CLENCHWARTON Your Village News APRIL 2025







ST MARGARET'S CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

'A RACE NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER'

SATURDAY 3rd MAY





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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 APRIL for the MAY 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

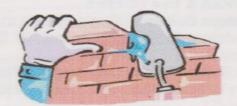
WELCOME TO THE APRIL EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.

Hurrah! Spring is finally here. Daffodils are swaying in the breeze and brightening up the road sides; the lambs are gambolling in the fields and finally, as I write, the weather is much warmer. In this edition you will find details of lots of fund raising activities from both churches, information about the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation, and much more besides.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR SUB-SCRIPTION TO THIS MAGAZINE IS DUE IN APRIL. A BARGAIN AT £4 PER YEAR. IF YOU RECEIVE IT BY POST PLEASE IN-CREASE THIS TO £16 TO INCLUDE P&P. MANY THANKS.

Jan Taylor

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At each event there will be staff on hand to answer questions and give information on a range of cost of living subjects, including energy bills, rent problems, general money worries, grants, benefits and advice on how to reduce costs.



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
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St Margaret's Church Services in APRIL

Sun 6th April 10am Holy Communion service. Led by

Rev'd. Barbara Burton.

Sun 13th April 10am Palm Sunday. Joint service with the Methodist

 $\ \, \hbox{church at St Margaret's. Led by a churchwarden}$

Wed 16th 7pm Stations of the Cross. Led by Revd. Barbara Burton.
Thurs 17th 8pm Maundy Thursday. With a Vigil afterwards for an

hour. Led by a churchwarden.

Fri 18th 11am Good Friday. Led by Revd. Barbara Burton.

Sat 19th 8pm. Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. From Darkness into Light. A

mixture of readings and prayer.

Led by a Churchwarden.

Sun 20th 10am Easter Sunday Celebration Holy Communion service.

Led by a Churchwarden.

Sun 27th April 10am Morning Prayer with Hymns. Led by a Churchwarden.

Please note the times of all services

Methodist Chapel Services in APRIL

Sunday April 6th Cafe Service 10.30 Clenchwarton Chapel

Sunday April 13th Palm Sunday 10.00 Joint service at

St Margaret's church

Sunday April 20th Easter Sunday 10.30 Terrington Chapel
Sunday April 27th Holy Communion 10.30 Clenchwarton Chapel

with Rev Jackie Goddard.

Everyone can attend any of the venues above. Easter is the most important time in the Christian calendar. Come and find out why.

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.

All services begin at 10.30am unless otherwise stated

CLENCHWARTON ART GROUP

Our group meets every other Tuesday morning between **11am - 3pm**, at the Methodist Chapel. Why not ring Elspeth on 01553 775698 with a view to joining us? **Please note the new time.**



1.14 1.1

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WALKING GROUP



Our next walk is on Saturday 12th April starting at 10.30am from the village school. All are welcome.

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

The two stained glass windows shown on the front page are the East Window, (on the left) and the South Window, both looking beautiful with the sun shining through them. The inscription below the South window reads 'In memory of Ann Frances Harris, only daughter of Christopher Atwell Harris R.N and Ann Harris, wife of Major Lefills, 11th Regiment A, Belgium Army. Born at Bideford, Devon, died at Marcinelle near Chaveroi, Belgium, August 26th 1863 aged 35 years. The window Is the offering of her sorrowing Mother.'

Does anyone know what the connection is with Clenchwarton and St Margaret's Church?

PHOTOS OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ARE BY JAN TAYLOR

DIARY OF EVENTS in CLENCHWARTON and surrounding area for APRIL





1st April	10am. Coffee morning, Methodist Chapel. New monthly event		
1st April	6pm for 7pm start. Clenchwarton School Bingo		
4th April	7pm Quiz. Methodist Chapel. New monthly event		
12th April	10.30am. The Walking Group, starting at the school.		
12th April	9am WALKATHON starting from St Margaret's Church		
13th April	6.30 - 8.30pm. Story Café, Methodist Chapel. New monthly event		
19th April	2.30pm. The Clenchwarton Talk, Methodist Chapel Hall.		
26th April	3nm Coffee and Craft Methodist Chanel Hall		

26th April 3pm. Coffee and Craft Methodist Chapel Hall.

30th April End of Photographic Competition. All photos must be handed in

to Debra, 16 Black Horse Road, or Jan, Hadleigh Lodge, Black

Horse Road by this date

NEWS FROM ST MARGARET'S - LOOKING FORWARD

1st DEC - APRIL 30th PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETION

17th MAY 10 - 2pm. Announcement of winners (10.30am) and display in church.

Refreshments available.

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 we 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.

Full details can be found on the entry form in church and, hopefully by the time you read this, as a downloadable form on our website **www.clenchwarton-church.org.uk**

3rd MAY 6.30pm for 7pm 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 (£5) available from Julian on 07584 048063. Some comments from the Race Night held last September included "Hilarious"; "Good fun"; and "Excellent". Don't forget to put this date in your diary.

8TH JUNE 2pm TALK – 'LET THE CHILDREN LIVE'.

A fascinating talk by a Charity supporting Columbian Street Children (a charity supported by St Margaret's). In Church, refreshments available. Free entry, donations welcome.

14th JUNE 7pm '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 buy your tickets now, as their concert sold out very quickly last year! There will be a licensed bar (wine only). Tickets cost £12



adult, and £5 for 16 and under. Tickets available from Jan on 07725 940453.

5TH JULY 2.30pm - 5pm OPEN GARDENS EVENT.

Starting from the church. £5 per person (12 and under £1). Programme and refreshments available at the church . No entry to Gardens without your programme. For further details and If you would like to open your garden please ${\bf contact\ Debra}$

2ND AUGUST 2.30pm - 5pm STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA.

In churchyard by the Memorial Garden (in church if raining). **Contact Debra for further information 01553 773467**

25TH OCTOBER QUIZ NIGHT.

01553 773467

£5 Per person. 6 people max per team. In church. Refreshments available. **Time tba Contact Jan 07725 940453**

15TH NOVEMBER 10am – 2pm WINTER CRAFT FAIR.

£5 per table. Free entry to the public. Refreshments available Contact Debra 01553 773467

13TH DECEMBER 10am - 12 noon CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP.

10 Places available. £10 per person. Contact Vera 01553 774698

TUESDAY 1st April - CLENCHWARTON SCHOOL BINGO

Doors open at 6pm

Eyes down at 7pm

Held in the school hall. Raising funds for a new sound system.

The Clenchwarton Talk

Saturday 19th April 2.30pm

Methodist Church Hall

The next talk is on Norfolk hero Horatio Nelson and we will hear all about him from Julian Cox. Please come along. Entrance is free and refreshments are provided. Donations 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)



What an important month it is as we celebrate Easter – fun, joy, delight, truth, and wonder. This year, Easter takes place against a backdrop of global changes and uncertainties. But then, so did the first Easter. And that's the point.

It was a time of superpowers, economic empires, powerful leaders, occupied and disputed territories, deployed armies, migration and displacement, terrorism, radicalism, resistance, uprising, collusion, technological advances, chaos, fear, misinformation, and lies. Into this time in our world history God came in Jesus. There was scandal, plotting, betrayal, and ultimately execution. And yet...

...for such a time as this, God sent love and light into the world. ...for such a time as this, God sent hope and the promise of new life. ...for such a time as this, God cut through the chaos, broke out of the tomb, and stood before the broken world with the assurance that evil will never win. Those who witnessed these events told their story; and those who believed them told their story; and those who saw the difference that love and life made told their story. And fun, joy, delight, truth and wonder spread through history until we received it. However you meet Easter this year – whether you find yourself in a dark place, or a place of celebration – I pray that you will know that God is in your world with you. Whatever stories you have to tell, I pray that you will be heard, and wherever you might be wandering through these days, I pray that you will encounter God. May this Easter be a time of blessing and joy. As we celebrate, we send out a message to all dark and difficult places, and to all powerful and dangerous people – light, love, hope, truth, and peace will always find a way to bring new life for all.

Every blessing. Revd. Jackie Goddard

For more information on A Methodist Way of Life: www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/ .

PASTORAL LETTER

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....

The first of April is April Fools Day, and I have been thinking about how many fools there are in the Bible, or at least people who were prepared to be fools for God, and to act in such a way that their contemporaries would have thought them daft. Noah is a case in point. Who in their right mind would think of building a boat so far from water? He must have been ridiculed by his contemporaries and yet he stuck to his purpose and was, of course, proven right when all the rains came.

The biggest fool for God though must surely be Jesus. As he was hung on the cross to die it must have seemed as if all his work had been for nothing, and his life was being thrown away. But he managed to hold on to God's promises, and we know what happened next. So when we find ourselves up against it because we are trying to work for God, and when we start to wonder whether we have the courage to be fools for him, then we can remind ourselves of the Easter story, a story of new life and new hope, which reminds us that God's love has, and always will, triumph.

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.



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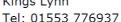
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STARTING BACK

- Pragonfly Hotel Conference Centre, Kings Lynn
- (6:00 7:10pm

- Aerial Fitness and Fun Centre, Kings Lynn
- 9:15 10:20am and 5:45 6:45pm

- Aerial Fitness and Fun Centre, Kings Lynn
- 9:15 10:20am

- Tilney All Saints Village Hall
- 9:00 10:00am



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.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE METHODIST CHURCH IN APRIL?? COFFEE MORNING - 1st APRIL

Coffee mornings at St Margaret's church are well established on Thursday Mornings and now there will also be regular coffee mornings in the Methodist Chapel but these will be on the **first Tuesday of each month starting at 10.00am**. The next one is on 1st April. Please come along - we look forward to seeing you.

CHAPEL QUIZ - 4TH APRIL

These are being resumed from April after a winter break. They will be regular on the first Friday of the month starting at 7.00pm. All the quiz's will be conventional and you will be in teams. Do not worry if you do not come in a team as I am sure you will be welcome to join any other team. There is no cost. Tea or coffee provided. Donations welcome

WALKATHON - 12th APRIL

The Walkathon will be on Saturday 12th April and will again involve Clenchwarton Chapel, Clenchwarton Church and Terrington Chapel. Monies raised will be split between the three churches and it helps them to survive in a difficult time for all of them. Everyone can play their part by either taking part or by sponsoring. Although the full walk is from Clenchwarton Church to Clenchwarton Chapel to Terrington Chapel and return, you are welcome to just go part of the walk because everyone's effort counts. It is the total distance of all walkers which you will be sponsoring. Sponsor forms will be in the three churches shortly. The start off time from Clenchwarton Church will be 9.00am.

STORY CAFÉ - 13th APRIL

Monthly, on the second Sunday of the month at CMC (Clenchwarton Methodist Church), is the Story Cafe. It meets between 6.30-8.30pm with refreshments. There is no cost but donations are welcome. It is a mini workshop where you can hone your storytelling. It is a good way to make friends. Come along and find out for yourself.

COFFEE AND CRAFT - 26TH APRIL

This takes place on the last Saturday of the month beginning at 3.00pm in the Methodist Church Hall. You are welcome to come along and take part.

PLANT SALE

The date of the Plant Sale will be Saturday 10th May at the Chapel so if anyone is setting any seeds, whether plants or vegetables, and have a surplus to spare, we would be very grateful if you could donate them to the chapel. Thank you for your support.

View From the Gallery - Clenchwarton Parish Council meeting. By Jon Clark

The March Parish Council meeting was held on the 6th and was attended by Councillors Coates, Lucas, Fox, Thornalley and the Parish Clerk. Also in attendance was Councillor Bearshaw representing the Borough Council. Seven members of the public were at the meeting.

The meeting started with questions from the public on various topics. The first question asked was whether the grass cutting contract was now in place and whether that would mean the churchyard will be properly maintained this year. Councillor Coates replied that the contractor had been appointed, and details of the cuts were being finalised.

The next question asked was how many councillors were now on the council. The clerk replied that in addition to the four at the meeting there was also Councillor Moore and Councillor Wilson. It was noted that Councillor Moore had not been present at any of the recent meetings.

No County Councillors report was presented, as Councillor Kemp was unable to attend the meeting and had sent apologies. Councillor Coates said that Councillor Kemp had requested that parishioners look at and comment on government proposals to change the council structures and create a combined county authority across Norfolk and Suffolk with an elected mayor as leader. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution (see poster on page 23)

Councillor Bearshaw then provided an update from the Borough council and answered questions on several topics including an application for a football pitch and how to get from the village to the new St James medical centre. Councillor Bearshaw also provided an update on the car park. A biodiversity report describing how the loss of grass to the car park would be mitigated needs to be completed before the final application can be submitted.

At the start of the meeting three of the four councillors present had declared an interest in a proposal from Clenchwarton Community Foundation Trust that was on the agenda for discussion later. A question was asked whether the council would be able to vote on the item due to the already declared interest. Councillor Lucas said that they had taken advice on the topic, which said that as they had requested dispensations, they would be able to discuss and vote. The proposal, presented to the council by Councillor Lucas, is for a service agreement between the parish council and CCFT. This will appoint CCFT to manage the short-term bookings for the pavilion and fields. Councillor Coates explained that the funding application CCFT had made for a feasibility study of usage options had not been successful. It was then suggested and agreed that the council should commission the study as the pavilion and fields are parish assets. A decision on the proposal was deferred until the feasibility study was completed.

Continued from page 20

Quotes for the bus shelters in the village were reviewed in detail and follow up questions were agreed to send to the preferred supplier.

Good progress has been made finalising the long-term hirers agreement with both the Bowls Club and the Football Club. Revised versions of these were agreed at the meeting.

A request from St. Margaret's for help funding part of the security CCTV system was received and approved. This will extend the CCTV coverage to the churchyard areas that are managed by the parish council.

The planning application for Margaretta House to be used as a wedding venue up to six times a year was discussed and approved, subject to recommendations about noise.

A planning application for 24 houses adjacent to 117 Main Rd was then discussed with several significant concerns raised about the application..

Secondary School Options for Village Children by David Hutton

Following last month's article, several parents requested I do something similar for the local Secondary schools that children in Clenchwarton can/do attend. The data used to measure the performance of secondary schools has changed over the last 20 years. At the moment the main measure is 'Progress 8' (P8). The Good School guide defines 'Progress 8' as follows

Progress 8 is a type of 'value-added' measure that indicates how much a secondary school has helped pupils improve (or progress) over a five year period when compared to a government-calculated expected level of improvement.

A score of zero means that the school's pupils progressed at a rate in line with the average rate of progression of other children across the country who achieved similar results at the end of Key Stage 2.

A score above zero means that school's pupils have progressed more than children across the country who achieved similar results at the end of Key Stage 2.

A score below zero means that pupils made less progress than children across the country who achieved similar results at the end of Key Stage 2. A negative score does not mean there was no progress, but rather that pupils made less progress than at schools with higher scores. **See page 29 for school table**.

PLEASE NOTE.

Progress 8 scores will not be produced for the academic years 24-25 and 25-26. This is because the children who sit their GCSEs in these years were unable to take the Key Stage 2 SATs assessments when they were in primary school back in 19-20 and 20-21. SATs were cancelled for those two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

County Councillor's Report by Alexandra Kemp

Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation

Please fill in the Govt Consultation about having an Elected Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk with a new Mayoral Authority, made up of the Mayor and just 4 other voting members. The government is also planning to abolish Borough Councils, for one much bigger council area, that won't be as local or accountable. The Elected Mayor would have powers over transport, planning and regeneration. But the government has not announced what the funding settlement would be.

The consultation is on www.gov.uk under Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution. The consultation closes on 13 April.

You can also email your responses to the questions to: NorfolkandSuffolkDevolutionConsultation@communities.gov.uk

Or post them to:

Devolution Priority Programme Consultation
English Devolution and Institutions Team
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
4th Floor
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Please also see the poster on page 23.

The Ferry

Over 60 residents attended the protest about the Ferry being closed last month. (See photo)
My Motion to the Borough Council's Budget
Meeting, about replacing the West Lynn Ferry Landing Stage, was passed unanimously. I am in regular contact with both Councils and the Ferry Operator about the short-term repairs, so the Ferry can reopen as soon as possible.



Wisbech Incinerator Campaign

The campaign has set up a national petition against all future incinerator builds. Please spread the word.

https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/710486

There will be a debate in Parliament (again!) on waste incinerators. Can you ask your MP to attend and speak on the 3rd April.



PUT NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK'S FUTURE IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE

Norfolk and Suffolk could be given new devolved powers and funding to help improve opportunities, transport, housing, skills and more.

We want to hear your views on creating a new mayoral combined county authority for Norfolk and Suffolk to bring devolution to the area. This would mean important decisions would be made by someone who understands the needs of your community and what changes will have the best and biggest impact.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Visit gov.uk/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution or scan the QR code to have your say.

If you don't have personal online access, please use the public PCs at King's Court reception, your local libraries or the Community Information Points. Or call 01553 616200 for a paper copy

CONSULTATION CLOSES 13 APRIL 2025





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They will give you a £5 shopping voucher once you have raised your first £5, PLUS we will get a bonus £5 donation.

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for St Margaret's Church Clenchwarton

You can visit our website at https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk

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Your letters





The psychic supper is normally held in the Memorial Hall but the next event is at Terrington High School on May 3rd. We have had to move it because Terrington High School has extra parking facilities and I am sure residents of Black Horse Road will be pleased.

(Denise Carter)

Margaretta House

I have just received my Church magazine and was surprised to see that a resident had suggested that well known Margaretta House would be a lovely venue for weddings. I agree that it would, but would it not also make a lovely elderly people's home, after all it is positioned a long way from the busy road and it also has lovely grounds for residents to enjoy the wildlife and the sunshine. I worked for Mr and Mrs Lane at Margaretta House and they used to invite the St Raphael Club every year for a tea party which they really enjoyed. Please let us not forget the elderly. After all life is for living and sunshine is a healer.

(Olwyn Bocking)

The Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall 'management committee' would like to bring you all up to speed with what has been going on behind the scenes with the hall.

Through the formal poll conducted in the summer of 2023 the village spoke and decided that they would like to keep the Memorial Hall going rather than invest in a new building.

The Memorial Hall was built in 1959 in memory of the fallen soldiers and aircrews of the Wars. It was funded in line with the Recreational Charities Act 1959. A plaque inside the Hall as well as Memorials outside on the front are testaments to them all.

Over the years the Hall has been run by various trustees in the capacity of secretaries and treasurers as well as volunteers from the community, the current chairperson being Sheila James, a long standing stalwart of the village. Sheila has also been a member of Clenchwarton Parish Council for many years, several of them as chairperson.

Over the past year the present committee has been working hard to improve the Hall itself and streamline its running practices.

A new online booking system has been up and running for a few months now and seems to be working well with most bookings being made, and paid, online through Lemon Booking.

A website for the hall has been re-introduced and continues to be developed further.

The hall has recently been decorated inside and generally tidied up outside. In the near future it is anticipated that the main hall floor will be refurbished.

Solar panels have been installed plus battery storage allowing the hall to run electrically 'net-zero' throughout much of the year. An EV charging point has been installed courtesy of Connect Cars as well as a defibrillator, kindly donated by Bespak.

That is all in addition to the normal day to day running of the hall.

However, the 'management committee' is always looking to recruit new Trustees that can bring new ideas and help to the running of the hall.

The village has spoken in favour of the Memorial Hall. It needs your help and support now to keep going. There is only so much time and effort a small number of people can invest.

The Committee would therefore like to invite you all to come along to our

AGM on 28th April, 2025, 19.00

Clenchwarton Memorial Hall.

Come along and see what we do, bring along your ideas and become a Trustee.

We would love to see you.

Secondary School Options for Village Children - cont. from page 21

School.	2024 Score	Government Band 2024	Government Band 2023
Downham Market	-0.06	AVERAGE	BELOW AVER- AGE
KES	-0.35	BELOW AVERAGE	BELOW AVER- AGE
Kings Lynn Academy	-0.64	WELL BELOW AVERAGE	BELOW AVER- AGE
Marshland	+0.29	ABOVE AVERAGE	ABOVE AVER- AGE
Smithdon	-0.41	BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE
Springwood	-0.05	AVERAGE	AVERAGE
St Clements	-0.06	AVERAGE	AVERAGE

NATURE WATCH by PAUL EVANS

Like many a gardener eagerly awaiting the coming of the first spring blooms, my wife Tod was stunned to find many of her early flowering border plants (not least her 'Winter Bellis') gnawed to stumps. It was quite clear who the culprit was. Hoof prints indicated the culprit to be Muntjac deer. They are now a common site in our gardens, fields, and sadly on our roads. Recently I have seen three lying dead in various places on Main Road, victims of the fact that they do not appear to fear humans or the traffic.

Not a native species, the Muntjac deer was first introduced to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire at the start of the twentieth century. Aided by the fact that they breed all year round, with incredible speed they spread into the surrounding area. The population spread can be further explained by the fact that the does can conceive again within days of giving birth. Does are also capable of breeding at just seven months old. After a gestation period of seven months, they give birth to a single fawn and are ready to mate again within a few days. It is now a very common animal which is widespread in southern and central England and parts of Wales. Distribution north of the Humber is not as dense but certainly reaches close to the Scottish border.

There is no doubt that they are an attractive, if problematic, creature. Some describe them as having reached pest proportions. Protected in the UK under the Deer Act 1991, they are known as 'barking deer' because of their dog-like calls which are often heard at dusk and dawn. Male muntjacs have short, unbranched antlers that slope backwards, and a pair of long canine teeth. Standing at approximately 52cm at the shoulder, they can weigh up to 18kg. Worldwide there are at least seven species of muntjac. They can be found, from Pakistan to Java and China. It is believed that two species were actually introduced into the UK, but the one that populated the UK is the Reeves's muntjac.

Returning to the garden It would appear strong smelling plants such as lavender are free from attention. I rather suspect that we are going to have to tolerate this hairy invasion because it is most certainly going to continue. I wonder if the inadvertent spread of muntjac is an indication of the dangers in planned/unplanned or ill-conceived re-introductions.

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



At the time of writing, the weather has warmed up a bit, horses are enjoying the sunshine and staff and volunteers are looking forward to hosting a visit to the Magpie Centre from the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Lady Dannatt on March 20.

At the West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association Annual General Meeting, held at Wimbotsham and Stow Village Hall on February 26, the Board of Trustees sadly bade farewell to Kate Miles, who had been on the Board for many years. Her equestrian knowledge will be greatly missed.

Another loss was Jackie Westrop, of Downham Market, who died on February 16, aged 68 after a long battle with cancer. Jackie's specialism was writing grant applications, with great success and her expertise in this area will be very hard to replace.

Looking towards the future, the Board welcomed five new trustees: Mandi Bailey, Chris Bailey, Zoe Harris, Holly Mason and Catherine Robson, and meetings will be held in the coming weeks to apportion their roles in the governance of WNRDA.

Now that winter is receding, we can look forward to Tea With a Pony sessions resuming on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 – 3.00 pm at the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, South Runcton PE33 0EP. Cost is £6.00 per person. Call the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202 to book. This activity is suitable for individuals and/or groups of up to 30 people. Come and join us for tea and cakes in the Sensory Garden and meet one of our lovely ponies. The venue is wheel-chair-accessible, and tea is served in a marquee in bad weather.

And for group organisers looking for a speaker, just call Caroline Dudley, WNRDA Voluntary Publicity Officer on 01553 828935 to arrange a suitable date.



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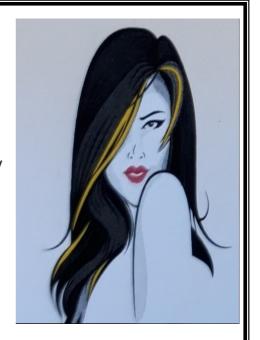
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SPRING

"Come the spring with all its splendour, all its birds, and all its blossoms!"
- Christina Rossetti.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." - Anne Bradstreet.

<u>Some of The Best Things</u> <u>About Spring:</u> "More like a new year than January" ...

New Buds and Blue Skies. ...
"The promise of summer" ...
Lighter Evenings



MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

The Mobile Library will come on the following dates in 2025. Apr 04; May 02; May 30; June 27; July 25; Aug 22; Sept 19; Oct 17; Nov 14; Dec 12.

Route number:

DER502

Day: Friday

Coronation Road 9.40-9.55

Margaretta Close 10.00-10.15

Rookery Close 10.20-10.35

Rectory Drive 10.40-10.50

St Annes Crescent 10.55-11.10

Linford Estate (1) 11.15-11.30

Hall Road opp. no 28 11.35-11.50

Black Horse Road 13.00-13.20

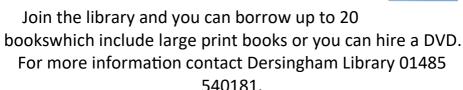
Wildfields Close 13.25-13.45

36 Station Road 13.50-14.10

St Peters Road (1) West Lynn 14.25-14.45

St Peters Close/Cedar Way 14.50-15.10

19 Ferry Road West Lynn 15.15-15.35



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Photos of Clenchwarton and Kings Lynn

Full information in the Village magazine and in the church. Display of photos in church on 17th May 2025.