

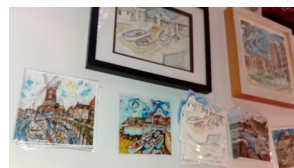
**CLENCHWARTON**  
**Your Village News**  
**DECEMBER 2024**





THE WONDERFUL CRAFT STALLS AT OUR WINTER CRAFT FAIR ON 23rd NOVEMBER.

Photos by Jane Moor



# Christmas CONCERT

**MUSIC, MERRIMENT AND MINCE PIES**

SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 2.30PM  
 GLENCHWARTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL



TICKETS: ADULTS £5 CHILDREN UNDER 16 £2.50  
 A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR CMC, ST. MARGARET'S PARISH  
 CHURCH AND KING'S LYNN NIGHT SHELTER



## ***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.

## **St Margaret's Church Clenchwarton Rector: Reverend Barbara Burton 01945 781228**

### **Churchwardens:**

Debra McGowan – 01553 773467  
[warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk](mailto: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**

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

### **Contact your magazine**

Editor: Grahame Sampson: 01553 769819  
[grahamesampson@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamesampson@btinternet.com)  
or drop off at 18 Margaretta Close, Clenchwarton.

All other enquiries and advertising enquires:  
Debra McGowan: 01553 773467  
[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 church projects. If you can help with the magazine please let either Debra or Grahame know.

**We need your articles in by 14TH DECEMBER for the  
JANUARY edition**

**CLENCHWARTON**  
**Your Village News**

**From the editors:**

We are determined to make this magazine an inclusive voice for our entire community.

We welcome all contributions, however modest, on the understanding that we will not publish any offensive material, and may have to edit articles for reasons of space.

**The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors.**

GS; DM; AJT; JT

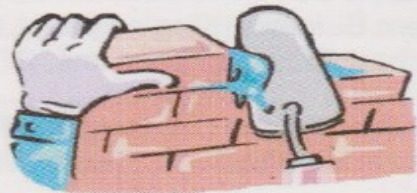
**WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.**

First of all, huge thanks must go to Sheryl Thompson for putting together the October and November editions of this magazine whilst I was away.

As I write we are heading into a very cold week of weather, so hats and gloves out and try to stay warm. The church is once again a warm hub, with heating on from 10-4 every day, and tea/coffee, biscuits and occasionally cup-a-soups available.

There is a lot going on in our village this month - please support these events - concerts, carol services, Christingle service, Christmas tree light turn on, Santa Run, Christmas Coffee morning etc . JT

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## Puzzle Corner Answers



- 1 It came upon a midnight clear
- 2 The first Nowell
- 3 Once in Royal David's City
- 4 Hark the herald angels sing
- 5 Silent Night
- 6 O Little town of Bethlehem
- 7 We three kings
- 8 Good Christian Men rejoice
- 9 While shepherds watched
- 10 Away in a manger



### Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church

**Every Thursday between 10-12 noon**

Do come along for a drink and a friendly chat.

Come and meet a wonderful group of Ladies and Gentlemen joining us every Thursday.

Please contact Debra (01553 773467) if you require transport to get to any coffee morning.

**Want to advertise in this magazine? Call Debra on 01553  
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#### **Black and white standard advert costs (per year):-**

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Half page	£60.00
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## St Margaret's Church Services in DECEMBER

Sun 1st Dec	Holy Communion service led by Rev'd Barbara Burton
Sun 8th Dec	Morning Prayer with hymns led by a churchwarden
Sun 15th Dec	Holy Communion service led by Rev'd Barbara Burton
Sun 22nd Dec	Morning Prayer with hymns led by a churchwarden
<b>Sun 22nd Dec</b>	<b>3PM NATIVITY CAROL SERVICE . Suitable for all ages</b>
<b>TUES 24th (Christmas Eve)</b>	<b>4PM CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>
<b>WED 25th (Christmas Day)</b>	<b>10am Morning Prayer (no hymns) led by Rev'd Barbara Burton</b>
Sun 29th Dec	Holy Communion service led by Rev'd Barbara Burton at St Margaret's.

All Church Services start at 10.00am unless otherwise stated  
Everyone is welcome to our services no matter what their age.

## Methodist Chapel Services in DECEMBER



Sun 1st	Judith Semmons
Sun 8th	Rev'd Jackie Goddard (Holy Communion)
Sun 15th	Worship Team (Nativity Service)
Sun 22nd	Service at Terrington St Clement Methodist Church
<b>Tues 24th (Christmas Eve)</b>	<b>9am Prayers for Christmas</b>
<b>Wed 25th (Christmas Day)</b>	<b>10.30am Service at Terrington St Clement Methodist Church</b>
Sun 29th	Café service

**All services begin at 10.30am**

**Please join us at any of our services. All are welcome to attend.**

## WARM HUB - ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

Once again St Margaret's Church is a **WARM HUB**. The church is open and heated between the hours of 10am - 4pm everyday. There is always tea/ coffee, sometimes hot chocolate or cupasoup, and biscuits. There is a good selection of books, some magazines and games. There are plenty of toys and games for children as well. Thursday morning is the Regular Coffee morning with cakes and plenty of natter. Don't sit at home in the cold - come along to the church where it might just be a bit warmer!



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## CLENCHWARTON ART GROUP

Our group meets every other Tuesday morning between 10am and noon, at the Methodist Chapel. Why not ring Elspeth on 01553 775698 with a view to joining us?



FOR  
UNTO US  
A CHILD  
IS BORN



**DIARY OF EVENTS in CLENCHWARTON and surrounding area for DECEMBER**



**EVERY THURSDAY 10am - 12 Noon**  
**COFFEE MORNING at St MARGARET'S CHURCH**  
**ALL WELCOME**

- 1st Dec Start of Photographic Competition. Rules and entry forms now in church
- 6th Dec 3.30pm Christmas Fayre Clenchwarton School
- 7th Dec 2.30pm Christmas Concert, Methodist Church Hall
- 14th Dec 10.30am Walking group
- 19th Dec 10am - 1pm Thursday Coffee Morning Christmas Party - everyone welcome
- 22nd Dec 3pm Nativity Carol Service, St Margaret's Church
- 24th Dec 4pm Christingle Service, St Margaret's Church
- 24th Dec Charity SANTA RUN. Please check local FaceBook pages for further information

**Please note the Bags2School collection at the school was November. Unfortunately the wrong date was published last month.**

**TO ALL GROUPS IN THE VILLAGE:**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR EVENT OR GROUP PUBLICISED HERE PLEASE SEND DETAILS TO GRAHAME SAMPSON [grahamesampson@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamesampson@btinternet.com) or drop off at 18 Margaretta Close, Clenchwarton**

**Walking Group**

**SATURDAY 14th December**

**10.30am starting at the village school**



10.30am on Saturday Morning again starting from the school. We would love more people to join us. It is free. It is sociable. The walks are not too strenuous. So why not come along? Anyone can join us and we would love to see you.

## NEWS FROM ST MARGARET'S

### LOOKING BACK

**REMEMBRANCE DAY - LEST WE FORGET** This was a well attended service when wreaths were laid at all three memorials in our village. £97 was collected and £100 was sent to the Royal British Legion.

**WINTER CRAFT FAIR** There were 15 stall holders (however did we fit them all in?!) displaying a wealth of crafts and talents, who all said they had a good day. The church cakes and tea/coffee stall did extremely well. I was amazed at the standard of the crafts and the fact that most of the stall holders live in our little village. This event made £230 for the church, so thank you to all who came.

### LOOKING FORWARD

#### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On **December 22nd at 3pm** we will be having a **Nativity Carol Service**. Come and hear the story of the nativity interspersed with some of your favourite carols. Be sure to be punctual as this was a popular service last year.

On **December 24th 4pm** come along to our popular **Christingle service**. Don't know what this is all about?? Come along and find out!

Both services are very suitable for both adults and children.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION December 1st - April 30th

By popular request we are running this competition again, widening the area for photographs to include Clenchwarton and Kings Lynn, which will provide plenty of scope for all photographers out there! The photos submitted last year were all of a very high standard so I look forward to seeing them all this year.

The competition starts on December 1st and runs until April 30th by which time all photos must have been submitted. Two independent judges will judge the photos.

There are three age categories: under 11, 12 – 17, and 18 and upwards. Photos can be taken on phones or cameras and must be printed out before submission (10" X 8"). The full set of rules are on the reverse of the entry forms are now in church. There will be prizes for the winner in each category. Entry forms are in the church.

So – get your thinking caps on. Where is the best place to get 'that' photo, how will the light affect my subject, what is behind my subject(!) etc? Happy Snapping

#### EXCITING NEW FOR 2025: 'SINGERS of NOTE' CONCERT

The very popular group 'Singers of Note' are making a return visit to our church on **14th June 2025 at 7pm**. Be sure to put this date in your diary as their concert sold out very quickly this year!



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## From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Revd. Jackie Goddard

[j.goddard@methodist.org.uk](mailto:j.goddard@methodist.org.uk) (07881 952098)

(Clenchwarton & Terrington St Clement Methodist Churches)



*From Heaven, You came helpless babe*

*Entered our world, your glory veiled*

*Not to be served but to serve*

*And give Your life that we might live.*

*This is our God, The Servant King*



THE CRADLE THE CROSS AND THE CROWN

In 1989, a Christian song writer called Graham Kendrick was inspired to write a hymn exploring Jesus' identity. The words above are the opening lines. It is still popular and sung in many different churches.

As we get ready for Christmas, it is good to pause and ask ourselves what we make of the story which is at the heart of this festival – where God becomes like us, so that we might become more like God.

What do we do with the story of Jesus which begins in a stable, takes him to death on a cross, and through his resurrection invites us all to faith and eternal life?

The baby Jesus was vulnerable, dependant, and threatened in a time in world history where we would recognise many of the horrific ways human beings treat one another. His response, in his adult ministry, was to reach out, to serve others, and to value everyone.

The radical idea of the king who serves is, perhaps, lost on us when we see members of the Royal Family rolling up their sleeves to get involved and make a difference. But serving others is not about royal visits, it is about how we treat one another every day. The baby in the Christmas manger is an invitation from God to love and to serve.

Martin Luther King Jr said "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve" and serving means loving and working so that everyone can work and love. May this month and Christmas be a blessed time for you, and may you find Jesus, the Servant King in the midst of it all.

Every blessing

Revd Jackie Goddard

(For more information: [www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/))



## PASTORAL LETTER

*Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....*



It is natural at the end of a year to look both forwards and backwards. We look back over the year that is gone, reflecting on all that happened. If the year has been kind to us, then all is well. We carry the good memories into the next year hoping for more to come. If it has been a testing year, then we are often keen to move on with the hope that everything will be better in the new year. Our lives may be focused on preparing for Christmas but if we are not careful it is easy to be caught up in the frenzy of it all and arrive at Christmas Day exhausted, with little energy to reflect on the true meaning of the season.

Sometimes we can also get caught up in the chocolate box image of the nativity scene too, the one portrayed on our Christmas cards, that presents a cosy image of all being well. Yet if we look back at that stable, taking away the familiar cosiness, we see the reality of the situation. We know that the Christmas season is a difficult time for so many people, and it was hard for Mary and Joseph, too. They were a homeless couple sheltering in a dirty stable amongst the animals and all that messiness, the only place to bring their baby into the world. Yet in that baby we see God's presence, his love and hope right there in the mess and muddle of the stable, the mess and muddle of the political turmoil of the time, and the mess and muddle of ordinary lives like ours today. Yet it is also the place where we can look forward because in that stable there is love and hope for the coming year for our community and for each one of us. Shepherds, who were seen as outsiders in those days, found God's love and hope in the stable. The wise men, foreigners coming from far away to search for a king, were welcomed without question. So, let us look forward to the coming year whatever it might bring, because in it and in all we do personally, as a church and as a community, we can find God's love and his hope.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

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## **Message from the Department of Work & Pensions**

The DWP are reminding people of State Pension age (66+) who are not receiving certain benefits that they should check their eligibility and apply for Pension Credit, as they could qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment and other support, such as help with housing costs, Council Tax and/or a free TV licence for those aged 75 and over.

Thanks to the Pension Credit backdating rules, it is possible to apply for Pension Credit and have the claim backdated by up to 3 months - so long as there is entitlement during that time. This means that the latest date to apply and still qualify for Winter Fuel Payment is 21st December 2024.

***Did you know that additional to the Winter Fuel Payment, Pension Credit also provides extra support for heating costs such as The Warm Home Discount Scheme (link is external) and Cold Weather Payments***

Could you connect with someone to raise awareness of Pension Credit?

It is estimated that up to 880,000 households are missing out on Pension Credit, and it is worth, on average, £3,900 per year, providing additional benefits such as help with Council Tax and Housing Benefit and a free TV licence for those over 75.

Raising awareness of Pension Credit could make a difference to an older person's life: [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit).

You can help raise awareness by sharing our official social media posts @DWP on Facebook and @DWPgovuk on X. You can also find a range of promotional products that you can use in our online toolkit .

***Finally, if you have State Pension Age customers or service users and would like to boost yours and your colleagues' confidence in talking about Pension Credit, watch our explainer video:***

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Clenchwarton Community Foundation Trust

## FOOD BANK BOX IN CHURCH

St Margaret's Church has a box, near the font, for donations to the food bank in Kings Lynn. They currently urgently need: Strong carrier bags (to take food home in); Tinned Meat; Puddings; Tinned Fruit; Coffee; Tinned Fish; Pasta Sauce; Deodorant; Washing Powder. If you feel you can donate any of the above items, please leave them in the marked box.

The Food bank staff and recipients are always extremely grateful. There is a thank you card on the notice board in the porch. Thank you.

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## *Clenchwarton Parish Council*

The parish council meeting on the 7th November was attended by Councillors Coates, Lucas, Wilson and Thornalley and the Parish Clerk. Also in attendance was Councillor Bearshaw representing the Borough Council and Councillor Kemp representing the County Council. Five members of the council were there in addition to myself.

A letter from a parishioner was read out regarding the state of the churchyard and how access to many of the graves was not possible for those with limited mobility. The council acknowledged that this year had been a challenging time, stating that a new contract was being reviewed later in the meeting. In addition, the council had made alternative arrangements for the most urgently needed maintenance to be completed.

There were several other questions from the public at this meeting, most notably one challenging the council over the completeness of the council's monthly accounts and direct debit items that have been debited but not yet invoiced to the council. The clerk answered that the accounts were reconciled to the bank statement each month and that invoices have been requested from the supplier. A supplementary question was then asked on whether the energy supply contract was the best available. The council responded that because the parish councils services include unmetered items like street lighting, they were not eligible for many of the better customer tariffs. The current supplier had been the best available at the last renewal. It was noted that the minutes of the last three council meetings had not yet been published on the council's website. The Parish Clerk took an action to have that corrected. Reference was made to the June meeting where an update for the flood plan for the parish had been requested but not yet received. The council responded that they were awaiting the guidance papers on this topic.

A question was asked whether the Parish Council could assist with the defibrillator pads when they need replacing. Councillor Coates suggested that a grant request could be submitted and would be considered at the December meeting. The final public question was about the old tractor and what had caused it to fail. Councillor Thornalley stated that the crankshaft had failed. The county and borough councillor's updates were provided. These both mentioned the work the Borough Council is doing to maintain the ferry steps and to make it more accessible and safer. Councillor Kemp made a passionate appeal for people to contact the county council and provide feedback of the proposed closure of a care home in Terrington St John. This is one of the few in the region with a good rating but needs substantial investment to bring the facilities up to stand-



ard. Borough Councillor Bearshaw provided a detailed update on the work he and the other borough councillors are doing with the King's Lynn Transport Strategy, which is covered in his update.

Moving on to village matters, the new contractor for the grass cutting contract was selected. A meeting with the contractor to finalise the scope of work and quality required was being arranged. The council approved urgent maintenance on bramble clearance in the churchyard.

An update on the playing field car park extension was provided. The planning application is being prepared by Councillor Bearshaw and he and Councillor Thornalley are meeting with the Internal Drainage Board to review work to be done on the existing drains as part of the project.

The new tractor is scheduled to be delivered the second week of November and the work securing the garage door and updating the alarm is under way. Works carried out at the pavilion include an Electrical inspection, alarm servicing, upgrading first aid kits and fixing a door. Servicing of the fire extinguishers has been scheduled which will complete all the identified repairs. The football dugouts were discussed and the clerk took an action to write to the football club again highlighting the remaining items that need to be completed with a time frame for their completion.

Requests for the hire of Jubilee Gardens and the playing fields for the CCFT were submitted and agreed. Councillor Thornalley proposed that the council work closely with CCFT on the family day to make this a joint event. A proposal to waive the hiring fee for these type of events was then made by Councillor Thornalley.

The final item of note was a request for parking restrictions in Hall Road to be considered for next year's budget. The council acknowledged that on match days, parking is often a problem and agreed to contact the football club again to remind them of their prior agreement to provide traffic marshals

The final meeting of the year will be on Thursday 5th December at 7.00pm at the Memorial Hall.  
(Jon Clark)



## *The Magpie Centre*

Home of West Norfolk Riding for The Disabled Association



### **NEWS FOR DEC 2024/JAN 2025**

By now, our thoughts are firmly focused on Christmas once again, but looking towards the New Year, it's time to get organised with a 2025 Magpie Centre calendar, which depicts our lovely horses and ponies in action. Priced at £9.99 each, these are available from the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, South Runcton, PE33 0EP. Tel: 01553 810202.

November saw the start of the Magpie Centre's Learning Through Riding programme for home-schooled children, many of whom have learning disabilities. This project has been hugely helped by a grant of £80,000 a year for three years from the National Lottery Community Fund. Parents of home-schooled children who feel their child would benefit from being part of the Magpie Centre's community of horse lovers are welcome to contact the Centre to find out more.

After a busy summer, Tea With a Pony has closed for the winter, and is due to recommence in April 2025. This activity is designed for older people to meet, socialise and greet one of our ponies in the Magpie Centre's wheelchair-accessible sensory garden at Wallington Hall. It may be of particular interest to care home Activities Organisers, seeking new opportunities for their service users. Tea With a Pony takes place every Wednesday 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm from April to October and costs £6.00 per person. Book through the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202.

Wishing all readers a very Merry Christmas and thanks for your support in 2024 of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

### **CHATTY CAFÉ SCHEME**

I was in our local Costa Coffee recently and saw a notice for a Chatty Cafe Scheme. I have not been asked by them to promote this, but I thought it was such a good idea I would pass on the details. Basically, every Monday between 10 - 11.30am they have dedicated 'chatter tables' where people who are on their own can meet and talk with others. The tables are 'hosted' by friendly volunteers, ensuring that no-one is left on their own. Why not give it a go?! Costa Coffee, Clenchwarton Road, West Lynn.



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## *THANK YOU from st Margaret's church*

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23.11.24	WINTER CRAFT FAIR	£230

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## *Borough Councillor report by Councillor Steven Bearshaw*

### **Transport Working Group.**

A new railway station has been mooted near King's Lynn for a considerable amount of time. Several councillors have expressed the desire over many years, but the closest they've come was a 3 ½ line paragraph in the Norfolk Rail Prospectus that states 'a new station to the South of King's Lynn is mooted'

The rail prospectus is the shopping list for DfT to choose and be convinced from. Clearly with a weak 3 ½ lines, a new station will never be forthcoming. Yet our requirement is greater than ever. Pre Labour, the Borough's housing need assessment, which feeds into the local plan identifies we're 11,100 house short of the West Norfolk's requirements come 2036 and a build rate we fall slightly short of, of 550 a year. With Labour at the helm, we're instructed to increase this by 88%. The numbers aren't as clear as this, but it works out around 20,000 at a build rate of 1024 a year till 2040.

The National average for active travel (Walking & Cycling) commuting is 7%. We currently see 18% in the King's Lynn area. Should we congratulate ourselves at this success or is it in part due to a failure of our road and transport network to cope?

To further keep numbers simple, on average a household will have 2 cars. 20,000 houses = 40,000 cars and we all know how arduous it is to travel into King's Lynn at present.

The planners have a real challenge to prove a 5-year land supply, and the extant version concentrates new builds around the existing centre of masses. The lack of a 5-year land supply effectively gives developers a free rein. This is how the Fosters field developer managed to appeal the inspectorate and obtain the planning.

As a key development area, Clenchwarton will have a larger allocation than other areas, but more about that in a future article.

Recognising the current planning approach is slowly turning us into a giant car park, we must do something different! For a while now, I've been changing Officers and Cllrs visions to where we need to be in 2040/50, not what we need to do to get through the here and now.

Very little of the transport and road network falls under the Borough remit, but if we don't address it, no-one else will.

Through my role as chair of the Regeneration and Development scrutiny panel I set up a Transport working group and have concentrated on a different mode at each meeting.

The first was to address the 3 ½ lines in the Norfolk Rail Prospectus by becoming a member of the Norfolk Rail Group and FLUA (Fen Line Users Association) which gives me direct access to the relevant heads and more importantly the prospectus. This was a huge success and through a rewritten prospectus I've pushed King's Lynn up into 1 of the 7 that'll have a feasibility study. The feasibility study will examine 2 locations.

One gives better active travel options, whilst the other gives the option of a Hardwick roundabout relief road in the future. My intention is to create a travel hub at whichever location is deemed the most suitable.

As part of the feasibility study, a consultation took place. We rounded up all the local SMEs to fight our corner and once the results have been collated, I'll sit with the officers and consultants to assure we've put the strongest case possible forward. More to follow on this in the new year.

I was contacted in June by a resident who slipped and fell on the ferry steps. After meeting with her and the ferry operator, I set an agenda item on my R&D panel for July to address the steps and finally get a grip of the ferry situation. The item was resolved to replace 3 steps immediately with a longer-term effort to ascertain ownership and improve the service. Agenda item 8 can be found on YouTube under the title 'Regeneration and Development Panel – 23 July 2024, and the item is 30 minutes in with the ferry operator speaking at 38 minutes and our very own County Cllr putting a case forward at 53 minutes. More on the tread plates and long-term improvements in a future article.

Borough Cllr Steve Bearshaw

07395 369748

## ***A LETTER FROM THE PALACE***

Debra McGowan recently felt she had to write to HM King Charles II about the Church of England, as he is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. (This was nothing to do with the recent safeguarding scandal). She did not expect a reply so was astonished to receive a lovely reply from Buckingham Palace. Amongst other things the letter stated:



*"His Majesty was heartened by your description of the local community and would have me send you his warmest good wishes"*

**Well done Debra.**

## *County Councillor's Report*

### **Fighting the Wisbech Incinerator**

My Motion against the Wisbech Incinerator, seconded by Cllr Michael de Whalley, was passed unanimously at the Borough. As the campaign is at a critical juncture, this is the fourth Motion I have brought to Norfolk Councils. An urgent call for Government to revoke the Incinerator's Planning Consent and the Environmental Permit. Research (Tangri 2023) shows Incineration is dirtier than burning coal. Incineration produces 3.8 times as much green house gases, 66 times as much biogenic Carbon Dioxide, 15 times as much Nitrogen Dioxide, and 1.3 times as much Sulphur, as the Grid Average. The Wisbech Incinerator would be 3 times as big as the South Lynn Incinerator, which we fought to stop, a decade ago, when 65,000 of us voted No in the Borough Poll.

Waste is often driven hundreds of miles to incinerators. The proximity of the port of Lynn would risk the import of residual waste into the town, putting pressure on local roads.

There is no need, as there is overcapacity of incinerators in the east. Recycling and prevention of plastic supermarket packaging, not burning waste, is the answer.

### **Campaign to Save Burman House Care Home**

West Norfolk is a retirement area, and the number of over 85's is set to triple in coming years, but we are desperately short of Care Home, Convalescent and Respite places and this causes bed-blocking in the hospital. Norfolk Care Homes are in the bottom quartile for the quality of its Care Homes.

But Norfolk County Council is trying to close down a Care Home run by the Council Company Norse, Burnham House, in Terrington St John RATED GOOD BY THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION. Burman House has high satisfaction rating from residents and their families. Closing a Care Home should only ever be a matter of last resort, it causes such stress to frail residents, it can shorten their lives. The residents are understandably devastated. NCC says the rooms in Burnham House are too small, but residents are being moved to other Care Homes with rooms that are no bigger. I have never seen such secrecy at County Hall, since the days of the incinerator. I put a Question to the Cabinet asking them to stop the closure. Cabinet claimed that the closure decision was Norse's, and nothing to do with NCC. Cabinet then went into closed session to agree an approach to transforming the NorseCare Estate. The papers were exempt, even to Councillors. Even the identity of a property for disposal was kept secret on the Agenda.

But Government Guidelines say Councils should control their companies, to meet Council priorities; reviews of Council companies should be open and in view of the public. This is the third time NCC has tried to close Burman House, including in 2018, when I pointed out the need in West Norfolk for good dementia Care Homes. But this time NCC have not even held a public consultation.

NCC owns Burman House. NCC's contract with NorseCare runs out in March 2026.



There is room to add in modular bathrooms to each of the 30 rooms. But NCC is underfunding Norse so it cannot invest in renewal. NCC is however spending £40,000 a day on the Norwich Western Link.

### **How You Can Help**

Please write to Deputy Leader Andrew Jamieson Andrew.Jamieson.Cllr@norfolk.gov.uk asking him to save Burman House.

### **West Lynn Footpath Surfacing**

After a powerful campaign, Community Infrastructure Funding has been granted to Norfolk County Council to surface the Public Right of Way from the football field in West Lynn, to the Freebridge along the Riverbank. I put in £5,000 from my County Member Highways Budget. The Environment Agency will permit the work to take place in the Summer as it is on the flood defences.

### **Budget**

NCC has to save £47.7 million next year and is consulting till 16 December, on putting up the Council Tax by 2.99%, including 1% for Adult Social Care. Unfortunately, NCC is proposing to switch off the street lights on the Hardwick Industrial Estate, Horsleys Field and Hardwick Narrows. This is not climate friendly, as it will deter active travel to work, in the winter months. Also cuts of £2 million from the Housing Related Services are planned, from homelessness support. The Budget Consultation is on Norfolk County website or, for a form, call 0344 800 8020 or Text Relay on 18001 0344 800 8020 or you can email haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk

### **West Lynn Ferry Repairs**

I have asked for the railings to be replaced on the Ferry Landing Stage, as recently recommended, by the recent Richard Jackson Report. The funding comes from the pot of funding used for the Ferry Feasibility Study I asked for last year. The Jackson Report advises replacement of the West Lynn Landing Stage and I am pressing for funding.

### **Illegal Fires in Clenchwarton**

If you see any illegal fires around Clenchwarton, please report them to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060

### **New Railway in the Division**

I have written to the MP's asking them to lobby the Government for the Ely Junction...

*Article continues on page 38*



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## Puzzle Page

It is that time of the year again when we sing Christmas Carols. All the lines below are the second lines of well known carols. But which carol?

- 1 That glorious song of old.
- 2 The angels did say.
- 3 Stood a lowly cattle shed.
- 4 Glory to the new born king.
- 5 All is calm. All is bright.
- 6 How still we see thee lie.
- 7 Bearing gifts we travel so far.
- 8 With heart and sound and voice.
- 9 All seated on the ground.
- 10 No crib for a bed.

*Answers on page 5*

**How many of them will you sing this year?**

## *Your letters...*

### **Poppies**

Many thanks to all who bought a knitted poppy, and gave so generously. We (and you) raised just over £150 !!!

*Trudie Smart*



### **The Etheldreda Medal**

You may remember that in the September issue of this magazine we were very pleased to report that Debra McGowan had been awarded the Etheldreda Medal, by the Acting Bishop of Ely, for her services to this community. The Award Ceremony took place on 26th October at Ely Cathedral. Debra was supported by her husband Ian and a group of friends from the church and village. Debra – we are all very proud of you!

*From everyone at*

*St Margaret's Church.*

Photo shows Debra with six other recipients of the Award.



## *Your letters... continued*

### **The Welcome Dress**

We would like to say a big Thank You to all who supported the Welcome Dress Talk afternoon at The Methodist Chapel. It was a great success and raised a fantastic £185 for the Leicester City of Sanctuary Textiles Group along with donations of fabric and sewing machines. Mandy, Linda and Josie from the group were overwhelmed by your generosity and the amazing welcome we all gave them and thank you for your tremendous support.

*Stephanie Howard*

## *The History of Norfolk Part 6*

We have reached around 2000BC which is the beginning of the Bronze Age when most tools were made of bronze. The Bronze Age continued to about 800BC.

West Norfolk would have looked very different. King's Lynn did not exist being under water. However, a town on the coast which did exist back then was Hunstanton. An early Bronze Age settlement has been unearthed there dating from 2000 to 1500BC. Throughout Norfolk a vast quantity of Bronze Age finds have been found, far in excess of most areas of the country. This probably indicates a larger population than elsewhere of some wealth. The largest hoard of Bronze Age artifacts was found at Foulsham near Fakenham but gold was also used at this time for torcs and dress fasteners. The concentration of the gold object finds suggests a goldsmith was operating in the Snettisham area and there has also been an unusually high quantity of finds from the area around the Fen edge which could also indicate a sizeable population in these areas.

During the Bronze Age the amount of woodland in the county was severely reduced. Although there had been a reduction earlier there was now a speeding up of the clearance of wooded areas. A new style of pottery known as Beaker Ware found its way to Norfolk from the continent. This was a fine earthenware highly decorated with geometric designs. There have been a large number of burial sites found in the county as at Salthouse and Weasenham All Saints. The dead were buried with pots, weapons and jewellery which was made out of jet, amber or gold. Apart from the area just south of the present city of Norwich, a lot more Bronze Age finds have been made in the west of the county rather than the east. This all indicates that West Norfolk was more fertile than the rest of the country so a larger population was supported with more wealth than elsewhere.

In my next article I will write about Norfolk in the Iron Age.

(GS)



## *NATURE WATCH by Debra McGowan*

I had the great pleasure of my friend Sarah coming to stay for the weekend. I wanted to do something special with her, so I decided to take her on a Seal trip to Blakeney Point. I have not done this boat trip for at least ten years and I was surprised at how much the layout of the land at the Point had changed.

The land area has grown a lot over the last ten years, this is caused by materials being moved along the spit by the action of the waves. This is caused by a process called longshore drift. On land, sediment is blown by the wind to form sand dunes, while sand and shingle accumulate and form a narrow ridge where the direction of the coast changes. This sediment is transported along the coast in a westerly direction due to the prevailing wind from the north east. The material becomes finer with the distance along the spit because heavier material is deposited first. Sand dunes also form as the wind blows sand up the beach.

Grey seals have started to arrive, to give birth to their pups. We were able to see a number of pups along the beaches, ranging in different weeks of being born. We were blessed to see a young pup that had only been born minutes before we arrived! This is something that our boatman and guide said 'is rarely seen'. The young pup was surrounded by gulls, which were squabbling over the afterbirth from the pup. The boatman explained that as long as the seal pup keeps moving, (showing the gulls that it is alive and healthy), the gulls will leave the pup alone. Over the next few weeks over 6,000 grey seals will arrive to have their pups. Blakeney Point is the largest Grey Seal colony in the UK. Years ago the pups were counted individually by rangers and volunteers carefully walking through the colony, this is no longer done because of the increase in numbers.

The pups are fed on their mother's milk for about three weeks. The milk is high in fat, containing around 50-60% fat and 12% protein. The pups are fed up to six times a day for up to ten minutes each time, they gain about 2-3 pounds per day, and can weigh more than three times their birth weight by three weeks. Pups are weaned at around three weeks of age, and shed their white coats. They then live off their fat reserves while they learn to feed themselves. After weaning, Grey Seals are opportunistic feeders, and their diet varies by season and location. Their main food sources include sand eels, cod, whiting and herring. The boatman told us that at Blakeney their main diet is herring. He also told us that the seals will normally have left the area by

the end of December .

We are really blessed here, because if you don't fancy seeing the Grey Seal pups over the winter because it is very cold, you can wait until June when the Common Seals usually arrive at Blakeney Point to have their pups. They then remain until the end of August.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

### **Mary Howard**

It is sad to report the death of Mary Howard who latterly resided at Downham Market but for most of her life lived in Clenchwarton. I first knew her in the 1960's when she was the teacher of the first class at Clenchwarton School. My memory of her was that she was very kind and was the ideal teacher for those just entering school for the first time. She was unmarried when I was in her class but she later married and had a daughter Claire. She later left Clenchwarton School and rose to be Headmistress at West Lynn.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's she was a member of Clenchwarton Parish Council. She was a staunch supporter of Clenchwarton Church and was my predecessor as editor of Clenchwarton Parish Magazine.,. she was editor from the early 1990's to 2021. When I took over from her she could not have been more helpful. After my first magazine was produced she wrote me a letter writing how much she enjoyed it and especially praised one article. It showed her kindness and was much appreciated, it was unfortunate she chose one of the only articles I had not actually written! She later wrote other letters of support to both myself and to Debra.

Even after she retired she continued with her help for the magazine. Before lockdown we produced the magazine ourselves and she was a member of our team for many years after 2012. Her loyalty to the church and to the magazine continued even after she went to Downham Market, receiving the magazine right up to her death. She will be sadly missed.

Mary's funeral will be in church on Friday 6th December at 10am.

(GS)



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CLENCHWARTON	BLACK HORSE ROAD	13:00	13:20	PE34 4AB
CLENCHWARTON	WILDFIELDS CLOSE	13:25	13:45	PE34 4AE
CLENCHWARTON	36 STATION ROAD	13:50	14:10	PE34 4DG
WEST LYNN	ST PETERS ROAD [1]	14:25	14:45	PE34 3LG
WEST LYNN	ST PETERS CLOSE/CEDAR WAY	14:50	15:10	PE34 3JX
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### *County Councillors report, continued from page 27*

...upgrade. The County Council's Feasibility Study for King's Lynn South, which I asked for, as the Local Member, in meetings with County Officers and in the County's Rail Prospectus Consultation, reports back in January.

My grandfather was an engine driver at South Lynn Railway Station, when trains ran to Wisbech and direct to Peterborough and Norwich. The reinstatement of West Norfolk's rail infrastructure would massively reduce our carbon footprint, which is the biggest in the County.

Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year to you all.

*Alexandra*

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp  
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