


CLENCHWARTON

Your Village News

FEBRUARY 2025



CLENCHWARTON PTA
PRESENTS

A central graphic for 'Quiz Night' featuring the words 'QUIZ NIGHT' in large, bold, yellow letters with black outlines, set against a purple, jagged, starburst background. The text is surrounded by several yellow question marks and small yellow stars, all with white outlines. The background of the entire poster is a gradient from light purple at the top to dark purple at the bottom, with a yellow and purple border at the top and bottom.

QUIZ NIGHT

IN THE SCHOOL HALL

**DOORS OPEN AT 6.00PM
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Have a fun night full of challenges at our Quiz Night, with the winning team winning a cash prize! Prize for best team name and a hamper also up for grabs! To register your team of up to 6 people, pop £12 into an envelope with your name on and collect your teams ticket from the school office. Only 16 tickets available for this fun-filled night, be quick to get yours!

Refreshments available!

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
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
or drop off at 18 Margaretta Close, Clenchwarton.

All other enquiries and advertising enquires:
Debra McGowan: 01553 773467
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 FEBRUARY for the
MARCH 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

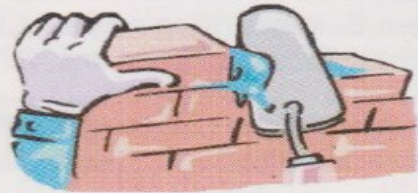
**WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY
EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.**

I trust you are all managing to keep warm in spite of the arctic weather we have experienced recently. Remember - several layers of thinner jumpers are more effective than one thick jumper for keeping warm!

In this edition you will find details of why the West Lynn Ferry is out of service at the moment; church vandalism; a quiz night; the continuing photographic competition and much more. Plus obituaries of two long standing residents of our village who died recently. JT

Front cover photos by Martin Moore

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Puzzle Corner Answers



- 1 Wensun
- 2 Stiffkey
- 3 Bure
- 4 Ant
- 5 Gaywood
- 6 Tas
- 7 Chet
- 8 Nar
- 9 Tiffey
- 10 Thurne



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.

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St Margaret's Church Services in FEBRUARY

Sun 2nd	Holy Communion service led by Rev'd Barbara Burton
Sun 9th	Morning Prayer with hymns led by a churchwarden
Sun 16th	Holy Communion service led by Rev'd Barbara Burton
Sun 23rd	Morning Prayer with hymns led by a churchwarden

All Church Services start at 10.00am unless otherwise stated

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

We look forward to seeing you

Methodist Chapel Services in FEBRUARY

Sun 2nd	Mrs Moore
Sun 9th	Sheila Johnson
Sun 16th	Rev Jackie Goddard Holy Communion
Sun 23rd	Worship Team



All Chapel Services start at 10.30am. All are welcome to attend.

The Chapel is open to everyone every Tuesday Morning between 9.00 and 10.00am. This can be for led prayers between 9 and 9.30 or private prayer between 9.30 and 10.00. Rev Jackie Goddard will be present if anyone requires assistance with their prayer.

WARM HUB - ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

Once again St Margaret's Church is the village **WARM HUB/COMMUNITY HOT - SPOT. The church is open and heated between the hours of 10am - 3pm during school hours only.** There is always tea/coffee, sometimes hot chocolate or cup-a-soup, 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!

We are very grateful to the Norfolk Community Foundation and Clenchwarton Parish Council for their grants towards the cost of heating the church for this vital project.

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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?



Walking Group

SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY 10.30am



Our next walk is on Saturday 8th February starting at 10.30 am from the school.

Anyone can join us. The length of the walk varies - depending on who joins on the day. Why not come along and enjoy and a chat whilst walking with friends new and old?

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

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



- 8th Feb 10.30am Walking Group. Details on page 9**
- 15th Feb 2.30pm The Clenchwarton Talk Methodist Church Hall - details on page 11**
- 28th Feb 6 for 6.30pm QUIZ NIGHT. Village School Hall. Further details on page 2**

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**

NEWS FROM ST MARGARET'S *by Jan Taylor*

LOOKING BACK.

Very sadly we experienced some vandalism in our church at the end of December. We have taken the decision to only open the church during school hours. This decision has not been made lightly as we are aware that many people come to tend their loved one's grave in the churchyard, then like to come and sit in the church for a while. It also means that as a Warm Hub we are now offering reduced hours and nothing at the weekends or during school holidays. However, we have to try to limit the possibility of vandalism. The police are aware and have promised to do regular patrols. You may be aware that vandalism in churches seems to be on the increase - a church in Holt suffered damage on 27th December because of vandalism, and a church in Basildon's organ was so badly damaged on 24th November the costs of repair will be about £15,000. There are several other instances during last year that have been reported in the news.

If you walk through the church yard and see anything suspicious please inform the local police (01553 424242) and one of our churchwardens (Phone numbers on page 3)

LOOKING FORWARD

1st - April 30th PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION December

By popular request we are running this competition again, widening the area for

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH - LOOKING FORWARD cont,

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 started 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"). Full set of rules are on the reverse of the entry forms. There will be prizes for the winner in each category. The prizes for first place are £25 for under 11s, £25 for 12 - 17, and £50 for 18 and upwards. The prize money has very generously been donated by an anonymous donor, to whom we are very grateful.

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.

3rd MAY A 'RACE NIGHT' LIKE NO OTHER

Another evening of hilarity as wooden dogs (or were they sheep?!) and fluffy dice return to St Margaret's Church. Entry will be by ticket. Further details in next month's magazine. Don't forget to put to put this date in your diary.

EXCITING NEWS 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 last year! I have started a list of people who would like a ticket when they go on sale. If you wish to be added to that list please contact Jan on 07725 940453



WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER EVENTS

The Clenchwarton Talk

Saturday 15th February 2.30pm -Methodist Church Hall

Our speaker is William Vyse who will be talking about the Meccano factory at Liverpool. This factory also made Hornby Trains and Dinky Cars and their will be a display of both in the hall. Entrance is free and there will be refreshments provided. Donations most welcome.

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From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Revd. Jackie Goddard

j.goddard@methodist.org.uk (07881 952098)
(Clenchwarton & Terrington St Clement Methodist Churches)

Hate comes shouting, with threats and lies.

Love listens patiently, whilst standing in the place of truth.

Darkness creeps at the edges, creating fear and hiding dangers.

Light shines from the centre, welcoming all to join its circle.

Chaos delights in destruction and does not care about consequences. Peace clears the way, picks up the broken, and works to help and heal.

Human beings live in the gap between these things.

Prayer keeps us connected to God and to each other, so that we be loving and truthful, inclusive and compassionate, just and merciful.

The World Day of Prayer this year will take place on March 7th. The WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome us to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The theme chosen by women from the Cook Islands comes from Psalm 139 which tells us that God made us wonderful. We are capable of so much good, and, when we celebrate our diversity and work together, we are capable of so much more. Put the date in your diary and come and join us, and when you look at the people around you this month, remember – God made them beautiful, just like you!

Every blessing.

Revd. Jackie Goddard

For more information on A Methodist Way of Life:

www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/.

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*

Come and join us for
this year's service at
Terrington St Clement
Methodist Church
2:30pm
Friday 7th March



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PASTORAL LETTER

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



One of my favourite film characters is played by Gene Wilder in 'Stir Crazy'. Harry is a man who is perpetually happy, and nothing gets him down. He is sent to prison for a crime he did not commit, and the brutal prison guards try to break him. They hang him by the wrists for several days, but all Harry does is to thank them - "you finally solved my back problem!". Then they put him in the hot box, a tiny tin enclosure in the boiling sun. When they take him out, he begs for another day in the hot box - "I was just starting to find myself". Finally they put him in a cell with a crazed murderer that even the most hardened prisoners avoid like the plague. But the guards find Harry and the murderer laughing over a game of cards. Harry just chooses joy and lets everything else revolve around that.

No one can take away your inner happiness unless you give it to them. People may say or do things to try to hurt you, but they cannot harm you unless you choose to be hurt. When we feel hurt by another, we are only hurting ourselves. So try to find blessings wherever you go. You will soon find that having a vision of happiness is far more empowering than one of loss. In love, you are unbeatable.



Smile for life.



for the photo!

THE NELSON PUB

Very sadly the Landlords have taken the decision to close the doors of our village pub, citing major electrical problems causing too much uncertainty to consider opening this month. Along with rising costs in the industry and the demands of running two pubs, they have decided not to reopen, but will instead concentrate on their other pub, The Wildfowler, in Terrington St Clement.

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YOGA
WITH SHARON

STARTING BACK

MONDAY

📍 Dragonfly Hotel Conference Centre, Kings Lynn

🕒 6:00 - 7:10pm

TUESDAY

📍 Aerial Fitness and Fun Centre, Kings Lynn

🕒 9:15 - 10:20am and 5:45 - 6:45pm

WEDNESDAY

📍 Aerial Fitness and Fun Centre, Kings Lynn

🕒 9:15 - 10:20am

THURSDAY

📍 Tilney All Saints Village Hall

🕒 9:00 - 10:00am

Some Dates May Differ

£8
PER SESSION



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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View From the Gallery - Clenchwarton Parish Council meeting 9th January by Andy Taylor

Councillors Coates, Fox, Lucas, Thornalley and Wilson were present. The Borough Councillor, Cllr Bearshaw, attended following another meeting and the County Councillor, Cllr Kemp, gave apologies. Both have submitted reports for this edition of the magazine.

A representative of the Memorial Hall explained the progress of the decoration, and gave details on further improvement works to be carried out when funds allow.

Most Finance items were quickly agreed with the exception of the new Hirer's agreement. Cllr Lucas reported that progress was being made, but agreements with the long-term hirers are not fully resolved yet. There is still some confusion as to what has/is being paid and what still needs to be invoiced. The Clerk was asked to finalise the invoicing, and it was resolved to set a deadline for all outstanding agreements and payments to be made.

Budget and Precept setting must be finalised by the end of January, however there are still some figures that need to be considered. Cllr Fox agreed to look into these and report via email in a couple of days, at which point a meeting to agree and finalise needs to be arranged. (This meeting subsequently arranged for Thursday 24th January).

Cllr Lucas agreed to arrange the Tractor Insurance. The Clerk is looking into additional funding for Bus Stops, and it was agreed to purchase a replacement wheelbarrow for the Groundsman.

2 Planning Applications were approved, and 2 determinations were noted.

Fire Marshall training needs to be arranged.

The Football Club have requested permission to run their Tournament, and it was agreed to consider this once the hire agreement and bill paying issues have been resolved.

The uneventful meeting was then closed and an item regarding the Memorial Hall was again taken at the exclusion of the Press and Public.

The annual budget and precept setting meeting of the parish council By Jon Clark

This was held in the Pavilion on Hall Road on Thursday 23rd January.

In attendance were councillors Coates, Fox, Lucas and Thornalley and the Parish Clerk. Including myself, there were two members of the public at the meeting.

Following a review of the budget and actual expenditure last year and to account for increases in the councils costs for electricity, water and fuel, there has been a 7.143% rise in the parish councils budget.

The precept for financial year 2025/2026 will therefore rise by £5000 to £75000.

Details of the current precept amount for a typical band D property and how the precept is included within council tax bills can be found on the borough council web site.

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/135/town_and_parish_precept

Borough Councillor report by Councillor Steven Bearshaw Life as a Borough Councillor in January 2025

The year started promptly with a Transport Working Group meeting on the 2nd of January. The key topic was Bus Service Improvements (BSIP) with officers from County Hall. The bus services are not within the Borough's remit, however, if we don't shout about our requirements then we'll miss out on our share of the £35 million that's up for grabs across the County.

We've fed the following priorities and short term opportunities into the project list for the financial 25-26 year:-

- Extend the hours of operation of the bus services, as it's common for the majority of services to cease prior to 6pm.
- Linking the rail and bus service. The last time the whole bus timetable was re-vamped to ensure it aligned with rail journeys, the rail timetable was shortly revised after and threw it all out again.
- Responsive transport.
- Travel hubs.
- Pre booking of continuation journeys.

(These priorities were backed up by our very own Jemma Curtis through the consultation work carried out as part of the long term plan for towns and economic strategy)

A Regeneration and Development scrutiny panel meeting was planned for later the same day but I took the decision in December to slip this to late January to capture the additional Cabinet reports rather than add an additional meeting into the month.

I'm always grateful to the editors for including my sometimes lengthy articles, but this month, I think they might have a word or two to say if I included snippets from all the meetings. Therefore, here's a list of my main January meetings with a request that if you'd like any more information then please stop me or give me a call on 07395 369748

Week 1 (2nd and 3rd Jan)

Transport Working Group as reported above.

Week 2

Devolution and local government reorganisation.

Regeneration and Development sifting for 22nd Jan meeting.
Tilney All Saints Parish Council meeting.
Clenchwarton Parish Council meeting.

Week 3

Armed Forces Covenant Board workshop
Independent Group meeting.

Week 2

Devolution and local government reorganisation.
Regeneration and Development sifting for 22nd Jan meeting.
Tilney All Saints Parish Council meeting.
Clenchwarton Parish Council meeting.

Week 3

Armed Forces Covenant Board workshop.
Independent Group meeting.
Joint chairs and vice chairs priority and sifting meeting.
East of Ouse, Pulver and Nar Drainage Board Meeting.
Transport Working Group.
Cabinet.
Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board Meeting.
Planning Policy training.

Week 4

Audit Committee including risk review.
Southery Internal Drainage Board meeting.
Regeneration and Development Scrutiny Panel meeting.
Stoke Ferry Internal Drainage Board meeting.
Fen Line Users Association AGM

Week 5

Planning Committee training.
Independent Group Meeting.
Independent Partnership Group meeting.
Corporate Performance Panel.
Regeneration and Development Panel sifting.
Constitution Working Group.
Full Council.

A joint panel budget setting meeting for the 29th

All the Internal Drainage Board meetings will include setting the rates and special levies for the 2025/26 financial year.

Health, Safety and Welfare performance,
Capital Works programmes,
Project delivery,

Operations reports, Environmental reports, Sustainable Development reports and Consortium matters for the Water Management Alliance.

Steve Bearshaw, Borough Councillor

Clenchwarton Ward

07395 369748

County Councillor's Report by Alexandra Kemp

Government to Sweep Away Norfolk Councils

There have been alarming developments. Norfolk County Council held an Extraordinary General Meeting on 9 January, when Conservatives and Labour Councillors voted to join the Government's Fast Track Devolution Programme to set up an Elected Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk, and a Combined Mayoral Authority, followed by reorganisation of all Norfolk's Councils. I voted against this, because Norfolk firmly rejected an Elected Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk and new Mayoral Authority in the 2016 County consultation. The Elected Mayor would have powers over planning, the Police and Fire Service, could set up a Mayoral Development Corporation and overrule the Local Planning Authority. Government has doubled this Borough's housing targets but reduced London's quota. This is about local areas losing control. Immediately after the Council meeting, the Conservative Cabinet wrote to the Government, asking for May's County elections to be postponed.

Government's White Paper rushed out over Christmas made it clear it wants to abolish all Borough Councils, and set up Super Councils called Unitaries, with 500,000 plus residents, taking local democracy away from local communities, while saying it wants decisions made locally. 1,000 years of Borough Councils, overseeing local growth in our market towns could disappear in 2 years. The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk represents 150,000 residents over 550 square miles and is the second largest District by land area. Its abolition would take skills and spending power out of the rural economy. During the pandemic, it was local government that delivered help to residents. Dismantle the structure at your peril. The County Conservatives want one unitary Council for the whole of Norfolk, but Norfolk is too large. Its population is too dispersed for this to be effective.

So many services have been cut to the bone. Trading Standards no longer provides a service to residents, so consumer issues come to us as Councillors. Ditches, housing, social care, education, roads and much more. But Unitaries drastically cut the numbers of Councillors. There is no evidence that Unitaries provide better services for residents.

Government heavily pressured County Councils to join the "Fast track Devolution Programme" for Elected Mayors, and wanted agreement by 10 January, so Government could possibly postpone this May's County Elections. Very undemocratic.

The Government should be providing a sustainable future for Adult Social Care and Special Needs, and multi-year financial settlements for Councils, not bringing them down. This shows a lack of respect for local democracy.

You can write to the Government with your views to EnglishDevolutionLGENquiries@Communities.gov.uk

West Lynn Ferry Closed Till Further Notice Due to Structural Failure

The Richard Jackson structural report into the condition of the Ferry infrastructure, paid for from the funding I obtained, identified the urgent need for replacement of the Ferry railings on both sides of the River, and the concrete underlay at the upper part of West Lynn Landing Stage. But the report cast doubt on the strength of the underlying infrastructure to withstand the replacement of the steps.

When contractors started work on the concrete on 14 January the front of a step peeled off. Health and Safety closed the Ferry on the grounds of safety until further notice. The Council provided a minibus at 5 pm to take residents, including the school children back home across the river to Clenchwarton and West Lynn.

This vital green public transport service, connecting the town with Clenchwarton, should be structurally renovated with Government funding under the Long Term Towns Deal, provided to increase footfall in the town centre, which the Ferry does. In the meantime, I am speaking with officers and the Ferry Operator for a temporary solution. The Borough and County are still locked in an unseemly battle over who is responsible.

I have written to the Leader of the Council and requested again, that the Borough Council allocates Town Deal funding to renew the Ferry Infrastructure. The previous Conservative Borough Administration spent Town Deal funding splashing out on the old Argos building for the County Council's infamous Library move, which isn't needed, instead of funding the Ferry infrastructure, which is. The Mott MacDonald Report, also paid from the funding I obtained, had the preferred option of two linkspan walkways on two pontoons.

Lights at the Pullover Roundabout

I have contacted National Highways about the streetlights at the Pullover Roundabout and an order has been raised and passed to their maintenance contractor. I have asked them to switch the lights back on that they extinguished as part of a 12-month trial. There was a fatal accident near the southern entry to the Pullover Roundabout on 11 December 2023, recently reported from the Coroners Court at County Hall. The accident occurred when a van broke down in the dark on the approach to the Pullover roundabout where the lights had been switched off.

Youth Justice Plan

County Councillors voted to approve the Annual Youth Justice Plan in December to

Report continued on page 34



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Puzzle Page

Answers on page 5

Again a local quiz. Rivers are fascinating and there a number of rivers which flow in Norfolk. Can you name a few of them from the clues?

- 1 This is a chalk river and a tributary of the river Yare despite being the larger of the two rivers.
- 2 Its source is at Swanton Novers and it flows out into the North Sea at a village of the same name which was once a port near Blakeney.
- 3 It rises in Melton Constable and is the largest river in the Broads.
- 4 A tributary of your answer to question three, it rises near North Walsham and makes up Barton Broad.
- 5 A tributary of the Great Ouse it is only eight miles in length and rises in springs between the villages of Gayton and Grimston.
6. It starts in springs at Carleton Fen and flows for about twenty miles before joining the Yare at Trowse.
- 7 It rises in Poringland and flows to eventually join the Yare. On its way it travels through the small town of Loddon.
- 8 This is a globally rare chalk stream which is regarded as Norfolk's finest example. It rises at Mileham before flowing through Castle Acre on its way to join the Great Ouse.
- 9 It rises near Hethel before travelling through Wymondham on its way to meet the Yare.
- 10 A short river in the Broads which flows through Potter Heigham.

Good Luck!

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In Memoriam, by Paul Evans

Michael Forster

Michael Helden Forster MBE was born in Ipswich, his parents lived on a farm just north of Colchester but they moved fairly frequently to farms in Brighton, Tiptree and Isleworth. When war was declared, Michael was evacuated to live with his uncle at Claygate. He was sent to a private school and the headmaster's leaving comment was, "Forster, if you ever join the army make sure they don't put you in the Intelligence Corps." After the war the family moved to a poultry farm at Billericay where they stayed for about 12 years. Michael went to Chelmsford Tech and then joined the RAF at the age of 15 as an aircraft apprentice. He proudly served in the RAF for 24 years.

On leaving the RAF, Michael set up a poultry farm near Watton which he ran for 20 years before retiring in 1991. During this time he was chairman and standard-bearer of the Watton branch of the RAF Association (RAFA). Michael met his wife June on a visit to the battlefields and war graves in Normandy. They married in 1988 and moved to Clenchwarton in 1991. They enjoyed travelling and spent a lot of time in the garden of their bungalow in Hall Road which was their pride and joy.

Michael was passionate about supporting charities and helping others. He became chairman of King's Lynn Talking Newspaper for the Blind, in addition to spending over 20 years as honorary secretary of the fundraising Wings Appeal and standard-bearer of the King's Lynn branch of the RAFA. For many years he was the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Clenchwarton. He carried out very lengthy research into the fatal WW2 aircraft crashes in Clenchwarton and raised considerable funds for the memorial to the 22 airmen who died. This is located on the wall of the Memorial Hall. His efforts also resulted in family members attending from abroad and a Bristol Blenheim provided a flypast. Michael was awarded an MBE in 2004 in recognition of his voluntary work.

June and Michael were married for 36 years and in 2023 moved into Goodwins Hall Care Home. Last year he organised a memorable Remembrance Day Service in the home which was most appreciated by the residents and their families. It is fitting that the Remembrance Day Service last year was the last service that he attended. Michael was a decent man, a gentleman, and also possessed a strong sense of duty and diligence. His mind was sharp right up to his passing on the 6th December. The motto of the RAF is "PER ARDU AD ASTRA" which means "through adversity to the stars".

Michael has passed through that adversity and we hope and trust that he has reached his heavenly home.

Olive Blyth

Very sadly, one of our longstanding village residents died in December. Olive was very involved in the church for many years. There will be an obituary in next month's magazine.

Your letters



WE ALL NEED A GOOD VET

When I first moved to King's Lynn over 25 years ago, all the vets in the area were privately owned businesses. If I found a cat which had sadly been hit by a car and desperately needed help, I could have walked into any vet in King's Lynn (and did so on many occasions) and been given assistance right away. If I had found an injured wild animal or bird, I could have done the same. The injured animal would have been taken from me and treated without any hesitation, or passed on to East Winch Wildlife Hospital. If I had left my details I would have been informed of what happened to the animal, but I would not have been charged! On occasion, I have also taken dead cats to the vets, which had been hit by a car and the vet would check to see if the cat was Microchipped and if the cat was, contact the owner to let them know the sad news.

Now however, a company known as 'Independent Vetcare Ltd' has taken over two of the main vets in the town. London Road Vet and Mill House Vet, as well as my local vet in Terrington St Clement. Since these vets have become part of this large group, the cost of visiting and receiving treatment for my sick cats has become unaffordable, not only for myself but for a great number of people!

I have moved my cats to an independent privately owned vet; there are still a number of these vets in the area, and I would suggest that you take the time to find one near you. Not only has this made it more affordable, but I also feel that these vets are far more knowledgeable and experienced.

Unfortunately that isn't the only result of the merger of these previously independently owned vets. When a cat which was injured by a car was picked up and taken into one of these practices for help recently the animal was turned away!

Independent Vetcare Ltd and any of these other companies which are buying up privately owned vets do not appear to give a damn about the animals in the care of the vets; it appears to be all about profits! When we used to take our cat to Terrington St Clement for treatment, we would pay one initial payment for the consultation. If, after that, we had to take our cat back for a follow up appointment, we would pay for any additional medication but we would not be charged another consultation fee. Since the takeover by Independent Vetcare Ltd, every time we took our cat to the vet, even for a follow up appointment, it would cost us approximately £49 just to step inside the door. Now that we are back with a privately owned vets, we only pay once for the initial consultation. Also, the cost of medication and basic

routine treatments are a lot less!

We are supposed to be a Society that cares for its animals, but sadly this seems to be the opposite. I am told that there is a review of how these vets are operating and that there could be a cap on what they are able to charge; it cannot come too soon. Many people are unable to find privately owned vets in their area, so they have no choice but to pay over inflated fees or sadly not get the treatment their pets need. Those of us who are not on Benefits who have pets we dearly love and not able to get help with our vet bills, it is important that vets treat us fairly.

Today my friend found a stray cat that needed medical attention right away. She spent all day trying to get the help that the cat badly needed. She couldn't get immediate help from Cats Protection. Finally after a lot of phone calls the RSPCA agreed to pay up to £100.00 for the cat to be taken to a local vet. The nearest vet to us is one of the Independent Vetcare Ltd group; they would not agree to see the cat until they had heard from the RSPCA themselves, to confirm that the cost of treatment was covered.

I contacted Cats Protection to find out why they couldn't give immediate help. Here is the information that they provided me with:-

"If the cat is in need of emergency veterinary treatment, it is very important to get the cat to the nearest veterinary surgery. Vets have a duty of care to provide emergency care to any animal presented to them.

Please ring the RSPCA to get a log number for the case prior to taking the cat to the vet. This log number is needed for the vet to claim some of the costs back from the RSPCA. If the cat is taken to the vets without a log number then the RSPCA is unable to meet the costs. Telephone number for RSPCA in England- 0300 1234 999.

If it isn't possible to take the cat to the vet yourself, please contain the cat if possible and speak to the RSPCA, who can hopefully send an inspector to collect the cat.

If the RSPCA is unable to attend, and you cannot get the cat to the vet yourself, please get in touch with your local Cats Protection. You can find their contact details by popping in your postcode at: www.cats.org.uk/find-us. Please note that, while they will always help as soon as they are able, branches are run by volunteers in their spare time so they are unable to offer an emergency service. Taking

Continued in on page 32

Continued from page 31

the cat to the vet or calling the RSPCA should be your first port of call with any injured cat.

Injured cats become defensive if they are in pain and scared so you should only handle them if you think you are able. The safest way of moving an injured cat is to carefully cover it with an old towel or blanket before picking it up. This will contain its legs, and more importantly claws. If possible, please ring the veterinary surgery in advance so they can be ready to receive the cat.

Every vet, whether in private or charity practice, is obliged by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) to treat any animal in an emergency. They are required to give first aid and pain relief. Vets are also expected to take reasonable steps to locate an owner. This could include:

- Scanning for a microchip.
- Looking for contact details on a collar.
- Advertising in the practice that a stray has been found.
- Contacting clients or other local veterinary practices to see if any animals have been reported missing.

If the finder does indeed feel like the vet hasn't provided emergency care, they should get in touch with the RCVS for further guidance, but it is best to discuss your concerns with the veterinary surgeon involved, or the senior partners of the practice. I do understand that sometimes this can be difficult; however, often many complaints can be resolved in this way.

If you want to make a formal complaint, this is done via the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) which is the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the UK. You can either view their complaints procedure via their website: www.rcvs.org.uk or contact their Professional Conduct Department directly on 020 7202 0789 or email: profcon@rcvs.org.uk."

The cat that my friend found that required emergency help, is now back with its owner and I can only hope it has received the treatment it needed.

Mrs Debra McGowan
Clenchwarton

West Lynn Ferry Service

I was on the last ferry out of King's Lynn when the ferry service was abruptly stopped. Mr Ellis was phoned whilst we were mid-river and told to immediately stop the service. This was despite many people being stranded both sides. There were many cars left in the car park.

Hopefully, by the time you read this the Ferry Service will have resumed. No doubt there will be updates on the internet. The Ferry Service has been running for about six hundred years and there is still plenty of demand for it. Many workers rely on it daily. Parents at West Lynn School use it to collect and bring back their offspring. Secondary school pupils use it on a daily basis. The ferryman relies on it for his livelihood. What a pity the council, and I am not sure which council is responsible, has been unable to upkeep the steps which were apparently built in 1959, so they have lasted well considering the conditions by the river. Also a pity they are more concerned about their personal liability for any accident than they are for the continuing service of a vital link to those living to the west of King's Lynn .

The council are missing a trick. This could be our answer to a park and ride. It could be much more popular than it is. Many people do not know it exists. It could be signposted on the roads leading to Lynn and the car park extended.

Grahame Sampson

Clenchwarton

WEST LYNN FERRY

Andy and I have enjoyed using the Ferry Service since we moved here four years ago. We always take all our visitors into Lynn via the ferry service - the low tide experience is one they always talk about - "they make you walk the plank!" It is an invaluable service, especially when the roads into town are totally clogged. This ferry service has been in existence since at least 1285 according to written records, and probably long before that. Let's not be the generation that sees it stop forever. If the ferry is still out of action by the time you receive this magazine and you value the ferry service, please express your concern by phoning our Borough Councillor, Steve Bearshaw (07395 369748) and / or contacting our County Councillor, Alexandra Kemp at Alexandra.Kemp@norfolk.gov.uk or 01553 630329 or mobile 07920 286636

Jan Taylor

NATURE WATCH by Paul Evans

Just as I started to write this article, I was fortunate enough to witness one of nature's finest wing-borne hunters, a Sparrowhawk, visit the bird feeders outside my kitchen window. A split second before its arrival, the feeders were full of Goldfinches, Long Tail Tits, Great Tits and a single Coal Tit. There is irony in that by feeding the birds I am also creating a food table for the Sparrowhawk. On this occasion its efforts proved fruitless other than to provide me with a glare that indicated its murderous intent and a front row seat to a flying display that a Spitfire Pilot would have been in awe of. Its ability to navigate the branches surrounding the feeders is truly incredible. However, such feats of aerobatics often come at a cost.

A great friend who kept and studied birds of prey for many years pointed out that modern bus stops can take their toll on Sparrowhawks. In chasing small birds, they are travelling at such a speed that the clear Perspex sides used in bus stop construction are invisible to them. My own windows are fitted with ultra violet stickers in order to try and prevent the small birds scattering in panic and striking them. Although now greatly reduced, I have in the past lost count of the number of times since we moved to the village in 1997, that Tod and I have sat in the front room with a stunned Goldfinch cupped in our hands in the hope that it would eventually recover from what must have been quite an impact. The stickers have definitely reduced the number of window strikes, so if you struggle with the same it would be worth investigating their use. In my experience they are both inexpensive and effective.

Anyone who has walked past our home would have noticed possibly the ugliest old apple tree and ivy combination in the village. Its very existence is down to one thing and that is the bird life it sustains. Come breeding season it, and our front hedge, are full of noisy sparrows and various nests. Because of my late fathers use of sparrow boxes, I have always had a real soft spot for the humble House Sparrow. Sadly, in many parts of the country, Sparrow populations are in serious trouble with numbers having plummeted. Since 1970, it is estimated that thirty million House Sparrows have vanished from the UK, thus placing it on the UK Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern. One of the obvious reasons is that we have become a nation of fence lovers when hedges were once the norm. This is one of the many reasons that bird numbers in general have fallen but other reasons will have to wait for future articles.

County Councillor Report continued from page 23

prevent and reduce youth offending, and diversionary activities to connect young offenders back into the community.

Museums Service

The County Council runs a successful project, Kick the Dust, to help hard to reach groups aged 13-25 acquire work-related digital and communication skills in heritage settings like the Tales of Lynn in the Town Hall. It provides support and builds confidence where there are mental health issues.

Alexandra

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp
County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South
Landline: 01553 630329
Mobile: 07920 286636

The Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association



THE MAGPIE CENTRE, HOME OF WEST NORFOLK RDA SEEKS A NEW CHAIRPERSON

Our Chairwoman stepped down for personal reasons some time ago and the Board of Trustees is on the lookout for a replacement for this voluntary role.

The Magpie Centre is based at Wallington Hall, near Downham Market and provides riding, carriage driving and Equine Assisted Therapy for people of all ages and with a variety of physical and learning disabilities.

The Centre is staffed by a manager, a team of stable yard assistants/instructors and an administrator, supported by a team of loyal volunteers.

Main responsibilities of the Chairperson would be to lead the Trustees, working with them to develop plans and budgets to maintain the financial viability of the Centre, and to manage, support and motivate the Centre Manager, staff and volunteers.

A further aspect of the role is to act as the Centre's ambassador, raising its profile and promoting its services.

This role might suit someone who has recently retired from a career in management and who has the ability to communicate with staff and service users at all levels.

Experience of working with horses and/or people living with disabilities, although desirable, is not essential.

If you feel you have what it takes, please contact Sue Wilson, Trustee Secretary at sue-wilson2101@gmail.com to find out more.

And turning now to our social programme, don't forget to book your places for the Ceilidh-Barn Dance with Hog Roast supper, (with veggie option), scheduled for 7.30 pm – 11.00 pm Saturday 8 March at Stowbridge Village Hall, Holme Road, Stowbridge PE34 3PW. Bring your own drinks and glasses. To book tickets @ £17.50 (adults) or £7.50 (children 13 yrs and under), call 01760 337056 or email su-er2006@hotmail.co.uk

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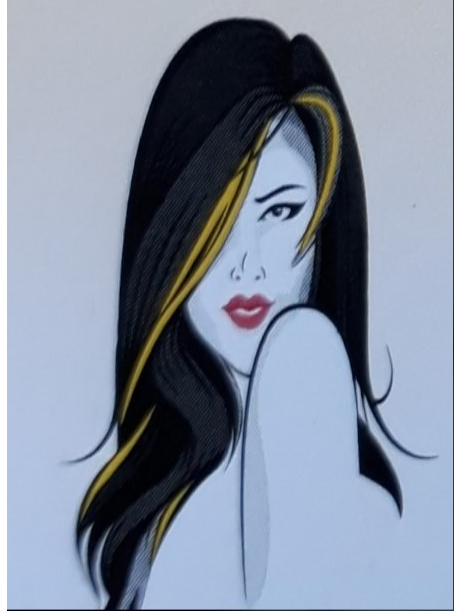
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"February is the uncertain month, neither black nor white, but all shades between by turns. Nothing is sure"



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Everyone Welcome!



Wednesday, 15th January 2025 - copied from Facebook

While a contractor was carrying out scheduled maintenance on the West Lynn-side of the ferry landing on the 14 January, a significant structural issue was discovered that makes it unsafe to keep open without further works.

A structural survey undertaken last year, jointly funded by the borough council and Norfolk County Council, identified remedial work required to various parts of West Lynn and King's Lynn ferry landings.

The first of the remedial repairs began on Monday 13 January to handrails on both sides of river.

However, on Tuesday 14 January the engineering company undertaking repair work inspected one of the steps on the West Lynn side and discovered the concrete was in much poorer condition than previously advised. The council was also made aware that in the last few days concrete had fallen from the staircase to the riverbed below amplifying these concerns. In the interests of public safety, a joint decision was taken with Norfolk County Council to close the landings and therefore the ferry crossing while further work is undertaken. The initial understanding is that the ferry landings are likely to need to stay closed for several weeks while further work is undertaken to explore possible options to allow its reinstatement.

Cllr Michael De Whalley, Cabinet member for Climate Change and Biodiversity who has the ferry as part of his borough portfolio, said:

"The safety of ferry customers and staff is our top priority and the ferry landings will remain closed until we know the access steps are safe to use.

"I understand there are 9 other steps on the West Lynn side of the ferry landing now showing similar deterioration and will require attention before the ferry resumes its service. I thank people for their patience with this temporary closure and expect to see our contractors along with borough and county colleagues work together to resolve this as soon as possible. We are committed to the future of the ferry service."

Richard Stannard, Operator of the West Lynn Ferry, said:

"It's understandable that we have had to cease our crossings while this safety work is carried out. We will be working with the council to ensure the ferry can reopen as soon as possible."



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