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September 2023



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Clenchwarton Church
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01945 781228

Church Wardens:

Debra McGowan – 01553 773467
warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk

Andy Taylor – 07939 055031

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Jan Taylor – 07725 940453

Please contact Debra McGowan for Baptisms, Marriages, etc

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

Methodist Chapel Services

(all services in the Chapel unless otherwise stated)

Sunday September 3rd	10.30am Jackie Goddard
Sunday September 10th	10.30am Worship Team
Sunday September 17th	10.30am Judith Semmons (Harvest Sunday)
Sunday September 24th	10.30am Sheila Johnson

Everyone is invited to any of our Services.
Any queries please ring 07792 677891



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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.



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

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

Saturday 9th September Walking Group 10.30 from the School

Saturday 16th September Monthly Lecture at the Chapel. "The formation of political parties and my Great Grandfathers role".

Saturday 8th October – Walking Group. 10.20am from Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

Saturday 15th October Monthly Lecture at the Chapel. "Labyrinths"

Saturday 18th November Craft Fair in Church. Time to be announced.

Saturday 18th November- Monthly Lecture at the Chapel. "Our life in music".



**Coffee Mornings
at St Margaret's Church**
Every Thursday between 10-12 noon

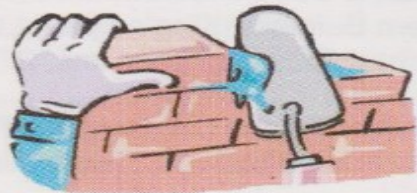
**7TH SEPTEMBER RASING FUNDS FOR
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

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.

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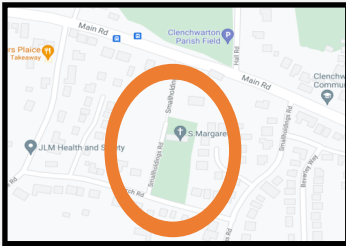
“Build with Confidence, Call Build Right”

St Margaret's Church Services

Grand Draw (The picture of Toby) to take place on **Saturday 2nd September at 2pm**. This is the last opportunity for you to buy a ticket and win a picture of your choice. Money raised in aid of St Margaret's Church and Cats Protection.



Sunday 3rd September 10.00am Communion



Sunday 10th September 10.00am Morning Prayers with hymns

Sunday 17th September 10.00am Harvest Festival. Followed by our annual Auction of Produce. Donated produce is auctioned and all the proceeds go to the Farming Community Network charity. At this service we welcome the Revd. Canon Simon Talbott (Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Ely) leading the service.

Sunday 24th September 10.00am Morning Prayers with hymns

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Bible Study Group

There is a temporary halt to our meetings but we shall be resuming in due course with Genesis so that will be an apt time to join us if you wish.

Please contact Penny Snape on 01553 773142 if you have any enquiries.



?? Puzzle Page ??



“Name That Village”

You have three clues about a Norfolk village.

Can you get the answer from the first clue?

Or will you need clue two?

Or maybe clue three?

Clue One There were once two churches in this village sharing the same churchyard though only one now survives.

Clue Two The Manor house was built for Sir Nicholas Bacon, father of Francis Bacon, His son, Nathaniel, lived here whilst also being the High Sheriff of King's Lynn once and the High Sheriff of Norfolk three times.

Clue Three The local delicacy is a cockle named after the village with the addition of the colour blue. The village was once an important port at the mouth of the river which gives the village its name.

“Quiz” - People born in September.

1 English Scientist who discovered the principles of electromagnetic induction and electrolysis. A Scientific Law was named after him and he died at Hampton Court Palace.

2 Born in Venice he was an Italian Merchant who travelled the Silk Road to China.

3 English Landscape and Portrait painter who pictured the Industrial Revolution. He was born and died in Derby.

4 Born in Norfolk his official rank was Vice Admiral of the White. He died in 1805.

5 Born at Monmouth Castle he was only King of England for nine years. According to Shakespeare he told his soldiers “to go once more unto the breach”.

6 He was the Prime Minister when Britain went to war in 1914. One of his great grandchildren is the actress Helena Bonham-Carter.

7 Prolific author born in Torquay whose main characters were a nosey elderly lady and a Belgian detective.

8 Author born in Cardiff of Norwegian descent of largely children's stories who has sold more than three hundred million books world wide.

9 Queen who's mother was beheaded born in the Palace of Placentia and died in Richmond Palace.

10 German composer famous for his Brandenburg Concertos.

Good Luck!

The answers all follow later in the magazine.

Pilgrimage

The village of Grimston itself now has a smaller population than its hamlet of Pott Row. The area between Roydon Common and Grimston boasts a remarkable score of fifteen different species of dragonfly living there including the very rare Black Darter. This species of dragonfly only breeds in two places in Britain and the site at Grimston is one of them. In Grimston lies the site of a Roman Villa. It was unlikely that an Italian lived here, more likely that a rich local man who had adopted the Roman way of life and was loyal to the Romans lived here. The name Grimston comes from the Saxon or Viking era. The word ton is Saxon for farmstead or hamlet but the prefix Grim suggests a Viking overlord.

From Grimston we continue in a predominantly northerly direction through Congham to Hillington. The name Congham is Saxon and means a farmstead or homestead built upon a mound. Congham is named in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it was a settlement of 54 houses. It cannot be that much more populated today!

We now reach Hillington which I always associate with the copy of the Eastern Gate of King's Lynn at Hillington Manor. The Jacobean Manor House was built in 1627 by orders of Sir Richard Hovel. The Hall eventually passed into the Folkes family through the marriage of one of the descendants of Sir Richard. Memorials of the Hovel and Folkes families fill Hillington Church. In a canopied wall monument at the church we see Sir Richard Hovel with his wife at a desk, both are wearing ruffs with their mantles. On a ledge below them are a son and his wife, he is wearing armour whilst she is attired with flowers in her hair and a gown with hooped skirt and open bodice. Another monument in the church is to Sir Edward West and his wife. Sir Edward was a lawyer who became Chief Justice of Bombay but he also wrote treatises on economic issues and was one of the first people to advocate Free Trade. As early as 1815 he was advocating the repeal of the corn laws.

If our pilgrim in the middle ages went into Hillington Church he would not have seen any of the above monuments and would not even have seen Hillington Hall. He may have seen four wayside crosses which were positioned near the entrance to where Hillington Hall now stands.

If our pilgrim had spent the previous night in King's Lynn, he would now be very tired but not far from Hillington was Flichtam Abbey where he could have received refreshments and a bed for the night. Flichtam Abbey lies parallel to the present main road to Fakenham and is now no more than stones in a farmer's field. Like most abbeys, it was largely destroyed under orders from Henry VIII. Flichtam Abbey was an Augustinian priory built in 1217 as a dependant abbey to Walsingham. It was dissolved in 1538 when going on a pilgrimage was banned.

Next month we will commence a new day for our pilgrim now just one days walk from his destination



Pastoral Letter

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



We are approaching the season of Harvest Festivals when we give thanks for the harvest and the food we eat. A couple of years ago there was an announcement made by the head of the Food and Drink Federation that the days of fully stacked shelves in supermarkets are gone and may not be coming back, and the idea of that is a bit of a shock for most of us. It's a sign of the abundance and relative prosperity to which most in our society have become accustomed. Our reaction might also show our ignorance of those who produce our food and those who work to get it to us. It's no surprise that it's hard to find HGV drivers when you hear that many of them spend so much time away from home that they don't spend any real time with their own children.

When I was a curate my training incumbent did the talk at Harvest Festival which focused on all the steps necessary to produce a bottle of wine and get it to the check-out in the supermarket. He asked the congregation about every step in the production process, from growing and tending the vine onwards, and every time someone gave an answer that person was asked to step forward and form a line. Before long about half the congregation were standing at the front of the church. I've since done a similar thing but asking about a loaf of bread. Of course, it's not just the obvious things like wheat and flour. What about the water – collected in reservoirs, treated and filtered, and carried along networks of pipes to the factory? It's a wonderful, if unromantic, glimpse of how easy it is to take for granted what we have come to call convenience shopping.

We all need to think about the impact our sometimes greedy and careless lifestyles have not only on other people but also on the future of the planet. Our Harvest Festivals are a chance to stop and thank God for the simple things we need to live and to put the luxuries in perspective. As the hymn says, "All the gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love".

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Walking Group

WALKING

Our next walk is on Saturday September 9th at 10.30am from the village school. Anyone is welcome to join us.



In October the walk will be a bit different as we will be starting at the slightly earlier time of **10.20am** and from the **Saturday Market Place** in King's Lynn and we will have Mike Brown as our guide.



Join us and you will get a little exercise together with learning and appreciating the unique architecture of King's Lynn.

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; Sept 22, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15

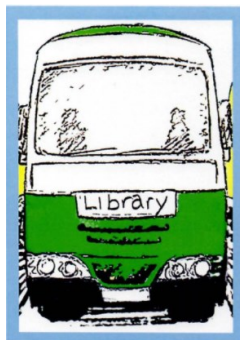
At the following places and times Clenchwarton:

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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From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Revd Jackie Goddard

(Clenchwarton and Terrington St Clement
Methodist Churches)

Contact: j.goddard@methodist.org.uk (07881 952098)



What is your connection?

You may think that Church has nothing to do with you. You may think that you don't want anything to do with church. You may have had a link in the past but are not sure what you feel about it today; or you may be very involved with church, and it

plays a big part in your life. We are all connected, whether we are involved in something directly or not. We have more in common than we often realise and finding our connections can help us to live and thrive together in our communities.

This 'lookalike' Tube map is based on A Methodist Way of Life. It offers a way of living which gives rhythm and balance. Each station represents something we might do in our daily lives - whether we go to church or not; whether we are religious or not. We are all on this same journey trying to find the best way to live. When we can find connections with others, that journey becomes both easier and more fun.

Can you recognise any of these stations or would you like to spend more time visiting them?

Here is a quick introduction to what they mean. I'll explore them more in the coming months.



OPEN - we try to be hospitable to one another.

NOTICE - we notice God in the Bible and everywhere around us.

FLOURISH - we care about the Earth. It is precious, fragile and beautiful.

TELL - we all have a story to tell, and our stories matter.

CARE - helping one another is a win-win situation. Everyone benefits when we look after each other and ourselves.

LEARN - we never stop learning.

PRAY - we are spiritual beings.

LIVE - we try to live the best version of ourselves.

SERVE - there are always jobs that need doing and we all have a part to play.

WORSHIP - worship is where we are refreshed as part of a community of faith

CHALLENGE - we want to stand up for justice and work for equity and freedom for all.

SHARE - Christians believe that the story (the Gospel) they have to share makes a difference to the world we live in and the lives of all people.



There is so much to explore when you go on a faith journey
Maybe you can see where you connect.

You can find out more about how the Methodist Church is using this by contacting me, or by going to www.methodist.org.uk

Every blessing

Revd Jackie Goddard

Clenchwarton Parish Council

Thursday 7th August 7.00pm

Parliament is on summer recess when very little political activity occurs as our MP's take a holiday. Would our Parish Council be the same I wondered as I walked towards the August meeting.? **My curiosity was already heightened as this was to be an EXTRAORDINARY meeting of the council.**

A surprise met me as I entered the hall as the council **had introduced a projection screen to the proceedings**, which allowed everyone in the hall to benefit from the visuals. It was particularly helpful when the planning applications were considered.

After the meeting was called to order and the usual formalities were covered, the meeting began with the **chair announcing the resignation of Kevin Pell**. Kevin has served the village, through the council, for eighteen years and the chair acknowledged this service. **I'm sure the readers of this magazine would like to add their thanks.**

The meeting was then opened to the public who raised firstly, the **need for signage on the Pavilion** to make people aware of the emergency access route to the playing fields and secondly the need for the mobile speed limit signs to work. **Apparently, residents are unhappy that the speed limit signs have not been working due to the need for new batteries.** This suggestion was initially resisted by a councillor but eventually he offered an apology, and it appears the situation will be resolved quickly by simply replacing the batteries. A final question was asked regarding finances which merged into the next agenda item so I'll treat them together.

FINANCES- it's easy to get sucked into the world of the Parish finances and feel sympathetic but, when you force yourself to step back and detach yourself, you think, 'I cannot believe what I am hearing'. It became apparent during a robust exchange of views with a resident that the Parish Council still does not have control of its bank account. Consequently, there are unpaid invoices/bills (some over 450 days late) which includes wages. The resident also pointed out that the Parish Council could be in a position where it has to pay interest. I later was told by the resident that the rate of interest could be as high as 13%, though this figure needs to be confirmed. If this does happen there is a distinct possibility that residents will cover this by an increase in their council tax! Some excuses were put forward and some councillors stated their desire to resolve the problem, but the bottom line is.....nobody wants to see their council tax increase for no good reason during the present financial difficulties so action not words are needed. Cllr Alexandra Kemp interjected from the audience to suggest that the parish lodges a complaint with the Financial Ombudsman.

Clenchwarton Parish Council

An Internal Auditor Report has been produced and was looked at by the councillors. I had the impression that this was the first time they had seen this report as there was a long period of silence as they read through it. It was then fully accepted without one question being asked. The Parish website suggests these audits should be carried out annually but the last one available on the website is from April 2020 to March 2021. Following on from this, the chair read out several long sentences pertaining to financial governance and the Council decided whether they had fulfilled their responsibility. This latter part of the financial section of the meeting was hard going for an observer. Consequently, I struggled to follow everything but, the document should be posted on the Parish website for anyone who is curious to find out more. **The last one I found on the website was again for April 2020 to March 2021.**

The next items were planning applications and the decision to incorporate technology into the proceeding was a welcome step towards a more professional meeting. Each planning application was on the screen, in colour with maps so it was possible to better understand some of the concerns that councillors raised. Valid points were raised as the councillors looked at each application.

The latter part of the meeting predominantly covered **possible Social Action projects**. Firstly, Cllr Fox reported on Community Fall teams, one of which could be set up in the village. **It involves volunteer community first responders helping people who have a fall in their home.** They will provide the immediate care to reduce risks and, if safe to do so, will assist patients from the floor using specialist lifting equipment. The team is fully supported remotely by clinicians at each stage as needed. It aims to lower the risk of patients who suffered a fall from deteriorating from a potential 'non-injury' fall, to them requiring a 999 ambulance response and potential transport to hospital. Secondly, Councillor Fox stated his intention to set up a coffee morning style regular event inside the Pavilion. Last, but by no means least the **Christmas tree was mentioned!** I checked, it was the first week of August.

My reflections – using a projector and screen during the meeting, whilst not cutting edge did bring clarity to some sections of the meeting especially the planning applications. The Memorial Hall is not set up for presentations which together with its poor acoustics and noisy floor makes it in many ways an unsuitable venue for public meetings.

Clenchwarton Parish Council

The chair was much more assertive which contributed to a shorter meeting. During the 'open' section of the meeting she prevented the meeting simply covering 'old ground' thereby allowing the meeting to address the problem as it stands today. **Unfortunately, the agenda did not include 'matters arising' so I am unable to report back on any progress made on the issues covered at the previous meeting such as the Pavilion roof,** the Pavilion electrics (you may have noticed it has rained since the previous meeting) and hire agreement proposals. Perhaps these will be covered at the next Ordinary meeting.

It was heartening to hear the enthusiasm some Councillors have for **Social Action**. Judging by their demeanour when these agenda items were covered it was probable that this was a significant motivation factor for some to be involved with the Parish Council. If these projects do come into existence, they will enrich the village and deepen the sense of community that our local school, churches, football club and others are already nurturing.

However, **the Parish Council should not lose sight of its primary purpose.....ensuring, for their areas of responsibility that there is strong governance in place.** The messiness of the Parish finances, flat batteries in the speed limit signage and slow progress in repairing the Pavilion roof are clear indicators that the quality of governance needs improving. People pay taxes and have a valid expectation that they get value for money. Poor governance with the finances could result in residents having to pay more council tax without getting anything back in return. Let's hope that scenario doesn't happen and future meetings bring more positive news regarding the finances. I am not holding my breath as the minutes of the June 8th meeting stated: **the clerk advised that after tomorrow all the paperwork to change the bank mandate would be in place and hopefully the Council will have control of the bank account within the next two weeks.**

(DH)

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

The Agenda's and official minutes are published on the Parish Council website go to

<https://clenchwartonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

The next meeting is on August 24th which David will be unable to attend. We hope to bring you an account but that will be in the next issue of the magazine as the date of the meeting is too late for inclusion in this issue.



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Electric Charging Point

The Electric Charging point has become a talking point in the village but there remains, more questions than answers. This motivated me to meet with a member of the Hall committee. This meeting was cordial throughout, with the committee member willing to answer every question I asked.

Well, what did I learn? Firstly, the relationship between the Hall committee and the Parish Council is not as it should be. They should be partners, who dovetail together to achieve commonly held goals that benefit the village. The quality of the relationship is probably the main reason the charging point situation has arisen.

Secondly, the Hall committee claim that they have informed the Parish Council throughout the whole process of installing the charging point. This is based upon the following. A member of the Parish Council sits on the Hall committee which meets quarterly and should then report on the Hall committee's activities at the next Parish Council meeting. To help the Parish Councillor report back on the charging point the Hall even prepared a short document which read as follows; *An EV charging point has been added on the external far right-hand side of the hall with the correctly marked parking location. This will initially be made available (free of charge) to those paying to use the hall, while investigations are made on being able to open its use out to the wider community for a reasonable charging rate. Use is currently controlled by Pin code access should anyone be thinking of attempting to use without approval.*

I checked all the Parish Council minutes for 2022 and 2023 to verify what I had heard. Unfortunately, **the Parish Council have not ensured that all minutes were published on the website for 2022** so the only reference I could find was within the minutes for August 4th 2022 which states: *A councillor gave a report on a meeting at the Memorial Hall on June 6th.*

A simple statement with no suggestion of a discussion or questions asked etc. Valid questions that would have been pertinent for the Parish Council to ask include:

Was a feasibility study carried out before deciding to install a charging point?

Why was a charging point a priority for the Hall when in 2022 it was asking the Parish Council for a substantial contribution to replace the boiler? (see Minutes September 3rd 2022).

What is the justification for some folk to be able to charge their car for free?

What is the timescale for village residents to be able to use the charger?

*What is the justification for some folk to be able to charge their car for free?
Why did they choose a charger which does not allow payment by card?
Who decides who can use the charger and how are these decision makers held to account?
What is the timescale for village residents to be able to use the charger?*

A bigger question, that I cannot get out of my head is 'have the Parish Council lost control of the Memorial Hall?'

Turning attention to the Hall committee, it should be acknowledged that they have been creative and entrepreneurial in their approach. As well as the charging point, they have installed solar panels, installed battery storage units, ensured an emergency power supply, replace the boiler and have cooperative ownership in a wind farm. They are presently addressing the pot hole problem outside the Hall. **This is commendable, they have got things done in a village where progress can be slow.** It's possible, that the reason they have made these improvements is because they have got on with things, with little interference from without side their small group. The downside, is that their has been limited accountability. Most of these improvements will be a surprise to the residents of Clenchwarton. I did challenge this committee member on this lack of openness and why they were not publishing their activities widely, especially as some residents were suspicious of their motives due to a lack of openness. The answers I heard left me unconvinced.

A contentious issue that arose during our conversation is the legal ownership of the hall. At a recent Parish meeting it was stated that the Hall has no Trustees so the Parish Council become the legal owners and therefore Custodian trustees. The hall committee member believes the Trustees are other people, who he named. I have searched online and elsewhere for any evidence to support this view but drew a blank. Is the reason I drew a blank because the Parish Council are the Custodian trustees not the people he named? Herein lies the root of the problem – who owns the hall? A line needs to be drawn in the sand and sound governance re-established by confirming beyond doubt

- 1 Who are the legal owners of the hall?
- 2 Who are the trustees of the hall ?
- 3 What are the commonly held goals for the Memorial Hall?
- 4 What is the delegated responsibility of the Hall committee?
- 5 How will the Hall committee be held to account?

(DH)



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“Name That Village” - Stiffkey

Quiz

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- 3 Joseph Wright
- 4 Horatio Nelson
- 5 Henry V
- 6 Herbert Asquith
- 7 Agatha Christie
- 8 Roald Dahl
- 9 Elizabeth 1
- 10 Johann Sebastian Bach



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Obituary

Florence Dams

Florence would have been surprised to see so many folk at her thanksgiving service at the Chapel. It even meant that extra chairs had to be brought in.

She had been a member of the chapel for many years. She had a lovely voice and used to sing solos and duets with Jim Shaw. She attended our Prayer Group when it was at the Chapel. On Tuesdays she went into King's Lynn to what she called the 'Well' in Wellesley Street. There they had games and refreshments.

She was very friendly to Marjorie Bocking who lived opposite to her and she missed her very much when she died. A lot of banter took place between the two of them, but when one or the other was unwell they helped one another. She bought a mobility scooter but sadly did not have the confidence to use it.

You always knew where you were with Florence because she would always tell you!!

(Harold Smith)

Fire Safety

In June of this year a fire occurred in Cambridge which sadly took the lives of two children and their mother. It is believed that the house fire was caused by an e-scooter charger/battery.



Fire and Rescue have provided advice on how to prevent these fires and other house fires. The advice can be seen at <https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/home-safety-advice/electrical-safety/e-bikes-and-e-scooters>.

You can also get a free online home fire safety check, it can be completed individually, as a family or possibly with a friend/neighbour that may be vulnerable.

<https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/home-safety/home-fire-safety>.

The online home fire safety check is a useful tool, not only does it give advice using a risk matrix, it also can be used as a referral tool for specialist officers to be sent to a property if members of the public would like to have a visit.

Pepper Fen. Episode 31

(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.)

Martin put his arm around the back of Sheila and ushered her in the direction of their home. "Come on dear" you must be exhausted. Fiona stepped in the way. "I want you all at the Police Station. There is a lot for you all to explain".

"Get out of our way police officer. You have no grounds for arrest and you know it. ". Megan watched proceedings with alarm. "Mother. Come with me. Don't let him bully you any more".

Fiona addressed her next remark to Megan, "Why did you run away?". She was about to add a follow up question but she noticed that Martin was now almost dragging Sheila around her. She attempted to get back in the way. Martin spoke aggressively in her face, "Can't you see, officer, that my wife is not well and needs to have her medication. Don't you love?".

Sheila had not said a word up to now but at last she spoke. "Megan don't leave me. I've missed you. Please come back" and then as an afterthought, "You have not really got married have you?".

At this point Fiona looked around for the 'husband' but he had sidled away in the commotion and was nowhere to be seen. She felt annoyed and frustrated but was relieved when the sound of a car was heard and one of her colleagues drove up to the scene. Jonathan Bright stepped out of the car. He nodded at Fiona though was surprised she was the officer there. He had expected to see Gabrielle. "What is going on?" he asked his fellow officer. Martin attempted to cut in and answer the question but Fiona raised her voice and said firmly, "I want all these people at the station. They either come willingly or I arrest them all".

"We have committed no offence" Martin argued.

"In which case sir you will not mind accompanying us".

Jonathan opened the door to the back seats of his car and beckoned the others to enter. They entered reluctantly. "You will not hear the last of this" he hissed at Fiona, "Your career is finished".

Once they had managed to secure their three back seat passengers, Fiona got in beside Jonathan and they drove off towards the Police Station.

At the Police Station they were signed in and then Fiona ensured they were separated. Martin, as expected, complained but she ignored him. Only Martin asked for a solicitor, Sheila and Megan meekly agreed to be seen without one and admitted they did not possess a solicitor. Fiona interviewed Sheila first with Jonathan taking notes. She adopted a friendly tone but Sheila appeared nervous and cagey with her replies. She did not want to speak about her husband but surprised Fiona when she asked out of the blue about the murder opposite their house. "Have you a suspect?" she asked nervously.

"I may have" Fiona replied, "Your husband for instance is rather prone to committing acts of violence".
She was surprised to note that Sheila visibly seemed more relaxed. It occurred to her that maybe she had something to hide regarding the murder. "Did you know the murdered man?". "Of course not". "Why did your daughter run away?".

"She didn't kill him".

"How do you know that?".

"I killed him".

"I'm sorry. I didn't quite hear that. Can you repeat that for the benefit of the recording?".

The repeat was not much louder and at the end of it Sheila burst into tears.

Fiona turned to Jonathan, "Think we had better get a solicitor for her".

Fiona was stunned. This was not what she had expected.

.....

They returned Sheila to a cell and called in Megan next. There were three questions Fiona wanted answers to; why had she ran away, was she married, and who was her supposed husband? Megan was reticent to supply any of the answers. Fiona decided on a new tack. "What do you know about the murder which took place in Pepper Fen?".

Megan said she had heard about it of course. "Would you have expected one of you parents to be the murderer?".

Megan shook her head. "Megan has shook her head but could you please speak your answers for the benefit of the tape?".

"Would it surprise you to learn that one of your parents had admitted to the murder?".

"He didn't do it".

"So you immediately thought I meant your father?".

"My mother would never kill anyone".

"She says she did."

"She's lying".

"Why would she do that?".

Silence. "Would she do it to protect your father?".

"She would do it to protect me".

To be continued.....

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Clenchwarton Village Official Group

Private group · 1.2K members

If you can, post what's going on to your village facebook page and let others know also.



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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Nature Watch

Have you spotted more Red Admiral Butterflies this year than normal? I have found this has been overall a disappointing year for butterflies. Normally I get a lot of butterflies on my buddleia and usually most of them are Peacocks. This year there have been less butterflies in total but the most abundant has been the Red Admiral. I would not have jumped to any conclusions about this until reading in the national paper that there have been a lot more Red Admirals over the country this year and they are putting it down to global warming and that usually the Red Admiral largely emigrates for the winter to hotter climes but this year most have stayed all year round. It appears that in future we can expect increasing numbers of Red Admirals.

I have a number of fruit trees in my garden – well a cherry tree and two plum trees as well as a blackcurrant bush. The blackcurrant bush has been there since I was a child and has always produced a number of blackcurrants and this year has been no exception. The results from the cherry and plum trees have up to this year been desultory and I had given up on ever eating a home grown plum ever again. This year has been a shock.

The cherry usually manages about a dozen cherries but they are usually scooped by the starlings before I have had a chance of picking them. Last year I managed to save three cherries but the starlings had within minutes devoured the rest. I seldom see any starlings in my garden but they appear out of the blue in mass as soon as the cherries appear. This year I have failed to get any cherries at all and have not seen any growing but in retrospect I can remember a horde of starlings suddenly appearing one day but never reappearing. I wonder if that was the day all cherries disappeared and I never even saw them starting to grow.

I have two plum trees because one is needed to germinate the other. For the last five years there have been no plums because one of the trees appeared to have died. This year a tree has remarkably grown up in the same place and guess what – plums have appeared and I have eaten half a dozen and there are more beginning to ripe. Unbelievable ! The other thing I have noticed is that once in the past the plum tree would become an attraction for wasps. This year I have been buzzed by no wasps and have not seen more than a couple of wasps anywhere. The month for wasps is often September but nevertheless there does appear to be a lot less wasps this year. Good for not getting stung – Bad for pollination.

(GS)

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The Clenchwarton Lectures

The next lecture is on **Saturday 16th September starting at 2.30pm** when it will be about the formation of political parties and my great grandfathers role in the creation of one of them. There is also a strong local influence in the creation of two of the other parties.

If you are willing to give one of our popular lectures I will be pleased to hear from you.

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email: grahamesampson@btinternet.com

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History of Clenchwarton

I am currently reading a book from the library called "The Island" by Victoria Hislop. Although fiction, there is a lot of fact in it. It is set in the Greek island of Crete so you might wonder what this has got to do with Clenchwarton, well, I will explain later. The book is all about the leper island of Spinalonga which is a very small island just off the coast of Crete. Anybody who caught leprosy in Crete and later the whole of Greece was moved there away from everybody no matter what their age so parents were sent leaving children behind and children were sent leaving their parents and family behind. It seems cruel but people believed that leprosy was easily passed from person to person and there was no cure and this belief was shared across the world.

What I found shocking was that lepers are still taken from society in many places of the world today and even in Crete the leper island was only closed down in 1957 which is within my lifetime. In my naivety I thought that leprosy was a disease of ancient times. I knew it was around in Biblical times and the Middle Ages but now?

In the past people believed that leprosy was easily caught from someone who had it. They thought you were sure to catch it if you touched the leper and some even thought you could get it just from being in the same room. Many thought it was hereditary as so many in the same families were afflicted by it. Doctors were reluctant to treat lepers so it was even difficult to find a doctor who would treat other ailments a leper might have. Some people did not live long after diagnosis, some committed suicide once they had the dreaded diagnosis, but most lived for a long time afterwards and were otherwise in good health.

What was learnt by the 1950's was that leprosy was not easily passed from person to person, nor was it hereditary. If you touched a leper's clothing you were perfectly safe. You could only catch the disease from someone by touching an infected part of their skin which explains why so many who caught it had other members of the family previously diagnosed. Leprosy can now be treated and most people can be cured. It has been eradicated from many places but it is still present in parts of Asia, Africa and South and Central America. Despite what we now know, there are still so called leper hospitals in the world.

In the Middle Ages leprosy was a scourge across the world. In England lepers were not exiled to a small island but instead were sent to leper hospitals which were called lazarus houses.

These were more like prisons than hospitals as the leper was removed from society. Care was provided but there was little attempt to find a cure.

There are known to be at least 350 leper houses in England but there may have been a lot more. The first hospital for lepers in England was built under the orders of Archbishop Lanfranc in about 1089, the last was built around 1350. They were usually established by religious orders.

In the Middle Ages there were four types of hospital; for lepers, for poor and sick pilgrims, for the poor and infirm, and almshouses or bedehouses. Leper hospitals accounted for about a quarter of all hospitals.

Today leprosy, also called Hansen's Disease, is treatable and fairly rare. But it was a widespread affliction around the globe between the eleventh and the fourteenth centuries. It could cause in the worst cases, lesions, gangrene and blindness.

The remains of a leper hospital still exists at Harbledown in Kent which was built in the eleventh century. In Norfolk hospitals were sited apart from but close to major population centres. There was one close to Norwich and another at Walsingham which was dissolved in the sixteenth century. King's Lynn, then called Bishop's Lynn, was a major town in the Middle Ages so several leper hospitals were built close to it. They were sited away from the population itself but close to transport routes. One of the leper hospitals was placed at West Lynn and was not dissolved until the fifteenth century. It was located where Poppyfields has recently been built and access to it was by boat landing at the port at Clenchwarton close to where Stone Tunnel Farm is today.

One can only imagine the grief of those getting off the boat at Clenchwarton to start a new life knowing they would never see their family again even though they might feel perfectly well and live for many years.

County Councillor Report

Dear Residents, The traffic order for Smallholdings Road, that I am paying for from my County Member Highways Budget, was advertised on 11 August and the consultation runs until 5 September. It is to prevent waiting, loading and unloading 08:00 to 09:30 14:00 to 16:00 on Smallholdings Road, Clenchwarton from C80/94, Main Road junction markings for 147 metres south, on the western side of Smallholdings Road to outside number 18 Smallholdings Road and from the C80/94, Main Road junction markings for 74 metres south, on the eastern side of Smallholdings Road past the junction of Rectory Drive, Clenchwarton. The restriction will continue 10 metres into the junctions of Rectory Drive and St Margarets Meadow, Clenchwarton and 10 metres onto Main Road, Clenchwarton.

THE NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL (CLENCHWARTON, SMALLHOLDINGS ROAD, RECTORY DRIVE AND ST MARGARETS MEADOW (PROHIBITION OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) (ORDER 2023).

The Norfolk County Council propose to make the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which on vehicles will be to prohibit waiting, loading and unloading during the times and lengths of road specified in the Schedule below.

A copy of the draft Order, plan, and a Statement of Reasons for making the Order may be viewed online at <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/>. Copies may also be available for inspection at Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich and at the offices of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, King's Court, Chapel St, King's Lynn PE30 1EX.

Any objections and representations relating to the Order must be made in writing and must specify the grounds on which they are made. All correspondence for these proposals must be received at the office of nplaw, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH, marked for the attention of Mr W. Elliott by **5th September 2023** They may also be emailed to trafficorders@norfolk.gov.uk.

The Officer dealing with public enquiries concerning these proposals Alexandra Copeman telephone 01553 778019 or 0344 800 8020.

SCHEDULE

In the Parish of Clenchwarton

Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Unloading - Monday to Friday 08.00-09.30 and 14.00-16.00

C80 Main Road (Southern side)	-	From its junction with U21059 Smallholdings Road for 10 metres westwards and 10 metres eastwards
U23047 Rectory Drive (Eastern & Western sides)	-	From its junction with U21059 Smallholdings Road for 10 metres eastwards
U21059 Smallholdings Road (Eastern side)	-	From its junction with C80 Main Road for 74 metres southwards
U21059 Smallholdings Road (Western side)	-	From its junction with C80 Main Road for 147 metres southwards
U23046 St Margarets Meadow (Eastern & Western sides)	-	From its junction U21059 Smallholdings Road for 10 metres westwards

STATION ROAD

The footpaths at the top of Station Road are being resurfaced.

I have commissioned the Highways Network Team to take forward a feasibility study for 7.5t restriction and traffic calming measures. I will be paying for this from my Member Highways Budget. The combined study will cost £5k including traffic surveys and feasibility report and any relevant concept drawings for suitable schemes if this is what the study recommends.

The feasibility study will explore the following requests;

Effective traffic calming measures that could be deployed within the existing 30mph speed limit on Station Road, and the estimated costs for any recommended solution

Introduction of a 7.5t environmental weight restriction on Station Road and the estimated cost for any recommended solution

Consideration will need to be given to how a resulting scheme can be funded. There are no highway budgets currently available to fund either a 7.5t environmental weight limit or traffic calming measures but the HGV restriction could potentially be funded in a future year of my local highway member fund, and traffic calming measures could be delivered through a future parish partnership scheme bid if approved.

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

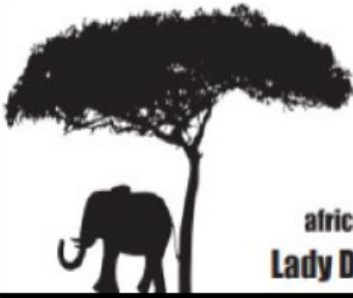
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Captain Corelli's Mandolin

By Louis de Bernieres

Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes
and then subsides.

And when it subsides you have to make a decision.

You have to work out whether your root was so
entwined together that it is inconceivable that you
should ever part.

Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is
not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion.

That is just being in love, which any fool can do.

Love itself is what is left over when being in love has
burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate
accident.

Those that truly love have roots that grow towards
each other underground, and when all the pretty
blossoms have fallen from their branches, they find
that they are one tree and not two.

How to Order A Copy of your Parish Magazine

The magazine is monthly and the annual cost is £4. The money helps to pay for the magazines production and any excess helps in the upkeep of your Parish Church.

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Contact your magazine

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

We need your articles in by

14 Sept for the Oct 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

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.

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



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**For more information visit
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