CLENCHWARTON Your Village News MAY 2025







John Bennet and team on 15th March 2025. See page 26.





Lady Dannatt enjoyed a ride in the Gator and Service user Decan Day demonstrates his gardening skills to Lady Dannat. See page 35



A group of pilgrims who stopped at Clenchwarton Methodist Church for lunch, on their way to Walsingham Priory. See page 27



AUGUST 2024



APRII 2025

What a difference a year makes. The Parish Council has appointed new contractors who are now cutting the churchyard grass regularly, so that the mulched grass is short, and all areas of the churchyard look neat and tidy, and well cared for.

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 MAY for the JUNE 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 MAY EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR SUB-SCRIPTION TO THIS MAGAZINE WAS 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.

Cash can be put in an envelope and posted through the letter box at 16 Black Horse Road, or if you prefer paid by bank transfer: Clenchwarton Parochial Church Council, Barclays Bank, sort code 20-46-65, account number 80271632. On the envelope please state you name and address and what the money is for. For the bank transfer please use ref: (your initial and surname) mag.

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

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St Margaret's Church Services in MAY



Sun May 4th 10am Holy Communion service led

by Revd. Barbara Burton, followed by the

Annual Vestry Meeting (election of Churchwardens)

and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Sun May 11th 10.30am Joint service at the Methodist Chapel, led by

Revd. Jackie Goddard, followed by a Bring and Share

lunch. Please note - no service at St Margaret's.

Sun May 18th 10am Holy Communion service led

by Revd. Barbara Burton

Sun May 25th 10.am Morning prayer with hymns, led by a Churchwarden

Please note the times of all services Everyone is welcome at all our services, whatever your age.

Methodist Chapel Services in MAY

Sun May 4th 10.30am Preacher J Sargent
Sun May 11th 10.30am Revd. Jackie Goddard

Sun May 18th 10.30am Worship Team

Sun May 25th 10.30am Revd. Jackie Goddard (Holy Communion)

On May 11th we will be joined by the Parish Church. But anyone can join us for any of the services.

The Chapel is open to everyone every Tuesday Morning between 9.00am 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.



Walking Group - Saturday May 10th

Our next walk is on Saturday May 10th starting at 10.30am from the village school. All are welcome.

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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?



The Clenchwarton Talk Saturday 17th May 2.30pm

Methodist Church Hall, Main Road

The next talk is entitled "My life in Buses" by Mike Brown. Do come along for a nostalgic and interesting trip. Entrance is free and refreshments are provided. Donations welcome.

DIARY OF EVENTS in CLENCHWARTON and surrounding area for MAY

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



ALL WELCOME

1st May. 6:00pm the Annual Parish Meeting, Memorial Hall,

Black Horse Road, followed by the Parish Council Meeting at

7:00pm.

2nd May 7pm Methodist Chapel Quiz. Free entry - donations accepted.

3rd - 11th May 10am - 4pm. VE Day Exhibition, Walpole St Peter Church.

3rd May 6.30pm/7pm start. 'A Race Night Like No Other'.

Tickets (£5) from Julian 07584 048063 or on the door.

5th May 10 - 2pm. Free refreshments, Walpole St Peter Church.

10am Coffee morning. Methodist Chapel Hall. 6th May

6th May 12.30pm Free Organ Recital Season starts (every Tuesday) Kings

Lynn Minster. Café open 10.30am.

6th May 6.30pm. West Lynn Action Group are holding a meeting at the

West Lynn Social Club.

8th May 10am - 12noon. The Beat Your Bills Road Show, St Margaret's

Church Coffee Morning.

8th May From 5.45pm. VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations in Kings

Lynn - see Steve Bearshaw's report on page 23.

10th May 10am - 2pm Plant Sale - Methodist Chapel Hall. 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Story Cafe - Methodist Chapel. 11th May

17th May 10am - 2pm. Competition Photo Display in St Margaret's

Church. Winners will be announced at 10.30am.

10am - 4pm Spring Market, Walpole St Peter Church.

17th May 2pm. The Clenchwarton Talk. Methodist Chapel.

24th May 3.30pm Cinema (Harry Potter) at The Memorial Hall.

3pm. Coffee and Craft. Methodist Chapel. 31st May

17th May

NEWS FROM ST MARGARET'S - LOOKING BACK

EASTER WEEK - this was a very busy week in the church - it was after all Holy Week, leading up to the most important day in the Christian calendar - Easter Sunday. It started with a service on Palm Sunday, when we celebrated Jesus coming into Jerusalem and the road before him strewn with large palms. On the Monday we shared a meal with our friends at Walpole St Peter; Wednesday we learnt about the Stations of the Cross, following Jesus as he walked with the large wooden cross to Golgotha, and the story behind each 'station'; Thursday was a time for reflection about what was about to happen to Jesus, over 2000 years ago - this was followed by an hour's vigil in the church; Friday was a very solemn, but beautiful, meditative service using music and reflections from the Taize community in France; on Saturday we held a service 'From

Darkness into Light', literally starting in the (almost) darkness, blessing the large Easter Candle (used at Christenings), then more and more candles being lit and lights being turned on during the service. Our final service was a joyful one on Easter Morning, celebrating the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead -Alleluia! There were also chocolate easter eggs for the youngsters and chocolate biscuits for the adults!!

LOOKING FORWARD - EVENTS

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 or on the door. 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.**

17th MAY 10 - 2pm. Display of photo competition photos. Announcement of winners (10.30am) and display in church. Refreshments available. Free entry - donations welcome.

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 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 contact Debra 01553 773467 (See request on page 21)**

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.

£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**



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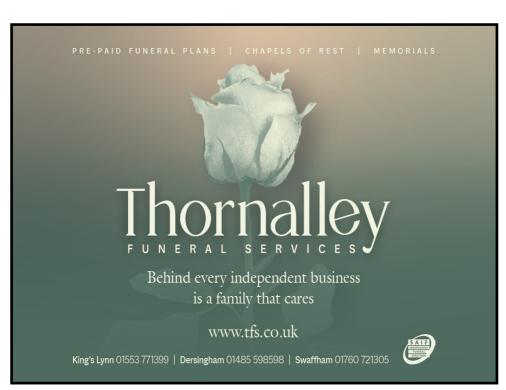
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Puzzle Page Answers



- 10 Burgh Castle
 - 9 Weeting
 - 8 Thetford
- Y Baconsthorpe
 - 6 Norwich
- 5 Castle Rising
- 4 New Buckenham
 - 3 Old Buckenham
 - 2 Mileham
 - 1 Castle Acre



From the Little Yellow Smart Car

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



The default setting for human beings is good.

We have created in our collective imagination stories that demonise people and deluded ourselves into believing that there are people who are pure evil. This is simply not true. Every child

is born good. There is plenty of discussion to be had around the 'why' and 'how' some people end up moving away from this default goodness. There is plenty of discussion to be had about why bad things happen to good people; why suffering, and chaos, and evil exist in our world; but none of that alters our default human setting – we are good.

The problem is, in part, that we have forgotten what good means. On a report, or assessment, good is often not good enough! Ask your smart speaker (or use a thesaurus) 'what words mean good?' and you will be offered – excellent, exceptional, fantastic, great, wonderful. Our default includes these. When we reconnect with goodness, we are able to care for ourselves and others. We can make changes for the better and build communities which thrive.

On 11th May at 10:30am, at the Methodist church, there will be a service to start Christian Aid Week. For 80 years Christian Aid has been working to overcome hunger and build a better future for the poorest communities. This is one way of trying to reset the default for our greed and power-driven world. Please consider coming along to join us and donating to Christian Aid. And spend some time this month checking your default setting and celebrating your goodness.

I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

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.....

Sunday 25th May 2025 is Rogation Sunday. The word 'Rogation' comes from the Latin rogare, meaning 'to ask'. It developed in late Roman times, when Christians took over the old pagan practice of walking through the fields whilst praying for a good harvest.

Rogation continued to be observed for centuries, although it fell away in England at the Reformation. At that time processions, pilgrimages and such like began to be viewed as a distraction from reading and preaching the word of God. The argument was that God could be prayed to anywhere, so there was no need to process to a cornfield for prayers to be more effective. Such parish perambulations as did take place at Rogationtide were more concerned with beating the bounds, establishing who owned what and where the parish boundaries were. Like the law that insisted the Royal Arms were placed in church, Rogation became more about reinforcing civic authority than fending off crop diseases.

Rural areas such as ours still have strong agricultural roots but for most British people the connection between farming and the food they buy in the supermarkets is tenuous to say the least. The idea of the countryside being a workplace is quite distant to many people. It is this disconnect which has led to farming being viewed unsympathetically and seen by many as deeply flawed and a major cause of world problems, including the degradation of the environment and climate change.

But the idea that conventional farming should be scrapped and as much land as possible should be rewilded can only add to our country's problems. Rogationtide should remind us of our dependence on our farmers and food producers, and also our responsibility for the wonderful world God has given us.

Getting that balance right is never easy. Farming and food production and the choices we make about them matter hugely. We cannot just ignore them and assume that it is nothing to do with us. Nor can we attach ourselves to simplistic extremes which will inevitably fail.

God has given us a world which with careful unselfish stewardship will produce enough for all. We need to do our part by producing sustainably and sharing generously.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE METHODIST CHURCH IN MAY??

CHAPEL QUIZ - 2nd May

Regularly on the first Friday of the month starting at 7.00pm. All the quiz's are 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 though donations welcome. Tea and coffee provided.

COFFEE MORNING - 6th May

These are held regularly on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 10.00am. Please come along. We look forward to seeing you.

PLANT SALE - 10th May

An annual event, this takes place between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

STORY CAFE - 11th May

This meets between 6.30pm and 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 what it is all about.

THE CLENCHWARTON TALK -17th May

Details are on page 9

COFFEE AND CRAFT - 31st May

This starts at 3.00pm and anyone is welcome to come along and take part.

CCTV AND WARM HUB - ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

CCTV has now been installed inside and outside St Margaret's Church, which means that we can now revert to the opening hours of 10am - 4pm every day. We will continue to heat the church on cold days. As always there will be tea/coffee and biscuits available, and plenty of books to read, if you fancy. Otherwise come and sit a while to enjoy the peace inside this lovely little church.

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

The April Parish Council meeting was held on April 10th, one week later than originally planned. It was attended by Councillors Coates, Lucas, Fox, Thornalley and the Parish Clerk. Also in attendance were Councillor Kemp representing the County Council.

Councillor Bearshaw representing the Borough Council joined the meeting later. Three members of the public were at the meeting, including myself.

The meeting started with questions from the public on various topics. A representative of the Memorial Hall asked why there had been no communication from the council confirming that a planned meeting would go ahead. The clerk and Councillor Coates replied that due to sickness there had been a delay in responding to email and apologised on behalf of the council.

A follow up question was asked about vacancies for Parish Councillors specifically about when the clerk was made aware of a vacancy. Councillor Lucas asked that everyone make sure that all email correspondence is addressed to the Parish Clerk at clerk@clenchwartonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Later in the meeting it was clarified that an email should be sent to the clerk by anyone wanting to become a co-opted councillor.

In the County Council update, Councillor Kemp reported that she was pushing the Borough council to start the repair work at the Ferry. The county council has agreed to provide additional technical support and funding for this.

The clerk reported that there had been several recent issues with email and updating the council website, both of which were provided by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC). The primary technical contact at NALC had recently left and since then service had been very patchy. The council received a proposal to move the services to RLS Computing, a company run by Councillor Lucas. Councillors were then asked whether provision of services to the council by a councillor represented a conflict of interest. The council replied that councillors' business interests were declared and that there was a long history of councillors providing professional services to the council. In this instance, they felt that the service being offered by RLS represented better value for money than the current supplier. Declarations of interest and dispensations to vote were requested and approved in line with the council code of conduct.

The council agreed to move forward with the purchase of two bus shelters

and to push for additional funding from the county council for two more.

Borough Councillor Bearshaw arrived to provide an update on the car park project. Discussions for the next few minutes were heated as clarity was sought on the governance of the project. Councillor Coates stated that this was a Parish project and that the council wanted to have full visibility and approval of everything. Councillor Bearshaw replied that as agreed he was undertaking the project as a Borough Councillor on behalf of the Parish council and that this was recorded in the council's minutes. After some further discussion, it was requested that Councillor Bearshaw hand the management of the project over to the Parish Council. Councillor Bearshaw then withdrew from the meeting.

Planning applications were then reviewed. A proposal for a grain dryer in Station Road was discussed and three of the four councillors present voted to recommend that the application be objected to. Three other applications were discussed and all recommended for approval; a cart lodge at Hadleigh Lodge, an extension in Wildfields Close and a retrospective application for an outbuilding in Bailey Lane.

The next meetings are on Thursday 1st May. At 6:00pm the Annual Parish Meeting will be held, followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7:00pm.

WE NEED YOUR GARDEN - 5th JULY 2025!!

So we can have an 'OPEN GARDENS EVENT' we need some gardens for people to look around. Are you a keen gardener who is proud of your garden? Would you be prepared to 'open' your garden for us for others to look around? PLEASE CONTACT DEBRA ON 01553 773467 to discuss how you can do this. THANK YOU



Borough Councillor's report by Steve Bearshaw

Having secured the funding and submitted the planning permission, April saw me formally hand the New Hall Road car park project over to the Parish Council. Once we get the nod from the planners, groundwork can start.

The car park will create an additional 28 spaces, 7 disabled spaces, 10 motorcycle parking spaces and 20 push bike parking spaces. Hopefully this will go some way to relieving the parking issues we suffer at school drop off and pick up times and during football matches. With the football club growing to 18 teams, Hall Road has become impassable at weekends. (This despite the club's best efforts to encourage parking on the fields)

This month I'm mainly going to stick with the theme of planning.

New policy means any planning application has to be accompanied by a Biodiversity Net Gain statement (BNG). Every application must have a minimum of a 10% increase either on or off site and the statement details how this will be achieved. Sadly, it has also seen an increase in hedges, scrub and trees being cleared from land before developers write the statement and apply for planning permission in an attempt to reduce the existing pre application figures, which dramatically reduces the 10% increase resulting in the post statement figures far more achievable and permission more likely to be obtained. Where this has happened in the ward, I've fed this into the planning team, who have already seen several cases and now routinely check historic evidence to verify this has not happened.

The current Local plan 2021-2040 has now been adopted (March 2025) and sees Clenchwarton marked as a key rural service centre meaning it's identified as having the potential to accommodate growth to sustain the wider rural community. The Local plan can be found on the KLWNBC website by searching Local Plan or through the planning policy area.

A developer has written to residents of Linden Road and Willow drive expressing an interest in obtaining the land at the end of Linden Road to create an access into the field behind Willow Drive. Lack of decent access would currently prohibit development of the field with current access being solely by Rookery Road.

The grain store on Station Road has an application to become turned into a grain dryer. This can be found under application 25/00451/F.

An applicant has applied to put 24 houses on the land adjacent to 117 Main Road. This can be found under application 24/02131/FM and is identified in the local plan as 25.2.

The Application to put 5 houses on the land at 204 Main Road has been granted permission and looks to be more in keeping with the village than other applications. This can be found under application 24/02034/RM.

A resident is once again repeatedly having fires and causing a nuisance. Please could I

urge residents to log this with the Borough Council CSNN team on 01553 616200 or if out of hours 07542 028875. That way the team can respond instantly and document the event to increase evidence for possible prosecution. Evidence and a statement can also be submitted to csnn@west-norfolk.gov.uk, although this may not be picked up and responded to straight away.

This year I've spent my Councillor grant on assisting the church to install CCTV. Sadly, many of you will recall that the church repeatedly suffered vandalism to the Portaloo and inside the church resulting in it having to be locked outside of core hours or when the wardens can't keep an eye on it. This is particularly disappointing given the huge amount of effort the wardens put in to making it accessible for the entire community. (Editor's note – CCTV was installed on April 23rd, at which point the opening times reverted to 10am to 4pm, 7 days a week)

2025 will mark the 80th anniversaries of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) on 8 May and VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day) on 15 August. On 8th May the Mayor and Councillors will process from the Town Hall to King's Staithe Square where a beacon will be lit at approximately 9:30pm. The event timing is as follows:

5:45pm Cadets Parade form outside the Minster and at 6:00pm parade along

Quayside to King's Staithe Square.

6:15pm Mayor's speech and cadet inspection.

6:30pm School Music and singing (TBC)

7-9pm Live music, vehicle displays, activities and several food and drink outlets

will be available on the square.

9pm Civic procession from the Town Hall to King's Staithe Square.9:15pm Mayor's address, prayers, Lighting of the beacon and peace lamp.

9:45pm Event ends.

It would be great to see as many of you there as possible, given it's the 80th anniversary.

JOKE CORNER

- Q. How long does it take an Anglican to change a light bulb?.
- A. Can't be done without a faculty, a health and safety committee meeting, qualified electricians with tower scaffolds, safety harness, and £5 million insurance cover.

(Editor's note: Sadly some of this is true - in St Margaret's Church there are two very high lights by the east window. We are unable to change the light bulbs without use of a tower scaffold etc!!)



CONCERT

at St Margaret's Church

Church Road, Clenchwarton

Saturday June 14th

Tickets: £12.00 - adults / £6.00 - U16s. in advance from Jan and Andy Taylor (Tel: 07939 055031)

Or available on the door

Wine and soft drinks will be available

Singers of Note is a four-part harmony mixed vocal group which performs fund-raising concerts for local churches. The wide-ranging programme features numbers from West End shows, melodic pieces and popular songs.

> Musical Director Margaret Blenkin Keyboard - Craig Torr





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TALK

'LET THE CHILDREN LIVE'

ABOUT STREET CHILDREN IN COLUMBO, AND THE CHARITY WHICH SUPPORTS THEM

> **SUNDAY** 8TH JUNE

> > 2PM

In the church Free entry

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Saturday 17th May

Market Stalls for lovely gifts, books, games and cakes

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Mrs Jean Proctor

Very sadly Jean died recently (age 90) and her funeral will be on May 9th at 3pm in St Margaret's Church. The family have said all who knew Jean are welcome to attend, but please wear bright coloured clothes (Jean's request). The service will be followed by a private committal at the Crematorium. Jean was a much loved participant at our Thursday Coffee mornings, and her cheery disposition will be sadly missed. Rest In Peace, Jean.

Beware The Ides of March

John Bennet, a local bell ringer writes:

March 15th, 44 BC, and the assassination of Julius Caesar who ignored the soothsayers warning immortalised by Shakespeare in his play, studied by me as a school boy in Leicester. Those were the days! However readers let us move on from Roman times, some two thousand years or so to Saturday March 15th 2025 and our half day outing to St Peters Church Walpole, followed by St Margaret's Clenchwarton. A lovely morning, cold but sunny, random clumps of yellow flowering daffodils, and white blossomed blackthorn heralding the coming of Spring.

Arriving at St Margaret's, a church once surrounded by water, but now by houses, yet retaining its aura of tranquillity, we receive a warm welcome from Churchwarden and bell ringer Debra who has the tea boiler sizzling, mugs, glasses and wine ready - most agreeable. Our group consists of Christine, Janice, Angela, Terry, Phil, my son Stephen, daughter-in-law Julie, Eric from Leics, and Peter from Terrington St Clement, who all supply the food: sausage rolls, pork pies, various nibbles including lemon drizzle cake. What a feast enjoyed by all with intermittent ringing on the delightful five bells, rung from the adjacent ground floor ringing room. I think we all particularly enjoy St Margaret's small friendly church, enhanced by Debra's hospitality. Thank you Debra, as we take our separate ways homewards.

BEAT THE BILLS ROADSHOW - Thursday 8th May 10 - 12 noon

during THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING.

The Roadshows offer help on all aspects of cost of living, including information about how to access benefits, grants, discounts, save money and more.

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.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMS PASS THROUGH CLENCHWARTON by Jan Taylor

Many of you may have seen an odd looking 'stump' in the churchyard in the middle of the path to the main church door. This is known as the Walsingham Stump and was the lower part of the Walsingham Way Marker on the Main Road, guiding pilgrims in the right direction towards Walsingham. It is actually Grade 2 listed.

Pilgrims have walked through Clenchwarton at Easter time for many, many years, and on Wednesday 16th April the Methodist Chapel played host to a group of all Christian denominations, who were walking from Nottingham to Walsingham over a period of 9 days. For the last few years the pilgrims have stopped for lunch at Clenchwarton, on the 5th day of their walk, having walked from Long Sutton, before going on to Gaywood for a night's rest. Having had a picnic lunch, there was a short service of readings, before they went on their way, along Main Road, over the River Great Ouse into town, with the very heavy wooden cross being carried by five people. The whole walk is about 110 miles. and the cross is carried all the way.

St Margaret's Church, Clenchwarton

The following article is taken from http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/clenchwarton/clenchwarton.htm and was written in 2017 by Simon Knott.

The villages west of King's Lynn almost run into each other. West Lynn straggles out, there are a few fields, and then the houses get pleasanter and eventually become Clenchwarton. The road is busy, but off to the south set in bungalow suburbia is St Margaret. Compared with some of the exotica around here, St Margaret is refreshingly conventional - pretty much all of a late 14th/early 15th century piece, and no transepts, separate tower or modern chancel in sight. A mixture of carstone and flint, the church is very attractive, and slightly ramshackle, as if it was made out of chocolate chip cookies......

I found it to be a small, lovely church inside. My favourite thing of all is the 1928 window at the west end of the north side of the nave by Hardman & Co. It depicts two angels as Faith and Hope, and Christ as Charity. Curly-haired, serious-faced children play at their feet, pretty without being mawkish, and scenes illustrate the virtue below each figure. The window remembers Ellen Mary Stevenson and her work for the Girls' Friendly Society, which was a late 19th Century Anglican society for girls in service away from home. The Society still exists with a different function today.....

The altar and lectern were dressed properly for Lent, the only church all day where I saw this. A pretty modern Madonna and child sits on an image niche in the north wall of the nave. High above the tower arch hangs a timber from a former roof painted with the name J Wardale, who was a churchwarden in 1742. This is such a well-kept church, such a sense of being loved, it seems such a shame that it is not a numinous gift to those who live around it.

There is memorial to Francis Forster, who died in 1741. When the terrible inundation Feb 16 1735 threatened the destruction of this whole Level, it reports, *He with unshaken resolution, when all around him droop'd under their misery, opposed the Flood, repaired the broken ramparts, and sav'd the land from that fatal ruin with which the next assault must have overwhelm'd it.*

County Councillor's Report by Alexandra Kemp

Household Support Fund

Norfolk County Council has received Government funding of £11.8 million, for Round 7 of the Household Support fund. Residents in financial crisis, can call 0344 800 8020 and ask for the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, for help with the cost of essentials and household goods. The Cost of Living Support Vouchers, for families with children in receipt of Free School Meals, will continue.

Community Learning Courses and Job Support

Norfolk County County's Adult Learning Service, funds courses to help people into work. There's bricklaying, carpentry, plastering, joinery, First Aid, Maths and English. There are online courses in business computer skills, becoming a Firefighter, working in the Care Sector. If you looking for a step up into your first job, to change career, or acquire DIY skills, contact NCC on 0344 800 8020 Option 5. Help is available with the cost of courses, if you are on a low income.

For bespoke help into employment if you are aged 18-30, contact the County Council on Boost@norfolk.gov.uk

Ferry

After my intervention, Norfolk County Council has provided funding to the Borough Council for essential repairs to get the Ferry up and running again. I requested technical support, from the County Council's Chief Executive, in February. The County Infrastructure Team offered their expertise to the Borough. The Councils drew up a long list of repairs and safety enhancements for the Ferry.

Safety options are being designed for the Rennie Jetty, which protects the Ferry from the strong currents of the River Ouse. The Harbour Master has met with the Environment Agency, to identify who is responsible for the 200 year old Rennie Jetty.

The Council wants the repairs to the West Lynn steps and King's Lynn steps to follow, as a temporary fix, to resume the service, pending the permanent replacement of the landing stages.

The options for the necessary long term renewal of the landing stages in the Joint Borough County report was published 2 years ago this May. This February the Borough placed replacement of the Ferry infrastructure in its capital plan, agreeing my Budget Amendment.

As the local Member, I have assisted the Ferryman to book and find funding for courses the Borough wants him to take before they will re-open the Ferry. I paid for the Survival course myself.

But it is 3 months since the Borough paused this key transport route . This is much too long, with the Ferry a necessary part of the way of life in this Borough for 700 years. Sustainable Transport, before Climate Change was even thought of. The pause is creating more traffic, more congestion, a barrier to work and education in a deprived community. Running counter to the Council's goal to improve people's life chances.

Temporary metal structure(s) should be erected, so that the service can resume. Continued delay is bad for residents, bad for the Ferry, bad for the environment.

Application for Grain Dryer - Station Road 25/00451/F

I have put in my Objection as County Councillor, to the Application for a Grain Dryer on the Planning Portal. Noise, highway danger, dust, all make Station Road an unsuitable location for a Grain Dryer, in a quiet residential neighbourhood. When the Applicant applied for a Grain Store 2 years ago, Clenchwarton Parish Council was assured it would never be a Grain Dryer. You can add your objection as a resident.

Alexandra

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South

Landline: 01553 630329 Mobile: 07920 286636

West Lynn Action Group

West Lynn Action Group are holding a meeting at the West Lynn Social Club on Tuesday 6th May at 6.30pm. One of the items on the agenda will be the West Lynn Ferry. Everyone is welcome to attend including Clenchwarton parishioners.

There is also a petition you can sign: https://www.change.org/p/reopen-west-lynn-ferry.

Please sign if you have been affected by the ferry closure. Please attend the meeting.



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THE HISTORY OF NORFOLK PART 8 by Grahame Sampson

The death of Prasutagus in 60AD resulted in his wife now taking over as ruler. The Iceni did not seem to have a problem with a female ruler but this was something the Romans would not recognise as their beliefs had been formed from the Greek and Middle East ideas of the role of the female. We now know her as Boudicca although when people of my generation were at school she was known as Boadicea. The truth is that we do not really know her name. The Iceni have not left any records so we rely heavily on Roman writers who were most certainly biased. Those who have translated from the early Latin have not found it easy. It was the Victorians who named her Boadicea from the writings of Tacitus but modern scholars now think the Latin corresponds to Boudicca. Writings from the Druids in Wales indicate her name may have been Bodica. In any case it seems the Romans, particularly the procurator Decianus Catus, treated the Iceni and especially Boudicca and her daughters appallingly and this we read from a Roman writer! This caused the Iceni to revolt and they were soon joined by the neighbouring tribe in South Suffolk and Essex the Trinovantes.

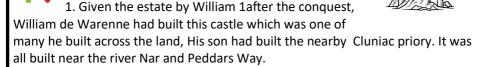
Normally it would have been expected that the Roman Army would have dealt with the rebellion swiftly but the bulk of the army was in North Wales and Anglesey as their leader Suetonius was trying to destroy the infamous, in Roman eyes, Druids. The rebels under Boudicca were not soldiers and did not have armour or the sophisticated weapons of the Romans but they were incensed and met little resistance in their march southwards to attack the important Roman centre at Camulodunum (modern day Colchester). The local people had been cleared by the Romans out of Camulodunum as they had made it the retirement centre for their veteran soldiers and had built a number of temples and a monument in honour of their Emperor Claudius. The veterans proved no match for the enraged rebels and no quarter was given after the town was captured and then destroyed. The Iceni and their allies then marched on Londinium (modern day London) though their advance was very slow allowing Suetonius and a few of his advanced trrops to reach Londinium before them. However, Suetonius realised he was heavily outnumbered so the Romans retreated and told the inhabitants to escape whilst they could. Some remained and were quickly overwhelmed and killed and the city destroved.

The rebels now marched northwards and attacked the next Roman town of Verulainum (modern day St Albans) which again the Romans felt they could not defend and the town was sacked. Boudicca's forces were being swelled by other tribes buoyed by the idea that the Romans could be banished from the kingdom, but further north the main Roman Army was now waiting. Maybe the Iceni were optimistic of success but the reader will no doubt know they were doomed. Possibly somewhere near Leicester the main Roman Army faced it seems with farmworkers with pitchforks prevailed and it was the rebels turn to be slaughtered. It seems

that Boudicca escaped but not long after she committed suicide. The people of Norfolk now faced the Roman revenge.

Puzzle Page

Norfolk Castles



- 2 In the Domesday Book this estate was owned by Stigand. It was regarded as a very important manor but had fallen into decay by 1302. Today earthworks are close to the B1145.
- 3 This castle was built for William d'Albini during the reign of William II who also had built a priory 6 miles to the north at Wymondham.
- 4 William d'Albini's son, also William, built Arundel Castle in Sussex and two castles in Norfolk. This was only one and a half miles from your answer to question three and was built to celebrate his marriage to Alice.
- 5 At the same time he was building another Norfolk castle to celebrate his marriage to Alice. This was placed around a new town with an impressive church. Much later this castle was the home for 27 years of Isabella the former wife and murderer of Edward 11.
- 6 Both this castle and the nearby cathedral were built around 1086. This was a new city at the time. Today the castle is a museum.
- 7 This castle was a fifteenth century fortified manor house owned for over 200 years by the Heydon family. Today it is a ruin in the hands of English Heritage. It is only a few miles from the Fakenham/Holt road.
- 8 Built soon after the conquest on the site of an iron age fort. It was demolished in 1173 by Henry 11 after the rebellion by his eldest son Henry. It was first owned by Roger Bigod who also had built the Cluniac priory at the other end of the town.
- 9 This is called a castle though it was never fortified except for a moat. It is a manor house built in 1180 by Hugh de Plais and can be seen near Brandon.
- 10 Late third century fort not far from Great Yarmouth designed to hold back the attacks from the Saxons.

Answers on page 13

NATURE WATCH by Dr Brian Edwards

The fields I overlook at the back of my house appear devoid of nature at first glance. But with patience and experience, the expanses of growing wheat reveal their secrets. It's partly a matter of timing (dawn and dusk are best) and also a case of getting into the mindset of the birds and animals.

The fields of cereals and beet are bisected by drainage ditches which hide a myriad of creatures which are careful to hide out of sight most of the time. These include mallards and moorhens and the odd egret. There are not many but enough to keep the binoculars busy. On the grassy banks of the ditches lurk pheasants, a handful of common partridges and a few shy roe deer. Of these the roe deer are my favourite with their heads which appear like periscopes emerging as they survey the growing shoots of wheat for breakfast. When the coast is clear they venture out to forage in the mists of dawn.

The pheasants are more brazen. They strut across the fields showing off their glossy golds and browns. This time of year their displays and fighting have the object of finding a receptive partner but sadly this is often in vain. Like mallards, the cocks seem more numerous than hens, leading to much jostling in the air and on the ground. The price we pay for cheap food means that the sighting of a hare is rare, as are sightings of skylarks and pipits.

Two willow trees landmark my view. Both are old and spread fanshaped over the dyke that supports them. These trees are staging posts for starlings and jackdaws on their way to roost elsewhere. If you look closely the flocks are made up of pairs of birds, indicating the start of the breeding season. A special bird which visits these trees on a daily basis is the green woodpecker which issues its 'yaffle' call before flying off to mark its territory elsewhere.

There are, of course, wood pigeons but not the big flocks which visit in the autumn. They have moved to the village gardens to nest and raid the vegetable patches often with the company of collared doves. A bird which has gone in the opposite direction is the pied wagtail which has abandoned the winter warmth of the rooftops of King's Lynn to forage

for insects on my lawn. I just hope the nest box I have put up for them survives the attention of the village cats.

Spring is such a wonderful time of year for those of us who love nature, or what's left of it.

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

LADY DANNATT VISITS MAGPIE CENTRE

It was 'best foot forward' for the Magpie Centre,



home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, when the High Sheriff of Norfolk, Lord Lieutenant Lady Dannatt paid a visit to Wallington Hall, where the Centre is based.

Having met groups of staff and volunteers, Lady Dannatt enjoyed a trip round the paddocks and tracks where the Centre's service users enjoy rides and carriage drives with Magpie Centre Yard Manager Natalie Dade driving the 'Gator'.

Then WNRDA Acting Chairman Chris Hitchens escorted Lady Dannatt round the Sensory Garden, opened by HRH the Princess Royal in 2021. It now includes a classroom used by home-schooled children, many of whom have learning difficulties and who attend the Magpie Nest, a facility opened in autumn 2024.

Lady Dannatt was delighted with her visit and appreciated the many ways in which the Centre enriches the West Norfolk community.

'The Magpie Centre is amazing,' she said, 'it delivers on so many levels: to the service users, both physically and psychologically, and to their parents and carers, who also gain in confidence.

'Then the volunteers,' she continued, 'who feel valued and combat loneliness by becoming a part of something.'

'You do it all beautifully,' she said. 'I am beyond impressed.'

As she departed for her next engagement, Lady Dannatt accepted an invitation from Natalie to enjoy a carriage drive during the summer holidays.

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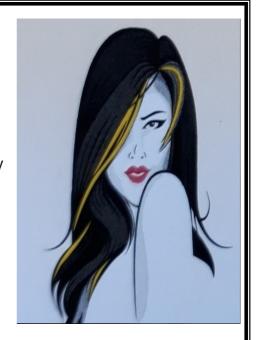


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FOOD BANK BOX IN CHURCH

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

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



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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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