

**CLENCHWARTON**

**Your Village News JUNE 2025**





COVER PAGE PHOTO BY AIMEE-JANE GRANGE. THIS PHOTO WON 1ST PRIZE IN OUR RECENT PHOTO COMPETITION IN THE 12 - 17 AGE GROUP. THE JUDGES SAID IT WAS WORTHY OF A VOGUE MAGAZINE COVER PAGE! OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS OTHER WINNERS AND HIGHLY COMMENDED PHOTOS WILL FEATURE ON THE COVER PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE.



SOME PHOTOS OF THE RACE NIGHT AT CHURCH IN MAY. THIS FUN EVENT RAISED £500!!



## ***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 (OPEN 10am– 4pm every day)**

**Rector: Reverend Barbara Burton  
01945 781228**

#### **Churchwardens:**

Debra McGowan – 01553 773467  
[warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk](mailto:warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk)  
Andy Taylor – 07939 055031

#### **Parish Safeguarding Officer:**

Jan Taylor – 07725 940453

Please contact Debra McGowan for Baptisms, Marriages, etc.

**St Margaret's Parish Church, Church Road, Clenchwarton,  
Kings Lynn, PE34 4EA**

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

### **Contact your magazine**

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

All other enquiries and advertising enquires:  
Debra McGowan: 01553 773467  
[warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk](mailto:warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk)

The advertising and magazine subscriptions help keep the magazine in print and provides some funds towards church projects. If you can help with the magazine please let either Debra or Grahame know.

**We need your articles in by 14th JUNE for the  
JULY 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

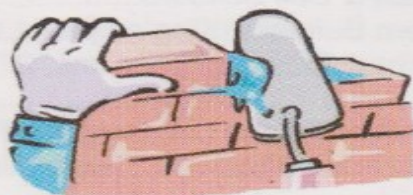
## **WELCOME TO THE JUNE**

### **EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.**

Summer was with us—and then decided to go away, so it is back to our usual chilly east winds as I write this. In this edition read about our newly elected Deputy Mayor of King's Lynn, our Photo Competition results, and find out about all the many social events that are available for everyone in the village this month.

*Jan Taylor*

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**PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS**



10 Sir Cloudesley Shovel  
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8 George Vancouver  
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5 Sir James Dyson  
4 Horatio Nelson  
3 Thomas Paine  
2 Anna Sewell  
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for further information

## St Margaret's Church Services in JUNE



- Sunday 1st June** 10am Holy Communion service led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sunday 8th June** 10am Morning Prayer with hymns, led by a Churchwarden
- Sunday 15th June** 10am Holy Communion service led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sunday 22nd June** 10am Morning Prayer with hymns, led by a Churchwarden
- Sunday 29th June** 10am Holy Communion service at Walpole St Peter Church, led by Revd. Barbara Burton. No service at St Margaret's

**Please note the times of all services**

**Everyone is welcome at all our services, whatever your age.**

## Methodist Chapel Services in JUNE



- Sunday 1st June** The Worship Team
- Sunday 8th June** Pentecost Rev Jackie Goddard Holy Communion
- Sunday 15th June** Trinity Sunday Angela Bishop
- Sunday 22nd June** Sheila Johnson
- Sunday 29th June** Joella Nash

All of the above services are open to everybody and start at 10.30am. Come and compare a chapel service to a church service. Find out which you prefer.

Every Tuesday the Chapel is open for prayers between 9.00am and 10.00am.

**All services begin at 10.30am unless otherwise stated**

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



## Walking Group - Saturday 14th June 9.30am

Please note that our next walk starts from the earlier time of 9.30am from the village school on Saturday June 14th. Anyone is welcome to join us.

## The Clenchwarton Talk -

**Saturday 21st June 2.30pm**

Methodist Church Hall, Main Road

The next talk is to be given by Paul Evans and is entitled "Looking for Trouble". It is about when he was in the Police in London. Paul is an interesting speaker so do please come along. Entrance is free and refreshments are provided. Donations welcome



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## DIARY OF EVENTS in CLENCHWARTON and surrounding area for JUNE

Save  
the  
Date

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

- 3rd June 10am **Coffee Morning**. Methodist Chapel
- 3rd June 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn. Sandwiches/ cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 6th June 7pm **Quiz**. Methodist Chapel. Great fun - do come along and join in. Free - donations welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided
- 8th June 2pm **TALK** - 'LET THE CHILDREN LIVE'. St Margarets Church
- 8th June 6.30pm - 8.30pm. **STORY CAFÉ**. Methodist Chapel. There is no cost. Given a few facts, can you evolve this into a full story? Or you can just listen if you want
- 10th June 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn. Sandwiches/ cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 14th June 9.30am **Walking Group**. Starting from the school
- 14th June 7pm **'SINGERS of NOTE' CONCERT**. St Margaret's Church
- 17th June 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn. Sandwiches/ cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 20th June 5.30pm - 7.30pm. **Summer Fayre**. Clenchwarton Primary School
- 21st June 2.30pm. **The Clenchwarton Talk**. Methodist Chapel
- 24th June 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn. Sandwiches/ cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 28th June 3pm. **COFFEE AND CRAFT**. Methodist Chapel. Anyone is welcome to come along and take part
- 30th June 6.30pm for 7pm start. **Bingo Night**. Memorial Hall. In aid of CCFT. Come along and make new friends

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

### ***NEWS FROM ST MARGARET'S - LOOKING BACK***

We had an hilarious Race Night at St Margaret's Church, where people found themselves shouting for wooden racing rabbits, and throwing huge spongy dice to see how far their rabbit would 'run'. This event raised a magnificent £500. Make sure you don't miss out on this great evening next time!

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect church officers and parochial church council members was held at the beginning of May. Andy Taylor and Debra McGowan remain as Churchwardens, Jan Taylor remain as the Parish Safeguarding Officer, with Richard and Jenny Brown, Julian Cox, Ellie Hammond and Carol Turner voted on as PCC members.

On 8th May the Thursday Coffee morning was visited by the 'Beat the Bills' team from the Borough Council. They gave out leaflets about various benefits / grants that may be available and also gave practical advice about reducing bills.

Our photo competition came to an end at the on 30th April, and the photos were judged by the two leaders of Downham Market U3A Photographic Group. The results were announced at the display on 17th May and as can be seen on the front cover and page 2, we had some fantastic entries. The results are as follows:

**Under 11 age group:**

1st place	Alice Johnson for <i>Bluebell</i>
Highly commended	Alice Johnson for <i>Stones</i>
Commended	Katie Johnson for <i>Gravestone</i>
Public Vote	Alice Johnson for <i>'Bluebell'</i>

**12 - 17 age group:**

1st place	Aimee-Jane Grange for <i>Going Insane</i> (see front cover photo)
Highly commended	Sam Tennant for <i>Jack Frost</i>
Public Vote:	Aimee-Jane Grange for <i>'Clenchwarton Primary School'</i>

**Over 18 age group:**

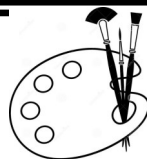
1st place	Ian McGowan for <i>Robin</i>
Highly commended	Debra McGowan for <i>Who wants a prince when you can have a handsome frog</i>
Public Vote	Joint first: Richard Johnson for <i>'George Vancouver'</i> , and Martin Moore for <i>'A Sharp Frost'</i> .

Thank you to everyone who entered and to all who came to admire the display of photos

*Looking forward* is on page 12

## CLENCHWARTON ART GROUP

Due to summer holiday commitments and the group being so small we are unfortunately having to take a summer break This means the Art group will NOT be meeting from May 20th until October 7th 2025.



## Senior years sayings

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 70 might be the new 50, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

## **LOOKING FORWARD - EVENTS AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH**

**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. 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 and they are selling fast. **Tickets available from Jan on 07725 940453.**



**5th JULY 10.00am - 4pm OPEN GARDENS EVENT.** Please note change of time At least **TEN Open Gardens** starting from the church. £5 per person (12 and under £1). Map and refreshments available at the church. No entry to Gardens without showing your map.

**For further details and if you would like to open your garden please contact Debra 01553 773467 .**

**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. 6.30pm for 7pm start**

£5 Per person. 6 people max per team. In church. Refreshments available. Tickets on the door.

**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**

## **JEAN PROCTOR 1934 - 2025. AN OBITUARY**

*This obituary was written by Jean's family for her funeral, and they have given permission for a summary of it to be printed in this magazine.*

Jean was born in 1934 and had one sister and four brothers. Her father George Colli-son was a farmer, and times were very hard when Jean was little. She remembered her father shooting sparrows for the family to eat in a pie. It took 40 sparrows to make a pie because they only used the breast meat of the tiny birds. The family moved to Smallholdings Road in 1938. During the war Jean remembered sitting on her bed with her parents, watching the bombs falling on King's Lynn, which she described as an awful sight.

On leaving school Jean trained as a nursery nurse in Finchley. Jean worked in private homes before moving on to a Children's Home.

Jean met her husband Pat at a dance in Dereham Memorial Hall. Prior to her marriage

Jean moved to Coventry when the Matron of the Children's Home moved there and asked Jean to go with her. Eventually She and Pat were married in September 1958 and had two children - Patrick and Jaqueline.

By 1962 Pat was serving with the RAF and this brought about a long series of moves for the family including Limassol (Cyprus) until hostilities broke out between Greece and Turkey. Jean remembered flying home in a transporter plane with the children secured to the sides of the aircraft for safety. A short time in Terrington St Clement followed, where Jean worked in some greenhouses picking tomatoes. The family then moved to Binbrooke in Lincolnshire, then Pat was posted to Aden. This time the family did not go with him. On his return Pat was posted to RAF Wyton near Huntingdon and so the family moved there. The children have fond memories of helping their Uncle David selling his strawberries out of his van to all the local families.

This was then followed by a posting to RAF Naphill in Buckinghamshire, where Jean resumed looking after children, a job she had always loved. It was here that her son Patrick decided to make some money by finding old bikes, doing them up, selling them, and also collecting glass bottles found in waste bins that he could return to the shops for the deposit money!

Another posting followed - this time to Wales, and while they were there Jean and Pat decided to buy the old family home in Smallholdings Road when Jean's parents moved to a bungalow. She and Pat settled into the house but very sadly Pat passed away very suddenly, after a heart attack at the age of 55. His death left a huge gap in the whole family's lives.

However, four years later Jean met Wilf. They married and Wilf became Grandad to Jean's grandsons. The whole family welcomed all Wilf's family in to their now quite extended family. Sadly Wilf passed away leaving Jean widowed a second time, but with help from all her family Jean found the strength to carry on.

She enjoyed many hobbies and the friendships she made in her Knit and Natter group and St Margaret's Church Thursday Coffee Morning.

Jean always said she had a good life, but that began to come to a close at Christmas 2024, when Jean became poorly. With help from family, friends and carers she was looked after at home until her condition worsened, so that she had to be admitted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where she was looked after with care and compassion by the staff on Tilney Ward until she passed away.

*At the family's request any donation in Jean's memory, in aid of the British Heart Foundation, can be made via Thornalleys at [www.tfs.co.uk/obituaries](http://www.tfs.co.uk/obituaries).*



## From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Revd. Jackie Goddard

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



June 16th – 22nd is Refugee Week. Established in 1998, it is a global movement: an 'arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity, and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.' This year, the theme is Community as a Superpower and recognises the incredible power of lots of small acts of kindness. We have the power to change the world!

Tove Jansson published *The Moomins and the Great Flood* in 1945. She wrote her fairytale stories to comfort herself during the difficult times of World War 2. The story is about the Moominmamma and Moomintroll's attempts to find a new home and search for Moominpappa after the flood washed away their home. They eventually find the tall blue house, where everyone is welcome and everyone can find security, shelter, a sense of belonging, a new home and community. The themes are still important today, 80 years after that first story, they are supporting Refugee Week.



Love your neighbour is the starting place for building open, accepting, superpower-communities. The reality is often that we don't our neighbours. Perhaps this month, you might challenge yourself to greet some of the people who live in your village who you don't yet know, or learn something about the diversity of our communities, or find out more about the real stories of refugees and how we can respond. I pray that we might find our community superpower together.

Every blessing.

Revd. Jackie Goddard

*For more information on A Methodist Way of Life:*

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



## PASTORAL LETTER

*Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....*



Advent has a wreath. Christmas has a tree. Lent has ashes and palms. Easter has a cross, an empty tomb and signs of new life. Symbols are important in the church and help religious meaning to enter into our lives.

But in June and through the summer months, the Church Calendar tells us we are in Ordinary Time. The church colour for Ordinary Time is green, which is meant to symbolize life and hope. Ordinary Time is that part of the church year when there are no major festivals, no holidays in the Christian calendar, no special services in church. It does not mean that there is nothing going on – Ordinary Time encompasses the summer season, and so weddings and christenings are popular, as are fund raising events.

But it does mean that there is some time to do other things. I'm trying to walk more. Walking is something I like but I rarely find time to fit it in. I use my walks as spaces for thinking and praying, and sometimes in the peace and quiet of a walk I can feel very close to God, as if we are on the journey together.

But whether or not you are of a religious turn of mind, walking is a good thing. It gets you out of the house and into the fresh air with all the advantages it brings for your well-being. Let me encourage you over the next few weeks to take a walk; who knows, you may find yourself taking a journey with God and find yourself enjoying his blessings.



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## *Deputy Mayor of Kings Lynn is Clenchwarton resident, Steve Bearshaw.*

**News from Kings Lynn Council 15th May 2025**

Supporting new Mayor Andy Bullen, Cllr Steve Bearshaw, newly elected as deputy Mayor, was born in Wigan and raised in North Yorkshire. Growing up, he was extremely active and could usually be found on the golf course, the rugby pitch or 1000ft in the air teaching air cadets how to fly gliders.

A long 28 year career serving in the Royal Air Force has seen him posted to Germany, Scotland, West Midlands, Lincolnshire, Bristol and Norfolk, whilst countless detachments and Operational tours have taken him all across the world.

In his time, he's worked on many different aircraft types, from those in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, including Spitfires, Hurricanes and Lancaster Bombers, to the latest state of the art technology of F-35 Lightning, in such roles as the Configuration Manager, Modifications Manager, Fleet Manager and his latest, Quality Manager. A posting in 2001 brought him to Norfolk where after 10 years at Marham he settled and now lives in Clenchwarton.

Cllr Bearshaw is an Independent Councillor for The Clenchwarton Ward and was elected to the Council in May 2023, serving as the Armed Forces Member Champion and on the Audit Committee, Standards Committee, Corporate Performance Panel, Chair of Regeneration & Development scrutiny panel (until taking on his current deputy Mayor role) and the outside bodies of Armed Forces Covenant Board, King's Lynn Conservancy Board, King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board, East of Ouse Pulver and Nar Internal Drainage Board, Stoke Ferry Internal Drainage Board, Southery & District Internal Drainage Board. He's also Chair of the Clenchwarton Aircrew Memorial Charity.

He will be supported in his year in office by his wife, Marisol, who hopes in later retirement to be able to entice him back to where she grew up in the sacred valley of Peru.

## **OPEN GARDENS - SATURDAY 5th JULY 10am - 4pm**

**£5 per person ticket entry (£1 per child under 12)**

We now have offers of an amazing ten gardens for this event. As you are all aware ours is quite a spread out village so for some gardens, unless you are a good walker, if you wish to see all the gardens it will probably be necessary to use a car (cadge a lift with a friend who has a car if you don't drive yourself!). I am sure there will be plenty of people who will be able to offer lifts. **The event will start at St Margaret's church, where you will be able to purchase your programme, including a map of the gardens** (no entry to any garden without one of these I am afraid). Tea/coffee/cakes/biscuits will be on sale at the church. There will also be a stall selling puzzles, plant pots and other bric-a-brac. Be sure to put this date in your diary. (and pray for good weather!).

## *View From the Gallery, by Jon Clark*

May Day saw two meetings, the first at 6:00pm was the annual report to the village of the progress the Parish Council were making. Disappointingly there was only one member of the public at this meeting. There was one question from the public, asking whether the council felt there were enough councillors given recent resignations. The council agreed that additional applications for becoming a co-opted council member were welcome, as this would enable them to share the workload better.

Updates from parish organisations were then invited and Clenchwarton Community Foundation Trust presented their annual report covering their activities and fund raising and where the donations have been spent. This triggered an open discussion on the use of the Pavilion, especially during the summer months when it is frequently unutilised. Councillor Lucas explained that the upkeep of the pavilion was more than the income from the two long term hirers and that additional ways to make use of the Pavilion were being investigated to try and reduce this deficit.

The chair of the council, Councillor Coates, then provided the annual update, which is reported in full elsewhere in the magazine.

At 7:00pm the Annual Parish Council meeting started. By this time there were seven members of the public in attendance, as well as all the current council members. The meeting started with the re-election of Councillor Coates as Chair and the election of Councillor Fox as Vice-Chair for the coming year. The meeting sped through the administrative tasks of reviewing and approving various proscribed policies and documents. County Councillor Kemp provided updates on the slow progress in restoring the Ferry service as well as reminding people of the public consultation timelines for the proposed restructuring of the county and borough councils across Norfolk and Suffolk.

In Village Matters, work has started on laying the foundations for the two bus shelters that are being installed by the council. The planning application for the new car park has been handed over to the Parish Council and work on a final review prior to submitting the application is underway.

Councillor Fox provided an update on the asset mapping software evaluation he has been working on and invited the other councillors to participate. This will allow the council to maintain a single set of records of all council owned assets, covering required maintenance schedules, service contacts and geolocation of the asset.

There were no planning applications for review.

*Continued on page 21*



## *Letters Page*

### **THANK YOU SHEILA.**

Clenchwarton Memorial Hall Committee recently held its 2025 AGM. After 45 years of being Chair person of the Memorial Hall Committee Sheila James has stood down. Although a hard decision to make she feels it is time for her to take a step back and let the next generation take the hall into the future. Sheila has been dedicated to Clenchwarton Memorial Hall for all those years, very often at considerable cost to herself in terms of time and effort but also financially. Clenchwarton owes Sheila a great debt and we are all grateful for all her efforts and commitment to the Memorial Hall. We wish her all the best in the future and hope she can slow down a bit, although I doubt that will happen any time soon. The good news is that Sheila has agreed to stay on as a Trustee of the Memorial Hall, so all her knowledge is still available to us.

*Birgit Gipp*

### **CLENCHWARTON KNITTERS.**

Many thanks to all who contributed to the £130.92 cheque for the sale of our knitted and crochet daffodils. It is hard times out there so we really appreciate your donations.

*Trudie Smart*



## *View From the Gallery - continued from previous page*

Finally, the council reviewed an application from a parishioner to become a co-opted councillor. The council voted unanimously to approve and welcomed Steve Edwards to the council

### **Kings Lynn Borough Council**

No article from Steve Bearshaw, our Borough Councillor for Kings Lynn Borough Council this month. However do read about Steve on page 19. He has just been elected Deputy Mayor of KL Borough Council, supporting newly elected Mayor Andy Bullen. There is also a photo of Steve on page 35 in his full ceremonial regalia. The official and legal Mayoring Ceremony at King's Lynn Minster on Sunday 8th June is a public Service, which starts at 11.45am. This is an ancient ceremony, with maces carried by mace bearers, swords and full regalia. If you ever wondered what the tall thing with a hand and a small hood is, which is attached to a pillar in the Minster - come and find out! Photos in next month's magazine.



## CLENCHWARTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Chairman's Report 2024/2025

Over the past year, the Parish Council has continued its work to enhance the village environment and support the needs of the community.

Significant progress has been made on village improvements. We are currently working on a car park extension on Hall Road and are installing 2 new bus shelters on the main road near the Anchor. Four new benches have also been installed to replace the broken seating outside the village school which provides much needed seating for residents and visitors.

The Christmas tree switch on was once again a highlight of the year with children from the primary school performing a small selection of Christmas songs. Their involvement brought festive cheer to all in attendance and was greatly appreciated.

We have engaged a new grass cutting contractor to maintain the playing fields and grass verges around the village. We have also hired an additional part time groundsman to help maintain village facilities and public areas. To support this work, we purchased a new ride on lawnmower.

To meet increasing costs and to fund the village improvements, the precept was set at £75,000 for this financial year which represented an increase of just under 7% on the previous precept.

The Parish Council remains committed to supporting village clubs and organisations, recognising the vital role they play in our community. We provided £1,000 funding towards heating the church (the village Warm Hub) over the winter period.

We have seen some changes within the council with Councillor Steve Bearshaw resigning in September and Councillor Traline Moore stepping down in March of this year. We currently have 7 vacancies on the Parish Council if you are interested in becoming a councillor and help shape the future of our village, please do get in contact with the clerk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillors Rob Lucas, Ray Thornalley, Craig Wilson and Steve Fox for all their hard work and dedication over the past year. Your efforts have been essential to the progress we have made. I would also like to thank our Borough Council Steve Bearshaw and our County Councillor Alexandra Kemp for all their hard work in supporting our parishioners.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank our clerk Sarah and the groundsmen Ralph and Tom who's whose hard work ensures the smooth running of the parish council and keeping the village looking its best.

*Continued on page 23*

*Clenchwarton Parish Council Chairman's Report Continued from page 22*

Thank you to all the residents for your continued support and involvement in making Clenchwarton a great place to live.

Councillor Caroline Coates

Chair of Clenchwarton Parish Council

### *The History of Norfolk Part 9 by Grahame Sampson*

The defeat of the Iceni led to a period of revenge undertaken by the Romans but eventually Roman rule led to a period of relative peace for about three hundred years. For the ordinary person life was hard but for the ruling class which constituted the previous ruling class who had agreed to adopt Roman rules and customs, life had never been better. We generally think of straight roads being built by the Romans but in many cases the roads probably already existed but were improved by Roman engineers. Most of the larger settlements were along the main roads which criss-crossed the county. Going from north to south were the Icknield Way, Peddars Way, Pye Road and a road from Ditchingham in the south to Brampton via Caistor St Edmund. From east to west were the Fen Causeway and the road across the centre from Brampton to both join the Fen Causeway at Denver and to continue in a straight line from Billingford to Bawsey (this was roughly the present day B1145).

Caistor St Edmund was the administrative centre for Norfolk in the Roman period and was laid out as a typical Roman town. It had a forum, basilica, baths, temples and evidence of glass making, metal working and pottery manufacture. Today it is a large field near the Norwich southern bypass. Not just roads but also rivers were important for where Roman settlements were sited. Caistor St Edmunds was at the junction of the rivers Tas and Yare. Brampton was on the river Ant and was an important industrial centre. Pye Road linked Caistor St Edmund with Colchester via Long Stratton and Scole. The Fen Causeway linked Caistor St Edmund with Crownthorpe, Threxton and Denver. Other centres of population on the roads were at Billingford (In central Norfolk), Kempstone (not far from the present village of Litcham), Narford, Fincham, Tofftrees and Snettisham. The Romans also provided security where possible, from outside attacks and so there were forts on the north Norfolk coast at Brancaster and near Cromer and the East Norfolk coast at Caistor on sea and Burgh Castle. The latter can be seen in ruins today but is well worth a visit as it indicates the size and majesty that the fort once had.

*To be continued next month*

## Rural Dial-A-Bus and Community Car Schemes

West Norfolk Community Transport provides a variety of rural and urban transport solutions for people with mobility issues, social isolation or anyone who is unable to access regular public transport. Rural Dial-A-Bus offers door to door weekly services from a variety of villages including Clenchwarton, enabling people the opportunity to go into Kings Lynn or other destinations. All vehicles are wheel-chair accessible, and the friendly drivers will help you and your shopping in and out of the vehicle.



Services run Monday - Friday on either a weekly or fortnightly basis. You need to be a member to use the service – just complete a membership form and pay an annual fee. Fares and pick up times depend on your destination. For further information call 01553 770310 / 01760 720906 between 8.30am and 4.30pm excluding bank holidays.

## Community Car Schemes

This is for transport to medical appointments, either short or long distance. All drivers are DBS checked. Charges apply from 45p per mile. For more information call 01553 770370



Please continue to sign up with easy fundraising to help St Margaret's Church raise funding.

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](http://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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## ***County Councillor's Report by Alexandra Kemp***

### **The Ferry**

At the Bank Holiday, I took Harwich Harbour Ferry, to see the metal Linkspan Walkway. No steep, shaky steps, just solid infrastructure with a 1 in 12 legally-compliant gradient. On the Felixstowe side, where there is no landing stage, a fold-down metal staircase attached to the boat's prow, locks in place on the beach, for passengers and cycles to disembark.

A Linkspan Walkway on a pontoon was the solution recommended for our Ferry in the County and Borough Report in 2023. If the Council had listened to residents then, as we asked, and commissioned the solution, the new infrastructure would now be in place, and the Ferry would not be shut for repairs.

I am pressing the Council to set the opening date for the Ferry now. The boats have been inspected, courses undertaken, risk assessments drafted, work designed and put out to tender, the Rennie Jetty inspected.

### **Investment in the Ferry Infrastructure - Building a Consensus**

I have contacted the Town Deal Board, who have £20 million in the new Town Fund for new town projects. Investment in the replacement Ferry Infrastructure from the Towns Fund is a must. At least one current Town Deal Project is likely to be undeliverable, so it is possible that funding could be reallocated. Lynn is an older port than Harwich, and unlike Harwich, West Lynn Ferry is a commuter route, as well as a tourist attraction, cultural asset and Active Travel Hub. It is a failure of local government that Lynn is falling behind other towns, in the quality of its infrastructure. Thank you to you all who have written in with your support for the Ferry.

### **Tech Skills for Life**

Norfolk County Council Tech Skills for Life scheme can help, if you are struggling to pay for mobile data or broadband, if you need a laptop or access to the internet for your children to do homework, or just need help using your computer, and staying safe online. Call 01485 536420 Mon-Fri 9 am -5 pm, or email [techskillsfor-life@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:techskillsfor-life@norfolk.gov.uk)

### **Norfolk Home Library Service**

In addition to the Mobile Library Service, Norfolk County Council runs a free service, with the Royal Voluntary Service, to deliver books to you at home, if you are housebound, in a care home, or have mobility issues. Call the Library Service on 01603 774 777 Option 1.

### **Road Surfacing**

The carriageway, from Clockcase Lane Treatment Works to Bank Farm, has just been recycled.

Resurfacing of Main Road, from Hall Road roundabout to the shop, is scheduled in for this year. I have asked for mandatory inspections for access to fire hydrants, after

*County Councillors report continued on page 33*

### *County Councillors report continued from page 32*

carriageway repairs unfortunately buried hydrants during the Clockcase Lane Road Recycling. County Hall is investigating how this happened.

#### **Energy Alert for Economy 7**

For residents with electric-only energy on Economy 7 or other cheaper overnight tariff, it is worth checking with your supplier if your electric meter has a 1980's box model. These are to be switched off on 30 June and energy bills will increase as the meter will no longer activate the cheaper tariff. A smart meter would have to be installed.

*Alexandra*

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South

Landline: 01553 630329

Mobile: 07920 286636

### *Puzzle Page*

#### **Famous Norfolk people**

- 1 Who wrote "King Solomon's Mines" and "She".
- 2 Author of "Black Beauty".
- 3 Who wrote "The Rights of Man" which strongly influenced the Americans in the War of independence.
- 4 Who died at the moment of his triumph in 1805.
- 5 Modern inventor and entrepreneur famed for his vacuum cleaner.
- 6 Second wife of Henry VIII and first to be beheaded.
- 7 King of England married to Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.
- 8 Navigator aboard HMS Discovery.
- 9 Middlesex and England cricketer who served in the RAF in the war. A batsman and a bowler.
- 10 Admiral of the Fleet who served with distinction in the war of Spanish Succession but died in a tragedy off the Scilly Isles.



*Good Luck*

## *NATURE WATCH by Debra McGowan*

My neighbour has a wildlife camera set up in his garden. Normally the camera picks up the hedgehog, deer, occasional fox and plenty of birds. However, recently he picked up a surprising visitor on his night camera, which we believed was either a Ferret or a Polecat. It was quite hard to make out its markings because the picture is in black and white, but due to its size it was clear that it was too big to be a stoat or a weasel. The video of the animal was sent to the Vincent Wildlife Trust who confirmed that it was a Polecat. Before we were told that the animal was a Polecat we also wondered whether it could even be a Pine Marten! This is not as strange as it sounds as Pine Martens are occasionally found in Norfolk, though they are not common.

Pine Martens were once found across the UK, but habitat loss and persecution wiped them from almost all of southern Britain. With protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, the Scottish population has slowly began to recover. To help them return to southern England, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust launched project Pine Marten- a collaboration with partners across the country and region, including Vincent Wildlife Trust. Between 2019 and 2021, 35 Pine Marten were successfully introduced to the Forest of Dean. The hope is that these Pine Martens will connect with the expanding Welsh population and help establish a resilient Pine Marten population in the south-west of England. Since then there have been further releases in England. Pine Martens have been sighted in Thetford Forest and even on the Sandringham Estate.

The sighting of Polecats in Norfolk has been increasing steadily and this was most likely what was seen on my neighbour's camera. The Polecat is not a cat, but a Mustelid, belonging to the same family as the stoat, badger and otter. Like a stoat it has a long back in relationship to its legs. Its fur is buff brown above, but darker around the tail, legs and neck. It has a pale face and its 'bandit mask' is its most obvious and endearing feature.

The Polecat's natural prey are rats, voles and rabbits. They do not climb like a Pine Marten, and avoid swimming like Otters and therefore there

is no competition with similar native mustelids. The recent increase in the Polecat numbers has had a beneficial effect on native wildlife, as the slightly smaller, but highly destructive American Mink appear to be driven out of Polecat territory. This gives water voles and wetland birds a better chance against the natural predator they evolved alongside. Although Polecats will take birds and particularly their eggs, it is their taste for rats that means that their presence actually reduces the number of predators that are likely to find and feast on eggs and chicks. With the gradual spread of their cousins the Pine Marten, this could have a similar effect on the Grey Squirrel.

The reintroducing of native species which have become extinct is controversial, but I believe like a lot of people that the benefits to nature and the environment are immense. Hopefully one day we will have lynx back in our forests along with many other native species. That is of course if our land is not overrun with Solar panels, windmills and wires!

### **An important plea**

Dear Parishioners

Clenchwarton Memorial Hall management committee is looking for somebody to help with the cleaning of the Hall on an as and when needed basis. Hours and remuneration are negotiable, but hours are anticipated to be between 15 and 20 per month. You would be working on a self-employed basis. At the moment some Trustees are doing it between themselves but could do with some help.

If you are interested in the job and have an interest in the Hall please contact the management committee on contact cmh5523@gmail.com for an informal discussion.

Thank you.



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## 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 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.



## MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

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

June 27; July 25; Aug 22; Sept 19; Oct 17; Nov 14; Dec 12.

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### Day: Friday

Coronation Road 9.40-9.55

Margaretta Close 10.00-10.15

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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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Everyone Welcome!

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# CLENCHWARTON OPEN GARDENS DAY

Saturday 5th July

10am – 4pm

**ENTRY BY PROGRAMME** (from St Margaret's church on the day)

£5 per adult (£1 per child 12 and under)

FOR ENTRY TO TEN PRIVATE GARDENS

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Clenchwarton resident Steve Bearshaw, who has just become Deputy Mayor for Kings Lynn, in his full regalia. May 2025



A very thirsty bat in  
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## CONCERT

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