean a Conservative Leader is elected when there is an Opposition majority of councillors, or an Opposition Leader could be elected, when there is a majority of Conservative Councillors. Not a recipe for good governance. The Cabinet wants to steam-roller this through.

County Conservatives have not distinguished themselves democratically recently. Shortened Council meetings to 3 hours, shortened speeches to 3 minutes, and placed motions to council last on the agenda, with a Conservative Motion first, so they can't be held to account properly. You can't trust them on that record. The question is, would the elected Mayor be Norfolk's man, or the Government's man? Will he be the person to drive forward the Government's ambitious housing targets, as the elected Mayor in 2016 was earmarked for? Very likely the Elected Leader would have powers of compulsory purchase, of land assembly, and could set up a Mayoral Development Area and a Mayoral Development Corporation. This could bring him into direct conflict with the 7 district councils. Housing is a Borough Council function. Is this part of a Government agenda to take powers away from Borough Councils, inch by inch? The Government says that this would be the first step in a "Devolution journey". Would this lead to the eventual abolition of our local Borough Councils, and just one Unitary left based in Norwich? There are small print risks. Government could devolve the Adult Education Budget to NCC. But NCC would have to sign up to work with the Government to ensure "future financial stability of the provider base, including sharing financial risk and managing provider failure". Is Government for real? Would NCC take on responsibility for failing colleges, like its responsibilities to sort out the mess if a care home goes over the brink?

Norfolk would have an integrated transport settlement for the first year of the deal 24/25, but after that, no commitment. A seat at the table with British Railways. Promises, promises.

At the cabinet meeting after the County Council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, Cabinet is recommended to ratify the in-principle deal, consult the public and prepare for a County Council resolution to change the current leader and Cabinet to a directly elected leader and Cabinet in December 2023. More concentration of power in the hands of fewer people based in Norwich, would leave West Norfolk out in the cold.

Do have your say on the County Council's website. Read the full "County Deal for Norfolk" on the Government website.



# Clenchwarton Neighbourhood Watch



*Looking out for ourselves and each other,  
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## Pepper Fen. Episode 24

*(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.)*

When Dan had been a lad, like most men in the country, his father had been the major wage earner. His mother had looked after the children. Dan felt ashamed that he was out of a job and unable to find a new one yet his wife had had no trouble finding employment so he was left as the child carer not that they needed much caring whilst they were at school all day, but you never knew when school would be stopped again because of a new wave of covid. He listlessly walked the dog continually having to stop whilst the dog found a new smell to investigate.

There was a fine drizzle which had begun after they had begun their walk and it compounded Dan's misery. As he approached the square he became aware of two people standing by the statue. He wondered who they were and what they were doing. He was then alarmed when the man produced a rope and began wrapping it around the statue. Now Dan had not taken much thought about the statue and was unaware as to why the statue had been erected in the first place, but Dan knew he was against wanton destruction which he assumed was not official in any way. "What do you think you are doing?" he called. He was then aware that the two people were what he would term as very young, it was the man who confronted him and so he was concentrated on him. The female took no part in the ensuing argument and turned away from him, but he could tell she was heavily wrapped up, against the rain he assumed, and was wearing dark glasses.

In the vicarage the noise of the dispute reached the ears of the vicar. He looked out of the window and quickly grabbed his coat. He wondered fleetingly about ringing the Police but worried that it would take too long to be able to talk to anyone and they would probably not even react.

He tumbled into the square and immediately recognised Dan.

"What is going on?" he asked.

"That is what I wanted to know" Dan retorted, "It seems these people are some kind of modern day Puritans and want to destroy works of art to assuage their extremist views. Oliver Cromwell is alive and well".

"You are the dinosaur" the man responded, "We are here to put right the horrifying views of your generation and their parents".

"Do you agree with these views?" the Vicar asked the girl who was edging away from the action.

"We will be back".

## Pepper Fen. Continued

“Don't bring her into this” the man ordered. The vicar stared at the girl who looked away but momentarily the vicar felt he knew the girl. He just could not put a name to her or know where he had seen her before.

“It is because of her parents - your generation - she was forced to turn to me for help. We have a lot to put right. Don't we dear?”.

The girl gave the faintest nod.

The dog had been quiet all this time but it now began to let its presence be known. It was fed up standing in one place in the rain and wanted to return to the dry now its walk was over. It gave a bark and strained at its lease. It was also disturbed by the raised voices and was taking a dislike to this person who was arguing with its master. It growled menacingly.

“ I think you had better go before my dog takes action” Dan warned quietly. “We will be back”.

**To be continued.....**

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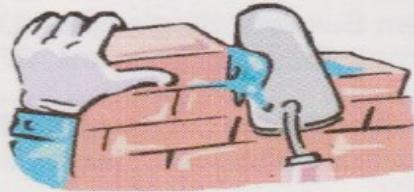


# Clenchwarton Village Official Group

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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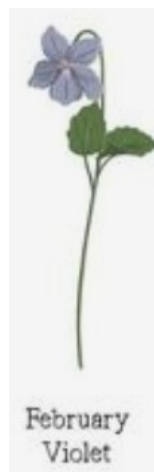
## The February birth flowers are violet and iris.

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Because February is always associated with Valentine's Day it always surprises people when they find out that roses aren't actually the official birth flower of the month.



February  
Violet





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## Puzzle Page Answers. How did you do ?

---



- 1 Pyramus
- 2 Othello
- 3 You can have one of two answers. Edgar Linton or Heathcliff.
- 4 Rochester
- 5 Louis the Sixteenth
- 6 Henry the Eighth
- 7 George the Fourth
- 8 Horatio Nelson
- 9 David Copperfield
- 10 Leander.

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## Nature Watch



My husband and I have four cats and anyone who has a cat will know just how fussy they can be with their food. So any food that they turn their noses up at, I cut up nice and small and throw out in the morning for the birds. This isn't unusual because most wild birds which have been found injured or vulnerable that are handed into the wildlife rescue centre, which normally eat worms or bugs, are actually fed on wet dog food. Over the years my husband and I raised a number of healthy abandoned birds on cat food, until they were ready to be released. So cat food gives the birds a good supplement in bad weather. In the summer we put the cat food out at night for the hedgehogs that come round the bird table looking for scraps. Hedgehogs will eat anything and the cat food is always a lifeline in the hot dry summers that we have been having, when the ground is like concrete and birds and animals struggle to find food and water. My Dad complained last year because his allotment in Hertfordshire was raided by badgers, it was something that had never happened before and I explained to him that the badgers were probably desperate for food. They have not returned to the allotments since.

During the last hard freeze and little snow that we had I was throwing out some cat food when suddenly about twenty gulls came swooping down trying to pick up the cat food. After that I put out extra cat food every morning, and the gulls would appear every morning at the same time, creating quite a spectacle. Once the weather had improved the gulls stopped coming.



The bird table is very busy at present, lots of house sparrows, starling, blackbirds, four robins, the usual pigeons and doves. We are also pleased to see the stock doves are back, we had three of them in the garden today. We also have three female pheasants which turn up every morning together with a couple of squirrels. All these birds don't go unnoticed by our resident sparrow hawk, who was sitting in the bush by the bird table the other day. The robins are becoming territorial, most birds do not bother with territories outside of the breeding season. However the robin (male and female) set up their territory in Autumn and defend their patch through the winter months. Although they have been quite tolerant of each other up till now at the bird table, there is a definite change in their behaviour.



The crocuses have started to come through, so Ian has been out with the deer deterrent spray. He mixed up some garlic and hot peppers in the kitchen yesterday, ready to spray on the crocuses, the smell was horrendous! No wonder it works. The snowdrops are also coming through, but the deer never touch them. I can only think that they must be poisonous to them. I drove out to Watlington in the morning and was delighted to see that one of the fields was full of Swans, probably Bewick swans. I think that it is always amazing to see them in such large numbers.

(DM)

---

A few months back I told you about the injured pigeon who had found a partner nicknamed Henry the Eighth. Sadly the relationship did not last. With St Valentine's Day approaching I am pleased to offer you a new romance. Another injured pigeon was taken to the hospital and our pigeon was only too pleased to help in his recovery. He did recover and their relationship has blossomed so she now has given birth to a baby pigeon. Mother, father and baby are all doing well and seem very happy.

(GS)

---

## Contact your magazine

Editor; **Grahame Sampson** on **01553 769819**. Email articles to [grahamesampson@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamesampson@btinternet.com) or drop off at 18 Margareta Close, Clenchwarton.

We need your articles in by

**14 Feb for the Mar Edition.**

Just send to Grahame thanks.

All other enquiries and advertising enquires; **Debra McGowan** on 01553 773467 or email at [warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk](mailto:warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk)

**The advertising and magazine subscriptions help keep the magazine in print and provides some funds towards the church projects. If you can help with the magazine let us know.**

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## **The Clenchwarton Lectures**

**In February the lectures will resume.** I hope that all of them have been interesting, I have certainly found them so. One of the lectures last year had to be postponed because Penny was unwell and I covered in her place with an account of the ministerial achievements, and achievements as Prime Minister, of Sir Robert Peel.

**Penny's lecture will therefore start our 2023 lectures.** This will, I am sure, will be more light hearted and is entitled "Frank and his cars" **It will be at the Chapel School Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February.**

I am trying to arrange 10 or 11 Lectures for the year ahead and so far have arranged half a dozen. If you have a subject you can speak on for about half an hour or more, please contact me. I will be pleased to hear from you. (Contact 01553 769819 or email: [grahamesampson@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamesampson@btinternet.com).)