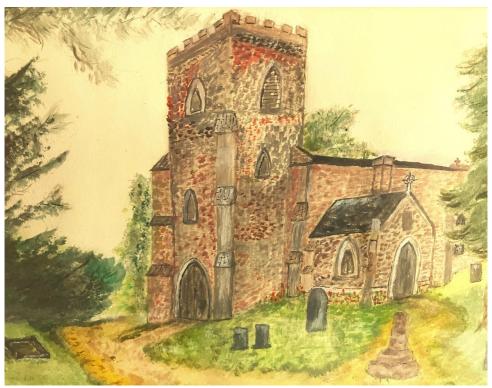
CLENCHWARTON Your Village News MARCH 2025





This lovely watercolour of the church is by village resident Daphne Mace



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

'A RACE NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER'

SATURDAY 3rd MAY





IN THE
CHURCH
7pm start

In aid of church bell tower repairs

TICKETS £5 from Julian Cox

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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 MARCH for the APRIL 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 MARCH EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.

We are about to enter the period of waiting known in the Christian calendar as Lent (5th March - 17th April). Whatever your beliefs, I am sure you will be waiting for the first signs of warmer weather - of beautiful snowdrops and crocuses, daffodils and tulips, and maybe some very early blossom on trees.

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

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Puzzle Corner Answers



1 Tommy Cooper 2 Oliver Cromwell 3 Mary Berry 4 Jane Seymou 5 Oscar Wilde 6 Norman Wisdom 7 Emma Watson 7 Emma Watson 9 Stanley Holloway



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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 MARCH



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

SUN 30th HOLY COMMUNION SERVCE AT WALPOLE ST PETER, led by

Rev'd Barbara Burton. No service at St Margaret's.

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 MARCH

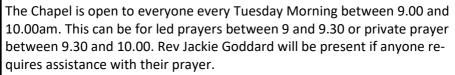
Sunday 2nd Joelle Nash Sunday 9th Cafe Service

Sunday 16th Jackie Goddard Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd Judith Semmons

Sunday 30th At Terrington St Clement Chapel

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



Every Tuesday morning there is a prayer space.

All services begin at 10.30am unless otherwise stated 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 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 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.

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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 MARCH 10.30am

Our next walk is on Saturday 8th March starting at 10.30am 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 MARCH



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

SAT 8th 10.30am WALKING GROUP starting at the school

SAT 15th 2.30pm THE CLENCHWARTON TALK. Battle of Waterloo.

Methodist Church Hall

Sat 29th 3.00pm COFFEE AND CRAFT. Methodist Church Hall

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

NEWS FROM ST MARGARET'S LOOKING BACK.

February was a very quiet month at the time of writing. Two members of our congregation are recovering from recent operations - Debra and Jan - and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

1st Dec - April 30th PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETION

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.

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

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH - LOOKING FORWARD cont,

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 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.

14th JUNE '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! 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.

FURTHER EVENTS

There will definitely be two craft fairs and a quiz - dates still to be agreed. Possible other events to be agreed.

The Clenchwarton Talk

Saturday 15th March 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall

The next talk is on the Battle of Waterloo, which is one of the most complicated battles, with the participation of four different nations. There is also an intriguing link to Kings Lynn.

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)



March 8th is International Women's Day – a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political contributions of women, and recognise the challenges still faced by many women. According to the United Nations, at the current rate of progress across the world, "it will take 300 years to end child marriage, 286 years to close the gaps in legal pro-

tection and discriminatory laws, 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace, and 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments." This is shocking!

The UK National Audit Office published a report in January 2025, where they concluded that "...violence against women and girls is a significant and growing problem, affecting one in 12 women and causing significant harm." This is shocking!

At the end of the month, on 30th, we celebrate Mothering Sunday. It can be an occasion which brings up a wide range of emotions – not all positive. It is an opportunity for us to focus on the challenges of mother-hood and the way our community can be supportive of parents and families.

There is a great wealth of wisdom, love, and experience across different organisations and generations of women in our village. There are stories to share. There are dreams to dream. There are voices which need to be heard. During March, pray with us and talk to us: Loving God, we celebrate that you have made us in your own image. Help us to challenge anything which denies it – for ourselves and others. May our village be a place of equality and safety. Amen.

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....



Did you notice that back in January, no sooner was Christmas over than our supermarket shelves were being filled with chocolate Easter eggs?

However, Easter is still seven weeks away and before we can indulge in delicious Easter chocolate we have to travel through the season of Lent. This magazine will be delivered to readers at the beginning of March, just as Lent begins on 2nd March, which is Ash Wednesday. Lent lasts forty days (not including Sundays). It is a time when Christians reflect and prepare for their most important celebration on Easter Sunday, when they remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the highlight of the Christian calendar.

Lent is often seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation, when we think of Jesus and his journey to the cross and the sacrifice he made by giving his life for the world. It is traditionally a time for fasting, and some people mark it by giving something up or by taking on an extra commitment. In essence, Lent is a time for sacrifice and gratitude for what God has done for us through Jesus. Just as we carefully prepare for an event like a wedding, or birthday, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—so, how will you spend Lent?

Coffee and Craft

Saturday 29th March 3.00pm – Methodist Church Hall You are welcome to come along and take part.

Chapel Plant Sale

Our plant sale will again take place in May 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. The actual date of the sale has yet to be finalised but we will announce it in the next parish magazine. Thank you for your support.

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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.



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

The February 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 Kemp representing the County Council and Councillor Bearshaw for the Borough Council. This month there were quite a few members of the public in attendance.

The meeting started with a representative from the Bowls Club, checking that the council had received payment of the rent due and asking about progress with the long-term hirer's agreement. Councillor Coates replied that the clerk was focused on completing the agreement for the football club and would respond to the Bowls Club feedback once that had been finalised. Later in the meeting a letter from the Bowls Club chair was read out, expressing concerns about the delay and the gap between communications. In response the council proposed an open meeting be held between the club members and the council.

A member of the public then asked the council for their response to a letter he had sent them. The letter was about an old audit report which had expressed concerns that some financial reports were not following the required reporting standards at the time. The clerk replied that the current reports were in line with the current standards and that the standards had been revised since the old audit report had been written. The parishioner then asked whether any conflict of interest existed where council members were also providing business services to the council.

This section of the meeting was quite heated, making it difficult to follow all the comments being made, but seemed to conclude with the council suggesting the parishioner follow the complaints policy if they felt their issues were not being addressed.

Following the county councillor's report, a public question on the state of the

Continued on page 20

Continued from previous page

road surface in Bailey Lane due to the reappearance of many potholes. County Councillor Kemp took the details away to investigate.

Fire marshal training for councillors and regular users of the pavilion is being organised for March.

Funding is being sought to provide better bus shelters for the stops in the village. Moss on the paths in the Jubilee Gardens is to be cleared as this is a slip hazard. The council is chasing up the repair of the street light that is still out in Warrens Road.

Councillor Coates asked the clerk to prepare an advertisement for the Parish magazine explaining that the pavilion and fields are available for hire for private events.

One planning application was discussed relating to the temporary change of use of Margaretta House to become a wedding venue. As was also reported on the 8th February Eastern Daily Press, the proposal is that the house be used several times a year to host weddings.

Borough Councillor report by Counsellor Steven Bearshaw

Drains, trains and automobiles

Drains

We're currently suffering from a collapsed culvert under Clockcase Road, half-way between the parking area to get up onto Peter Scott's walk and where the road name changes to Hall Road. The EA have been out on several occasions to assess and put temporary measures in place.

The last effort was to install a pump on the South side and implement an over the road solution. As we know, Clockcase Road sees more than its fair share of heavy vehicles and isn't exactly flat. This resulted in the over the road method rocking from side to side meaning it couldn't be left. We will shortly see a trench dug across the road and a pipe laid in it to remove the water. The cost is currently around 80k to replace the culvert.

Trains

As I've mentioned previously, I'm behind putting a new travel hub and station to the South of King's Lynn. The County's select committee met a few weeks

Trains - continued from page 21

ago but all the information from the feasibility study for the 2 locations wasn't available, so a hold has been put on making a decision on it until the information is available. Both locations come with challenges, but we knew that from the off and the benefit outweighs the challenge.

Automobiles

We've seen an increase in traffic through the village due to road works on the A17. Sadly, traffic using the village as a cut through tends to speed. I've previously had the camera van out on several occasions but within minutes, people announce his location on social media. I've submitted a request to the Parish Council to download the SAM2 sign* and give me the information then we can target the worst or highest volume of offenders.

There is also a new version of the SAM2 sign that has a camera built into it. After a meeting with Westcotec, RAF Marham will shortly have 2 installed and I'll be able to review the data to see if this is a route I can recommend to the village.

My work continues on installing the new Hall Road car park but is slow due to having to implement an additional drainage scheme. I've applied for an additional 10K grant to assure I don't need to re-approach the Parish Council for a further contribution.

The 10K will also allow me to white line and install planters between the rows to enhance the appearance and discourage anti-social driving behaviour.

If we are once again suffering from repeat fires and dumping of waste, could residents please let me know so I can pass this information through the Borough team or call the EA directly on 0800 80 70 60

The recorded message and reporting system is frustrating, but it does log and catalogue the instances which are then responded to and allows a stronger case to be built against any repeat perpetrators.

Kind regards

Cllr Steve BearshawClenchwarton Ward 07395 369748

*A SAM2 is a "Speed Awareness Sign" which is a vehicle-activated sign that displays the speed of an approaching vehicle, typically used to alert drivers if they are exceeding the speed limit in a particular area, and is often deployed in locations where speeding is a concern; it does not record license plate numbers but can record speed data for analysis.

County Councillor's Report by Alexandra Kemp

QEH Hospital Rebuild Delay- Action Needed Now

I have written to Government about the unacceptable postponement of the Hospital Rebuild to a 2033 completion date. The new car park was to start this Summer, the rebuild to follow in mid-2026, but this is now going to be put back to 2028. But Govt knows that the QEH roof will start to cave in from 2030, meaning parts of the hospital could have to close. Please write to Minister for Health Karin Smyth at PSKarinSmyth@DHSC.gov.uk as a local resident. The Govt needs to hear from you.

The Ferry – Action to Take

The Ferry is a vital transport link to the business of the Borough. Quicker, more frequent, more reliable than the bus service in the rush hour. One minute we have a transport link, next thing it's on ice, with no warning. There is no information about when it's coming back and no replacement service provided. The County and Borough Council have spent £50,000 on 4 studies about replacing the Ferry Steps and about the condition of the Landing Stage since my Transport Report in 2023. The Borough has been responsible since the 1540's for repairing and replacing the Ferry landing stage. As the Local Councillor, I am in daily contact with the Council and the Ferry Operator about getting the Ferry re-opened. But the closure has gone on for 4 weeks. The Borough did 2 reports in January, but we have had no information when the Ferry is re-opening. The repairs need to be done now! Funding must now be committed to the replacement of the West Lynn Landing Stage - I have been asking for this since 2019. The Ferry is part of our local identity and our maritime and cultural heritage, but most importantly, provides a service for residents and connects the two parts of the town. The Ferry needs to be in the Borough's Capital Programme for the long-term repairs it desperately needs, and funding should be diverted from the vanity projects, like the waste of £15.1 million to move the Carnegie Library to Argos. I intend to bring a Budget Amendment to the Borough about the Ferry. Please write to the Chief Executives of both Councils Tom McCabe and Kate Blakemore. Ask them to work together to reopen the Ferry immediately.

Tom.mccabe@norfolk.gov.uk Kate.Blakemore@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Road Surfacing in Clenchwarton

Highways has programmed in resurfacing of Main Road from Hall Road Roundabout to the shop.

I also asked for the Marsh, and the Mill Lane Junction, to be included and they have been programmed in. The section of Clockcase Lane from Anglian Water to the corner of West Bank Farm will be resurfaced in the Summer.

The Ditches of Clapper Lane and the County Hall Drought Summit

I held a site meeting with Highways, Freebridge Housing and the Internal Drainage Board in December. Freebridge is taking responsibility to clear the ditches on the western side of Clapper Lane on behalf of its tenants. At the recent County Hall Flood Drought Summit which called for more reservoirs and the introduction of liability for developers, who cause flooding downstream, I asked how would responsibility and funding for West Norfolk's Drainage Boards be guaranteed in a Local Government reorganisation? No-one could give a response.

The Future of Norfolk County Council Care Homes in West Norfolk

- 1. Adult Social Care is a key responsibility of the County Council. But only weeks after Norfolk County Council closed Burman House Care Home near King's Lynn, causing distress to its residents and their relatives, NCC has announced closure of another Care Home rated "Good"- Linden Court in Watton. NCC owns 16 out of the 19 Care Homes run by the Council Company Norse but is failing to invest for their long-term survival. NCC is not taking seriously its legal duty under the Care Act 2014, to shape the Norfolk Care Market for high standards and affordability. What will happen if the Council closes any more Care Homes? The knock-on effect will be higher prices and poorer care for residents with dementia, or disabilities who need a high level of care.
- 2. So I am bringing an important Amendment to the County Council's Budget on 18 February, to support Norfolk County Council to commit to support high quality and affordable residential Adult Social Care for older people throughout Norfolk and invest in its Care Homes.
- 3. Norfolk continues to fall short of the England, East of England, and local authority family group average, for the quality of its Care provision. Only 70% of Norfolk Care Homes are rated Good or above, but the Council's Care Homes are rated Good or Outstanding and a key asset to Norfolk. It doesn't make sense to close any of them.
- 4. The demand for Care in Norfolk will increase, due to demographic increases the number of 85's and over is set to increase by 46% in the coming decade in Norfolk and Waveney. Dementia prevalence for people in Norfolk is higher than the England average. A significant increase in the number of older people with dementia, is predicted across all Norfolk Districts by 2040.
- 5. However, NCC has so far only renovated Care Homes in Norwich and Great Yarmouth but not invested in Care Homes in the key retirement areas in West and North Norfolk, where affordable, good quality care is particularly important, so that residents can stay in their area, close to friends and family support.
- 6. Being placed outside the locality, can lead to residents being deprived of more frequent visits that are vital to their wellbeing.

Continued on page 31



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Puzzle Page

Answers on page 5

Who are the following? And who is the ninth person you can obtain from the answers?

- 1 Welsh comedian and magician who died from a heart attack on stage.
- 2 Britain's only Lord Protector.
- 3 Food writer, Baker and television presenter who is 90 this month.
- 4 Actress in a James Bond film and the third wife of a King who had six.
- 5 Irish wit, poet, and dramatist who was not born in a railway station!
- 6 Comedy actor best known for his portrayal of Norman Pitkin in several films.
- 7 Little woman but most famous for the Harry Potter films in which she acted.
- 8 Actor and singer in "My Fair Lady" but perhaps most famed for the comic monologues he delivered.

9 ????

Good Luck!

King's Lynn Festival

Spring events on sale now

Escape the winter blues with our vibrant spring season! Enjoy three captivating coffee concerts, a collaborative choral workshop, and a showcase of Lynn's most promising young musicians.

Coffee Concert: ROKAS VALUNTONIS (PIANO) Friday 7th March, 11am

Coffee Concert: BENJAMIN BAKER (VIOLIN) and DANIEL LEBHARDT (PIANO) Friday 28

March, 11am

BEN & DOM WORKSHOP & CONCERT Saturday 26 April | Workshop 3pm | Concert

7.30pm

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In Memoriam - OLIVE BLYTH by Eileen Johnson

28th September 1932 - 30th December 2024

Born in Windsor Row, King's Lynn, Olive was the youngest of six children to Bill and Violet Alexander. Educated initially at Whitefriars's School, when the family moved to Gaywood for improved housing, she attended Gaywood Park Secondary, where she met her lifelong friend Eve.

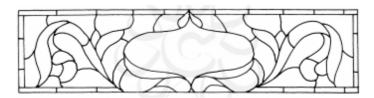
Olive left school aged 14 and began work at Jermyn's (later Debenhams) where she stayed for 17 years. Whilst there she met Ray and they married in August 1954 at St Faith's Church, Gaywood. For the first three years of the marriage, they lived with Ray's mother in West Lynn, moving to Margaretta Close, Clenchwarton in 1957. The much longed for baby Helen was born in 1964, and Olive spent the next five years at home looking after her. When Helen started school Olive worked in the school canteen until being made redundant. She was then offered work in the village shop by Mr & Mrs Eggett.

In 1982 the family moved to Beverley Way, where Olive lived for the rest of her life. When the shop job ended, Olive worked for Chris Gilbert, topping and tailing small pickling onions. She loved the flexibility of the work and the friendship of the other ladies, Pat, Peggy, Dot, Maisie, Sue, Sula and others.

When Helen and Peter gave Olive her first grandchild in 1984, she gave up work to look after Paul, so Helen could return to nursing. Years later when Paul met Alice, Olive became "Nanny" to Emma and was so excited when, in 2022, she became "Great-Nanny" to Oliver.

Olive and Ray spent many years playing indoor and outdoor bowls, representing Norfolk on many occasions, but when Ray died in 2000 Olive stopped as her heart was no longer in it. She enjoyed watching Snooker, Tennis and Football and she loved her garden.

Olive was blessed with good friends, family and neighbours. She was a lovely, caring and popular lady, as was proven by the 121 people who squeezed into St Margaret's Church - the church she attended regularly until Covid struck - for her funeral on 28th January.



Village School Going from Strength to Strength - by David Hutton

For those of us who have lived in Clenchwarton for many years, we know that a precious asset within the village is our school. When Ofsted inspected the school in October they graded the school overall as GOOD, but acknowledged that the Personal development of the pupils and Early Years provision was OUTSTANDING.

The recent publication of the school performance tables for 2024 has validated Ofsted's judgement. Clenchwarton Primary school pupils were well above national and county averages for meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths for pupils at the end of Key Stage 2. A big deserved well done is due to the pupils, staff and governors at the school.

- 67 % Clenchwarton School
- 53 % Norfolk Local authority average
- 61 % National average

The government defines the expected standard as follows - Pupils are meeting the expected standard if they achieve a scaled score of 100 or more in their reading and maths tests, and their teacher assesses them as 'working at the expected standard' or better in writing. For those interested, the school performance tables can be found at www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables . The site is reasonably straightforward to navigate if anyone wishes to drill down into the statistics. The publishing date of the tables has changed over the years but in 2024 they were accessible to the public in December.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,



It was with dismay that I read the following in the January minutes of the Parish Council minutes.

It was also resolved that if the Bowls Club do not pay their invoice balance, then alternative courses of income from the area will be sort and the locks changed if necessary. Just so village residents are aware. We were finally invoiced in June for two years back rent (you may remember the PC got themselves into a financial mess and a consequence of that, was they weren't sending out invoices) and the rent for 2024. The club treasurer promptly posted a cheque but after 6 months the council hadn't got round to cashing the cheque. We contacted them in January to seek clarification and handed in the cheque for 2024 payment at the February PC meeting. We have paid all outstanding balances as well as spending over five thousands of pounds during 2024 as part of our commitment to maintaining the bowling green. We do use a little bit of electricity as well as water during dry periods of weather but we not a major drain on village finances.

The bowls club has a membership that is drawn largely from the village and the majority are senior citizens. They are law abiding, tax-paying, decent people. So why has our

Parish Council decided, the best way to deal with them is to threaten to change the locks? No effort taken to communicate, no thought to email a gentle reminder, no reaching out. Their approach is 'let's change the locks'! The village doesn't have a wealth of opportunities so why such an aggressive approach towards a club that has existed for over eighty years in Clenchwarton?

Finally, several councillors have told us they support the bowls club. However, the minutes of the meeting tell us the council have resolved to take this action. There is no mention in the minutes of any councillor challenging or disagreeing with the approach taken. I sincerely hope this wasn't the case.

David Hutton (Chairperson)
On behalf of Clenchwarton Bowls Club.

County Councillor's report - cont.from page 23

- 7. Whilst the Council is investing in Housing with Care, this is not suitable for residents with Dementia, who require a higher level of care and attention. In addition, NCC does not accept a duty to provide meals for residents in its Housing with Care facilities.
- 8. If the Council does not invest in its Care Homes around the County and starts to close any more, this will restrict choice and affordability in Norfolk, and the cost to the taxpayer will increase. NCC will have to place more Local Authority-funded residents in private Care Homes, which charge higher fees than Council Care Homes. Residents who are self-funders will also have less choice and will be forced towards more expensive private care.

STREETLIGHTS FOR SAFETY

My Budget Amendment to County, if passed, would also overturn NCC's anti-business and anti-safety proposal to switch off the Streetlights on Lynn's key industrial estates, including the Hardwick Trading Estate, Hardwick Narrows and Horsleys Fields. Switching off the streetlights would be anti-climate change, discourage modal shift and deter employees from walking and cycling to work, increasing congestion and air pollution. The Hardwick has a strong retail offer, and no streetlights would send out a message that Lynn is closed for business and deter consumers from walking to shops and restau-

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South - Norfolk County Council

rants. LED lighting is the answer, not putting residents in the dark.

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AN INVITATION

Come everyone who wants to:

Come if you can recite the creeds,

Come if you can't remember the words to Jesus loves me;

Come if you've been in the church since birth,

Come if you've lost your way a few times but found your way here today;

Come if you like to study theology,

Come if you like to finger paint;

Come if you like tradition and ritual and ceremony,

Come if you like balloons and laughter and jumping in puddles.

Come if you like all these things

and find the wonder of heaven in them all.

Come as you are:

old and young.

Just as you are:

one family,

right now,

each of you,

every one of you,

and know that you are welcome here.

The above was written for Clenchwarton Methodist Church on the Main Road but could also apply to St Margaret's Church. Come now because tomorrow might be too late.

DID YOU KNOW?

in the Year of 1981:

Prince Charles got married

Liverpool F.C. were crowned Champions of Europe

Australia lost the Ashes tournament

The Pope died

In the Year of 2005:

Prince Charles got married

Liverpool F.C. were crowned Champions of Europe

Australia lost the Ashes tournament

The Pope died

So, if Prince Charles ever decides to remarry, will somebody please warn the Pope...?

(internet circulation, courtesy of Fr Neil Kelley)

THE HISTORY OF NORFOLK Part 7 by GRAHAME SAMPSON

We have reached the Iron Age in Norfolk. Bronze continued to be used but because tools and weapons made from iron were sharper this was used increasingly. The earliest iron objects were imported from the continent but British smiths began to work iron from about 650BC.

Life was tribal but until the Romans came we have no idea of their names or reach. Julius Caesar raided Britain in 54BC and one of the tribes that submitted to him he called the Cenimagna. The Cenimagna are now thought to be the Iceni or Eceni Magni – the Great Iceni. The name Iceni was recorded by Tacitus in the first century AD. From the distribution of their coins it is believed that the Iceni inhabited Norfolk, North Suffolk and part of Cambridgeshire.

Iron rusts, so few iron objects survive. Little pottery has survived either. Most people lived in scattered farmsteads and kept cattle, sheep, pigs and horses. They grew cereals particularly wheat and barley. Woodland continued to be cleared and it was during this period that heaths formed and expanded in Breckland.

Flooding from the wash restricted settlement in Fenland but there was much development on the Fen Edge and on the islands in the Fens.

Forts with earthworks have been located at five sites; namely, Holkham, Warham, South Creake, Narborough and Thetford. They may be a mark of status or their dominance in the west of the county may indicate this area was the tribal centre. It is also the area which produces a concentration of gold and silver torcs with the biggest group of 180 torcs at Snettisham may indicate a burial in response to a perceived threat around 70BC. By the mid first century AD the tribal centre had been moved to Thetford where a major ceremonial centre was constructed around 40AD but demolished probably around 60AD. This may have been the Roman reaction to the revolt from Boudica.

In AD43 the Romans invaded Britain. The Iceni appeared to ally themselves with the Romans and from 49AD were given the status by the Romans of client-kingdom. According to Tacitus the Iceni's leader was Prasutagus but he died in 60AD.

In the next episode we will see what happened after his death. Spoiler alert – it is not good news for the local populace!

NATURE WATCH by Debra McGowan

As I lie in bed at night I can hear a Tawny Owl in the garden. Many years ago we were given a wooden box which was built as an outdoor house for a friend's cat. My husband made a few adjustments to it, so that we could put it in one of the trees in the garden, hoping that one of the Tawny Owls we often hear in the garden would use it as a nest box. Originally it was completely ignored by all the birds, then we had a pair of Stock Doves who used it as a nest box and successfully raised two chicks. Then last summer a pair of Rooks raised their family in there, and will probably use it again this year. The Rooks were so secretive that you rarely caught sight of them entering or leaving the nest box. It was only due to the noise the chicks made whenever one of the parents entered the box with food, that alerted us to the fact that they were there.

One of the downsides of living in a very old cottage are the pan tiles on the roof. Over the years our roof has been home to several colonies of wasps, three different types of bumblebee, the odd Starling and last year several House Sparrows. Unfortunately another unwanted guest this winter was a rat, which I am pleased to say is no longer in residence. We don't have an attic in our house, so I often wonder how the larger birds manage in such a small area, squeezed in between the ceiling and the roof tiles.

Last year was the first time that we had no wasps nesting in the roof; their numbers were drastically hit by all the wet weather. Although many people view them as a nuisance they do a very important job of controlling unwanted pests in the garden. We also have a family of the fattest squirrels in the neighbourhood! They have a dray (nest) in the top of the eucalyptus tree. They are so intelligent that they managed to completely take apart one of the bird feeders in the garden to get at the seed last summer, and they also managed to get at some of the fruit trees in the garden and help themselves before the fruit was ripe enough for us to pick, so we will have to find a way of preventing that happening again this year. The crocuses, snow drops and other spring bulbs are all starting to come through, so we will have to get out with the garlic and hot pepper spray before the deer start coming in for an early breakfast.

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



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

It's spring at last – and time for some changes at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association. As you may know, our Chairwoman stepped down, for personal reasons, some time ago, and at the time of writing we are still on the lookout for a new leader.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 26, 7.00 pm at Wimbotsham and Stow Village Hall, Low Road, Wimbotsham PE34 3QQ. After the meeting, Magpie Centre Yard Manager Natalie Dade and RDA Group Instructor Jo Gordon will each give a short presentation on the Magpie Centre horses and their role in therapy, so this would be a great opportunity for visitors to attend and see what the Magpie Centre is all about. Refreshments will be provided.

The Magpie Nest, which opened in October 2024 is thriving. This programme is designed to help students with additional needs who struggle to thrive in a main-stream environment. Through the therapeutic approach of using equines, two students have become engaged with ASDAN Animal Care and one young person is learning Self Care and Gardening. A new Alternative Provision pony has been acquired. He is settling in well and building a nurturing, trusting bond with the children, which is something that the children find more challenging with adults.

The Friday Home Educated group are working hard to achieve their RDA proficiency goals in horsemanship. They are learning what it takes to care for a horse and are growing in confidence weekly.

If a social evening is what you're after, tickets are still available for our Barn Dance/Ceilidh, with caller and live band 'Take the Floor', Saturday March 8, 7.30 – 11.00 pm with Hog Roast (or veggie alternative) supper at Stow Bridge Village Hall, Holme Road, Stow Bridge PE34 3QQ. To book tickets, £17.50 for adults and £7.50 for children, 13 yrs and under, call 01760 337056 or email suer2006@hotmail.co.uk. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Continued on page 37



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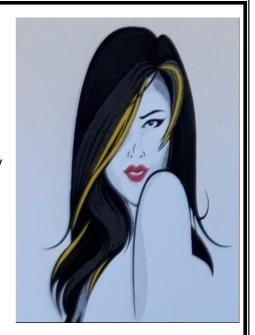
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MAGPIE CENTRE NEWS - cont from page 35

And – it does come round quickly, doesn't it? We are Calling all Crafters to take a stall (£12 per 3m space) for our Craft Fair, scheduled for Saturday June 7 at the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall South Runcton (on the A10, three miles north of Downham Market) PE33 OEP. Stalls will be under cover in the indoor school, which is wheel-chair accessible. To book your place, contact 07715 467866 or email magpieccfcraft@outlook.com.



MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

The Mobile Library will come on the following dates in 2025. Mar 07; 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

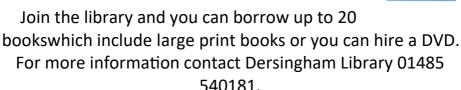
Wildfields Close 13.25-13.45

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



It's free to join! Everyone Welcome!







at St Margaret's Church

Church Road, Clenchwarton

Saturday June 14th 7 pm

Tickets: £12.00 - adults / £6.00 - U16s.

in advance from Jan and Andy Taylor (Tel: 07939 055031)

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Wine and soft drinks will be available

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12 - 17 years (£1.50p per photo)
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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.