

**CLENCHWARTON**

**Your Village News JULY 2025**



**CLENCHWARTON  
OPEN GARDENS DAY**

**Saturday 5th July**

**10am – 4pm**

**ENTRY BY PROGRAMME/MAP**

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

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

**FOR ENTRY TO ELEVEN PRIVATE GARDENS**

**STARTS AT ST MARGARET'S  
CHURCH**



ABOVE: Local residents, Andy Jarvis, Steve Bearshaw, and Andy Taylor at the Mayors Civic Reception after the Swearing in ceremony for the Mayor of the Borough of King's Lynn at the Minster, on June 8th.

BELOW: *Singers of Note* after their very successful return concert in St Margaret's Church on June 14th - see page 11 / 12



## **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 JULY for the  
AUGUST 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.**

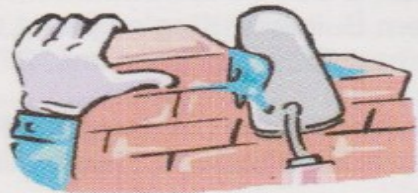
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## WELCOME TO THE JULY EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.

As we all try to stay hydrated, in this extreme heat please spare a thought for your vulnerable neighbours—maybe pop in once a day to make sure they have access to water, that your pets and other people's also have enough water—why not put a small bowl / old ice-cream tub of water outside your front gate for passing animals/ birds to drink from. The photos from the photo competition will be making a reappearance in September on the front page. There is a lot going on in our lovely village this month. If you attend events why not take some photos and send to Graham.

Happy reading. Jan

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for further information

## St Margaret's Church Services in JULY



- Sunday 6th July** 10am Holy Communion service led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sunday 13th July** 10am Morning Prayer with hymns, led by a Churchwarden
- Sunday 20th July** 10am Holy Communion service led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sunday 27th July** 10am 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 JULY

- Sunday 6th** Cafe Service
- Sunday 13th** Worship Team
- Sunday 20th** Holy Communion Rev Jackie Goddard
- Sunday 27th** Mrs Moore



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, when the Revd. Jackie Goddard will be there

**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 12th July.



Please note that our walk starts at 9.30am from the village school on Saturday July 12th. Anyone is welcome to join us.

## The Clenchwarton Talk - JULY TALK CANCELLED

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Sat August 16th 2.30pm    | Lord Fermoy by Julian Cox  |
| Sat September 20th 2.30pm | Teaching in Afghanistan by Gillian Piggott   |
| Sat October 18th 2.30pm   | Clenchwarton Chapel over the last decades. This is to coincide with the anniversary of the chapel, and we will have a number of speakers including past ministers. |
| Sat November 15th 2.30pm  | 'The Environment' by Michael De Whalley  |

If you have any queries please contact Grahame: Grahame Sampson 01553 769819 / [grahamesampson@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamesampson@btinternet.com)

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

*Save  
the  
Date*

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

- 1st July 10.00am - **Coffee morning** at the Methodist Chapel
- 1st July 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn  
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 4th July 7pm **Quiz.** Methodist Chapel. Great fun - do come along and join in. Free - donations welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided
- 5th July 10.00am - 4pm **OPEN GARDENS DAY.** Start at Margaret's Church
- 8th July 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn  
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 12th July 9.30am **Walking Group.** Starting from the school
- 13th July 6.30-8.30pm. **Story Café.** Methodist Chapel
- 15th July 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn  
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 22nd July 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn.  
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
- 28th July 3pm. **COFFEE AND CRAFT.** Methodist Chapel. Anyone is welcome to come along and take part

**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 Margarett Close, Clenchwarton**

**Please also see page 38 for further information about events in Kings Lynn in  
July**

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

During June we had two very different events, both of which raised an astonishing amount of money for two different charities.

First of all there was a talk by Pauline Allen, administrator of the very small charity '**Let The Children Live!**'. This is a charity that St Margaret's have been

supporting for many years, by the collecting of small coins in our large jar. Pauline gave a very interesting and at times quite emotional talk about the Street Children in Medellin, Columbia. These children live on the streets and shanty towns of Columbia. Life for these boys and girls, some of whom are only six years old, is a constant struggle, and they are exposed to great dangers from opposing gangs. Although the level of violence in Medellin has fallen considerably in recent years, the number of children who are at risk is as great as ever. Some of the children helped by this charity actually live in the streets and for them food and medical care is provided, whilst at the same time trying to arrange for them to return home if that is possible, or to enter residential care. These children also attend the charity's Centre, Casa Walsingham, to have a wash, change of clothes, a meal and also to enjoy the craft and leisure activities, and sometimes to be reunited with their families.

These children come from the hundreds of shanty towns that surround Medellin. They survive by begging, prostitution, or by sorting through rubbish to find things that can be sold for recycling. The charity tries to resolve the family and economic problems that are forcing the children to work, and then try to make it possible for them to go to school and so leave the streets and all its dangers behind.

Life in the Shanty towns continues to be violent, and children are always at risk of being recruited by the gangs that control them. Boys as young as 10 may be trained as killers whilst girls of 12 may have their virginity auctioned off.

Let the Children Live! is the Charity of Last Resort and offers these children the chance to know love, care, and safety.

The collection at the talk raised over £200 (including a donation of £50 from church funds). The charity were most grateful for our continued support.

Then on 14th June **Singers of Note** made a very welcome return to St Margaret's, to fill our church with wonderful music - something for everyone. The church was packed, and the concert was compered by our own Andy Taylor, in his own inimitable style, giving some history to each number and bringing the

*Continued on page 12*

### *Looking back - Continued from page 11*

whole concert together with lots of humour. The concert raised a fantastic £766 for the church, and £474 for the choir, which helps pay for the musicians, the sheet music and rehearsal hall. Comments made after the concert included:

*"It was a joy; so professional. Please come again!"*

*"Absolutely wonderful"*

*"A wonderful result and a most enjoyable evening."*

**Thank you to all who came and supported us at both events.**

**If you wish to help Let The Children Live why not collect all your loose copper (or any coins!) and bring them to church on a Thursday morning for our coin jar**

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

**5th JULY 10.00am - 4pm OPEN GARDENS EVENT.** Please note change of time

There will be **ELEVEN Open Gardens** and the event starts at 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 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**

## ***EVENTS AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL DURING JULY***

### **Coffee Morning**

The Chapel has a coffee morning once a month. This month it starts at 10.00am on Tuesday 1st July.

### **Quiz**

The monthly quiz is held at the Chapel on the first Friday of the month starting at 7.00pm. This month it is the 4th July. Entry is free and refreshments are provided. Donations to the chapel welcome.

### **Story Cafe**

Sunday 13th July 6.30 - 8.30pm. There is no cost. Given a few facts can you weave this into a full story? If you prefer you can just listen. Either way it is entertaining.

### **Coffee & Craft**

This is held at 3.00pm on every fourth Saturday at the Methodist Chapel. Anyone can come along and take part. This month it is on 29th July.

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

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

We now have offers of an amazing eleven 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!).



## 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)

Meet Harry the Heron. On a recent trip to The Broads, Harry was a daily visitor to the place where I was staying. He would land close to the open door to watch what was going on. Some days, he settled on the grass, or on a small storage box, and made himself part of the family. He was, I think, checking in on the visitors and making sure they were ok. In many cultures, the heron is a symbol of patience, wisdom, purity, transformation, change, and spiritual growth. In Celtic mythology the heron bridges the gap between the realms of earth, sea, and sky: enjoying woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands without favour. The heron is guide, messenger, protector, and guardian.



Heron appears in the story of St Columba who foresaw the arrival of a tired and injured heron on Iona. He gave instructions for it to be cared for until it was ready to fly back to Ireland. The heron also appears in Christian art, most notably The Book of Kells (the beautifully illuminated manuscript of the four Gospels). The author Richard Zimler wrote “God comes to each of us in the form we can best perceive Him. To you, just now, He was a heron. To someone else, He might come as a flower or even a breeze.”

Harry’s visits may have been opportunist – hoping for food – but they encouraged me to marvel at God’s creation, to delight in grace and beauty, to see stillness and contentment; and to look for those things within myself. I pray that you will let God come close this month – in whatever way you can best perceive Him.

Every blessing,  
Revd Jackie Goddard

## PASTORAL LETTER

*Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....*



St Swithun is the saint you can blame for rainy summers.

His special day is 15th July, and it is said that if it rains on that day, it will rain for 40 days.



It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex and during the ten years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England. During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he may be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster in Winchester.

If he had been left there in peace, England might have been spared many wet summers over the next thousand years. But unfortunately, it was decided to move Swithun. Winchester had become

the first monastic cathedral in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So on 15th July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral. That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures, but everyone got very wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

There is a scientific basis for the old belief that if it rains on St Swithun's day it will rain for forty days. It's all connected to the position of the jet stream in mid-July, but I prefer the old story, don't you?

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## *MEMORIES by Debra McGowan*

I was born on May 4th 1961 at home. My Dad went out to buy a newspaper and when he returned I had arrived. At the age of 3 I had rheumatic fever and had to spend some time in hospital. My Dad said that he put my older sister Dawn in the same hospital to have her tonsils taken out, so that she could keep me company! Back then having your tonsils removed as a child was quite routine. Dawn is two years older than me and was born in hospital.

My younger sister Diane was born in the winter of 1963, also known as the "Big Freeze". It was one of the coldest winters in the UK since 1740, even in London where everything came to a standstill. Temperatures tumbled, blizzards blew in and pipes froze – leaving many people without water for weeks. Even the river Thames froze, and between Windsor and Eton people were able to walk and skate on the ice. There were no vehicles on the road due to the heavy snow, and my parents were still living in Bushey at the time. The only way to get to the hospital was to walk for several miles; luckily they made it there in time for my younger sister to be born.

My parents had always lived in private rentals, so they moved around like gypsies with the three of us in tow. They eventually landed up living back in London with my Nan, and finally were able to get a council flat in Rotherhithe. One of the things I remember my sister Dawn and I getting up to was taking a lilo out to the River Thames. A lilo was a rubber bed filled with air which floated on the water. We had moved to Rotherhithe in 1965 and were only there for three years, so I could not have been any older than 7 and Dawn 9. However I remember it well, mainly because we were having great fun, the two of us sitting on this lilo, until a big ship came towards us. The wake from the ship almost turned us over and we had to paddle like mad to get to the shore. I don't think the ship's captain was very impressed with us because I remember the ship sounding its horn.

Dad had tied a key with a piece of string inside the inside door catch, so all we had to do was to reach inside the door to grab the door key so we could let ourselves in. As kids in those days we were all taught to be streetwise, there were rules:

Don't take lifts from strangers: If someone in a car asks for directions, be polite, but don't get too close to the car in case they try to grab you; Don't take sweets from strangers; and if you are coming home in the dark keep to the lit areas of the road; if you think you are being followed go to the nearest house for help.

There were probably more but I don't remember.

As kids we all stayed out and played, we only came home when we were called,

*Continued on page 24*

## *View From the Gallery, by Andy Taylor*

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Thursday 5th June

Present were Cllrs Coates (Chair), Edwards, Lucas, Thornalley and Kemp (County Cllr), apologies had been received from Cllr Fox.

The local farmer who has built the Store at the A17 end of Station Road spoke to apologise over the recent planning application which had been submitted for a Grain Dryer. The application has now been amended to a Condenser Unit and he requested the Parish Council reconsider their objection. The Chair pointed out that the application had been called into committee by the Borough Councillor and, in the circumstances, there was nothing further the Parish Council could do. The farmer was advised to contact the Borough Councillor.

A representative from the Memorial Hall spoke to chase a grant application for work on the Memorial Hall Floor. After discussion, the Clerk advised that further details were required in writing. The representative also complained about a lack of cooperation and communication with the representative from the Parish Council. The Parish Council now need to book their meetings formally through the Memorial Hall booking system.

The County Councillor gave her report which is published in full elsewhere in this edition.

The Borough Councillor was not present, and his report was not submitted to the meeting, but is published elsewhere in this magazine

### **Financial matters:**

Monthly accounts were approved for payment.

HMRC are auditing the VAT reclaim and the Clerk is answering all queries

There are monies outstanding from the allotments, and it appears there is a considerable sum outstanding from the Football Club. Cllr Thornalley requested a meeting be arranged to resolve this issue once and for all, and Cllr Lucas requested a confidentiality agreement be drawn up.

An internal audit is ongoing, and the council arranged to meet on 27th June to finalise the 2024 accounts.

### **Village matters:**

Although some of the footpaths had been replaced, a telegraph pole had been left in the middle of one due to an issue with the siting of some gates! This is being dealt with.

There was a debate about replacing a petrol mower with an electric mower. Costings to be sought.

Revised plans are awaited for the improvements to the Car Park.  
Cllr Lucas is looking into having Archery and Pop-up tennis on the back field.  
Mapping of Village assets is ongoing

An alternative quotation for emptying the dog bins has been obtained, but the astronomical costs were unrealistic. One bin is underused and needs moving, although the exact site needs to be agreed to ensure it is on the emptying route.

The Football Club requested approval for their “sign-up” day on July 5th which means a significant increase in traffic, although this would be spread out. Council approved this, as long as the Football Club is advised that it is the village “Open Gardens” that day as well.

Next meeting – Finance on 27th June at 6pm in the Pavillion. Open to all. (A report on this meeting will appear in the next edition)

### *Borough Councillor report by Counsellor Steven Bearshaw*

Thank you editors for the kind words in last month’s magazine. I have indeed taken on the role of Deputy Mayor. I’d like to assure you all that it’ll be business as usual with the only change being I’ve swapped from chairing the Regeneration and Development panel (R&D) to being a member of the Corporate Performance Panel. I’ll also remain on the Transport working group but will probably hand the chairing role over to Cllr Parish, as he’s now the chair of R&D. I’ve managed to retain the helm of driving us towards a new station in South Lynn and following my report to the R&D panel in June was contacted for a television interview which will hopefully add even more gravitas to the project. I’ll also continue the drive to purchase the former Del Monte site next to the ferry to create a bigger car park and transport hub this side of the river.

Whilst on the subject of the ferry, I can finally confirm we have now placed a purchase order and work has begun on the landing stages and handrails. There is still a significant amount of work required prior to re-opening, which is not just tide dependant but also wind and weather dependant.

I took up a Director role on the King’s Lynn Conservancy Board earlier in the year to help assist in re-opening the Ferry, and can report the relationship between the Harbour Master Port authority and the Borough Council is in a good place, with all parties agreeing on the work and future requirements for a permanent enhancement of the ferry and service.

A ‘fun fact’ that I’ve picked up in my role on the Conservancy Board..... The approach channel and wash is constantly moving and the approach channel can

*Continued on page 22*

*Continued from page 21*

move up to 10 meters in a 2 week period, this often results in repositioning some of the Board's 40 buoys and 12 beacons.

The less than average rainfall this year also means the silt that builds up opposite the port mouth doesn't get shifted away as much as it would in a normal or above average year and requires constant monitoring to ensure the 119M long vessels can access the port.

### **Grants**

Last year I spent my £1000 Cllr grant on CCTV for St Margaret's church following a sustained period of vandalism resulting in the church being locked when not occupied. The installation of the CCTV meant normal service could resume.

I've now got another £1000 for this financial period and grant applications can be anywhere from £50 to £1000 so please drop me a call or an email (Cllr.Steven.Bearshaw@West-Norfolk.gov.uk or 07540422111) if you'd like to apply or discuss an idea.

### **St George's Guildhall**

Work has begun on the St George's Guildhall and provides a rare opportunity to view the historic boards built in 1419 and used by Shakespeare's company during the plague closures of 1592/3, complete with chicken bones and bottles from the time. The Guildhall is open to public until the 31st July.

### **Local Government reform.**

I'm trying not to cover this too much in my articles as I don't think too many will be interested. If I'm wrong and you'd like to know a lot more about what we know, please let me know and I'll include more, or provide a separate brief.

The County Council recently released a statement claiming a single authority for the whole of Norfolk would be best and backed this up with cost savings that no other local authority recognised due to duplication of services etc that aren't even duplicated at the moment, so wouldn't be duplicated going forward. In response, Breckland, Broadland, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn & West Norfolk, North Norfolk and Norwich City Councils put out a joint statement saying:

"Our comprehensive vision for a three-unitary model for the county will deliver significant benefits for our communities — including improved public service outcomes, enhanced local economic growth, and stronger democratic representation.

Naturally, we need some time to fully review the figures and assumptions made in today's report and we are committed to working collaboratively with Government, local partners, and communities to shape a model that is both ambitious and achievable.

"We do not agree that a single unitary approach is best for Norfolk as, by contrast, our 'three' model would enable a tailored approach to local economies and housing, recognising the distinct characteristics and needs of each area. We believe it is important to maintain the strength of local democracy by ensuring decision-making is made by elected officials closely connected to their communities, celebrate the unique strengths of different areas and provide services which best meet those local needs, and ensure the organisations providing services are sustainable and adaptable to the emerging needs of tomorrow.

Our proposal puts Norfolk people and places at the heart of local services while also being financially strong."

And may I finish by congratulating the church and the Singers of Note on a fantastic event on the 14th of June.

*Cllr Steven Bearshaw*

Ward Cllr Clenchwarton Ward,  
Deputy Mayor, King's Lynn & West Norfolk.  
07540 422111

### *The History of Norfolk Part 9 (continued) by Grahame Sampson*

We are still in the period when Britain was ruled by the Romans (43 AD to 410 AD)

A large area of central Norfolk from Kempstone to Brampton was comparatively unpopulated because of the nature of the soils. It is interesting to note that none of the three largest towns of today existed. Norwich was a marsh, and Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn were under water. Clenchwarton was an island and probably no one actually lived there. The climate was warmer than today and wetter. The richest area of the county is thought to be the west because it is the site of the majority of the villas in the county. It is not known how many villas there were in total but there appears to have been a cluster along the Icknield Way as at Grimston, Gayton and Middleton. The villas were farmhouses but they contained mosaics and hypocausts.

During the Roman period there was a fall in sea level and this meant that many areas of the Fenland became dry.

*Continued on page 31*

## MEMORIES - continued from page 19

or were hungry. We had a great big concrete maze which was just outside our flat - all the kids in our neighbourhood would play on it. I wasn't tall enough to climb on top of it. Dawn was and she, along with the other kids, would run around the top of it, jumping over the gaps that you could walk between. It has long since been demolished in order to squeeze more housing in.

There was a police car that was always parked next to the park in the afternoons. One day I decided I wanted a ride home in the police car. I don't remember what I told the two officers, but they let me climb in to the back of the car and took me home. My mum must have been very surprised to see me being brought home by two police officers, but she took it in her stride. She gave the police officers a cup of tea and a slice of home made cake. One of the officers took a shine to my mum and after that afternoon whenever I was playing in the park, the officers would call me over and offer to take me home. I think this went on for quite a while, until one afternoon my Dad finished work early and came home to find the two police officers in the house drinking tea. He told them politely to leave and not come back, I didn't see them at the park any more after that. *(To be continued)*



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

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**Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for St Margaret's Church Clenchwarton**

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## *County Councillor's Report - Alexandra Kemp*

### **The Ferry**

Having brokered the County Council's contribution to the Ferry repairs, I have unceasingly impressed on both Councils, the urgency of reinstating this key transport infrastructure. The contract for the repairs to the West Lynn Landing Stage has now been let. Repairs have started. This is the temporary fix. The permanent replacement of a linkspan walkway on a pontoon this side of the river is the next step.

### **Digital Switchover for Vulnerable Customers**

Clenchwarton has a higher proportion of older residents and not everyone has a mobile phone. But from this June, BT will start migrating vulnerable customers to a digital Voice Over the Internet (VOIP) landline. They will write to each customer and give at least 4 weeks' notice. If you fall into BT's categories of vulnerable customers - people with no mobile phone, or no mobile phone signal, people with disabilities and people of 75 years or over, you would be entitled to free installation of the new telephone system by an engineer from BT, or your telephone provider.

This includes a free UPS battery back-up (unlike the current analogue system, a digital landline does not work in a power cut, unless you have back-up). So it is worth checking you are registered as having additional needs, with your phone provider now. You need to tell your provider if you have Telecare.

Your current telephone should work on the digital system. There will be no changes to your call package or charges. If you have no broadband or a poor connection, the engineer will install a digital-only connection for you. So you won't have to pay to have broadband installed. BT advise calling 150 with any queries.

### **Future for Norfolk - Care Homes**

In National Carers Week, when we focus on celebrating the sterling work carers do, whether it's mums or dads, grandparents, unpaid family members, friends, foster carers, I have just called in a County Council decision, that could see standards of care, for our oldest and most vulnerable residents drop. On 2 June, the County Cabinet voted to put all 20 Norse Care Homes out to the private Care Sector, when the Council contract with the Council Company Norse expires next March. There has been no consultation with residents or carers. No impact assessment on the effect on older, disabled residents. Just like when NCC closed local Burman House Care Home last December. What does this mean for residents? It could mean poorer care. The standard of care in Norse Residential Care Homes, is rated Good or Above, by the Care Quality Commission. But the Private Care

Sector in Norfolk struggles to provide the high standard of care, safeguarding and staff training that Norse does. Over a third of Norfolk Care Homes have a rating of Requires Improvement. Norse hasn't invested in the infrastructure of its Council Care Homes over the past 15 years. The best way is for the County Council to bring its Care Homes back in house to retain the highest standards of care for residents in the Residential Care Sector.

### **The Best Start in Life for Every Child - Free School Meals**

As a Member of the All Parliamentary Group on School Meals, I recently received an urgent request to respond to a statement from Ofsted, that it doesn't inspect for healthy school meals. I responded that Ofsted should inspect the quality of school food. Research shows that healthy school meals enhance concentration, learning and health outcomes for young people.

Shortly after our response, the Government announced Free School Meals for all families on Universal Credit from September next year, and a review of the school meals standards. Free School Meals currently only apply if your annual income is less than £7,400. While food in hospitals and prisons isn't means tested, school meals are. Yet means testing means that not all children take up their free School Meal entitlement, because of the stigma. But malnourishment, child obesity and type 2 Diabetes in children are on the rise. Ultra-processed foods, contribute to avoidable health problems, that cost the NHS.

Over a decade ago, I drafted an Amendment that was debated in the House of Lords, under the Child Poverty Bill, that would have extended Free School Meals to children in secondary schools on Universal Credit. The evidence was there. But the political will wasn't.

DEFRA is consulting on increasing the amount of fresh locally produced food from local farmers in School Meals. The public sector spends £5 billion a year on public food procurement, 60% on School Meals. This means expanding access to Free School Meals. The health of our future workforce depends on it.

*Alexandra*

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South

Landline: 01553 630329 / Mobile: 07920 286636



## *NATURE WATCH by Paul Evans*

The Poplar trees opposite our bungalow on Main Road provide a constant source of amusement from our conservatory, not least in the spring when the much-anticipated rookery reforms. When we first moved into the village in 1997 the rookery did not exist. In the years that followed the number of nests slowly (very slowly!) increased to the eight that formed this year. Each year there is a clear pattern/pecking order in which the nests are finished. It took some time to dawn on us that there is a prime nesting spot occupied by the rookery's elder statesman and his bride. The incredible speed that this nest is constructed can be accounted for by the cunning of its occupants. The inexperience of many of the other rooks often results in both nest builders leaving their construction unguarded in order to source more materials. On their return, and in a state of complete confusion, they are very likely to find that their hard-earned nest has been completely plundered by the elder statesman to reinforce an already magnificently constructed nest. There is little doubt that these wonderful birds are cunning, extremely clever and piratical in the extreme.

I am always amazed that my neighbour is able to sleep through the cacophony of noise that a mere eight nests can produce when the chicks have hatched. This noise becomes one of nature's symphonies when the chicks first leave the nests thus becoming 'branchers'. The constant call of parents trying to get the branchers to fly or the branchers begging parents for food is a sound I will never tire of. It was at this time of year that on many a large estate around the country, his lordship would send the gamekeeper out to harvest sufficient branchers for his 'rook pie'.

Often mistakenly described as crows, some would describe rooks as ugly; I would argue that they are just slightly more interesting in their features than their corvid cousins. They possess a greyish-white face. A thinner beak and peaked head distinguish it from the carrion crow. The Irish name for the bird is the slightly more romantic Rucach. Imagine their call and then you have that name. The collective name for rooks are a parliament, congregation or clamour. On account of its ruffled plumage and the feathered pantaloons on the legs, I once heard Bill Oddy describe the rook as a bird that looks like it had slept the night under a hedge! Rooks are wonderfully sociable birds and as such, you are not very likely to see one on its own. They feed and roost in flocks in winter, often together with jackdaws. This is a very clever partnership because the ability of

both birds to identify a food source is remarkable.

On a village walk hosted by Grahame Sampson, he pointed out that our very own Rookery Road was likely named for one of two reasons. Either there was a very large rookery in the area, or the village workhouse which sat on the road would also unkindly be described as a rookery! The use of the term to malign the poor wretches forced to accept the charity of the borough also does damage to the reputation of a bird well worth taking the time to both study and understand.

### *The History of Norfolk - Continued from page 23*

Any new lands such as the newly dry Fens automatically became the property of the Emperor and therefore was run as an imperial estate with its centre at Stonea in Cambridgeshire. The Fens were largely used for sheep rearing on the drier ground and salt production from the marshier ground. Salt panning in itself was helping to dry out further areas of marsh.

In the next article we will look at the changes in the fourth century which were to lead to the end of Roman rule in the island.

### **HEATWAVES KILL! A plea to all dog owners,** *by Jan Taylor*



I have been staggered at the number of people walking their dogs in the extreme heat we have been having. PLEASE - if the pavement is too hot for the palms of your hands or your bare feet - it is too hot for your dog. A dog never died from not having a walk - **BUT** it might burn its paws, or just die from heat exhaustion if you take it out in the extreme heat. When we have extreme heat, please only take your dogs out in the early morning or cooler evenings, and also, make sure they have plenty of water to drink. Thank you.

*Image taken from Facebook*

## Excerpt From Lynn News 16.6.25

### King's birthday honours award for founder of family business

Messages of congratulations have flooded in for a West Norfolk businessman recognised in the King's Birthday Honours list for his compassionate services to the community.

Ray Thornalley, of Thornalley Funeral Services, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in recognition of his services to the bereaved and the wider community.

"When I was told my name had been put forward and that I was going to receive the British Empire Medal, I was shocked and very humbled," he said. "I'm truly grateful to those who nominated me - and, of course, overjoyed."

*Editor's note:* there will be an interview with Ray in next month's magazine for our occasional article 'Getting to know.....'

### *A Summers Outing to Cambs by John Bennett and Debra McGowan*

One of the most enjoyable things about bell ringing, is the opportunity to visit other towers and ring there. Peter, the tower captain at Terrington and I often accompany the Gedney ringers on their outings.

Saturday June 14th - a glorious early summer day, ideal for our day out amongst a few bells of the country. Organised by Janet, we visited four towers (a leisurely arrangement), lunch or as some of our group preferred a picnic, included in the day's activities. Couldn't have been better weather for either as those taking lunch at The Porterhouse Pub in Willingham were accommodated in a "Teepee" (an open sided tent), ideal for Saturday's warm weather.

Earlier we had arrived at St Peter and St Paul in Fenstanton, and made good use of the ring of six bells hung in its slender tower, topped by a spire.



As a snippet of added interest, Fenstanton is on the old Roman military road "Via Devana", which runs from Colchester to Chester. Moving forward some 1300 years or so, Lancelot "Capability" Brown - the landscape gardener (1715 - 1783) - is buried in the church yard, and is remembered via an impressive memorial mounted in the chancel.

A long draught of stretchy ropes at St Mary the Virgin, Over, caused a few problems for our less experienced ringers. Despite this our "A Team" rang a good course of 'Yorkshire Major', particularly appreciated by John Bennett the tower captain at Gedney. I was told that years ago the ringers here celebrated New Year at "The Swan", eating roast beef, washed down with hot pot made by the landlord from beer, spirits, eggs, sugar, nutmeg and milk, taken from a cow horn known as a Long Tom. A fearsome brew somewhat akin to egg nog and one wonders how they coped on the morning of New Years Day. The large gargoyles, carved figures outside of the church were also very impressive.

The six bells of Mary and All Saints, Willingham, by John Taylor, cast in 1924 are excellent, with a fine tone and easy to ring, our efforts here ranging from rounds and call changes to 'Norwich' and 'London Surprise'. There were, we were told, 16 pubs in this village of which all but three remain. One of these, now long gone, was "The Ringers Rest" located opposite to the church. There was a door in the west ground floor wall of the ringing room through which the ringers, after ringing, would exit pubwards to slake their thirst. Now a private house, its former name is just discernible in a brickwork panel on a wall facing the road.

Inside this church were also to be found some wonderful old wall paintings. An early figure is thought to be Etheldreda, founder of the original monastery at Ely. Above the north arcade is a 14th century painting of St Christopher crossing a river teeming with fish. The south side has a very clear 15th century depiction of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth.

Afternoon, and our final destination, All Saints Longstanton. The bells here comprise a light ring of eight tenor 7 1/2 cwts, seven of them cast by Taylors in 1912. The ringing room is a mezzanine approached via a broad oak staircase giving access a larger elevated space with tables a chairs, creating the impression of a drawing room - most impressive. While looking around the church one of the stain glass windows was a memorial to the soldiers who served during the 2nd World War. There were two newspaper clippings, one for

*Continued on page 34*

## *A Summers Outing to Cambs continued from page 33*

Squadron Leader Charles Lofthouse. Enlisted into the RAF in the spring of 1940, one night in November 1942 he was acting as night duty pilot in the control tower, when a Stirling crash landed on the runway. Running out to the burning aircraft and ignoring exploding ammunition, Lofthouse managed to drag out five men and for his act of bravery was awarded a OBE.

On August 23rd Lofthouse was over Berlin flying a Lancaster when he was shot Down. All the crew survived and became POWs, including the Station Co Grp/ Cpt Willetts DSO, who had gone along for the ride. Whilst at Stalag Luft III he employed his skills learnt as a draughtsman and became a member of the team to produce maps and forged documents for the Great Escape, but he didn't take part due to being in hospital, having broken his shoulder. He died in 2002 at the age of 80 years.

The other newspaper clipping was about Joy Lofthouse. In 1943, 20 year old Joy and her older sister Yvonne joined the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Only 17 out of 2,000 applicants were accepted, including Joy, who had never even driven a car, and Yvonne. She was one of 168 women who were members of the ATA. Her job was to deliver aircraft from the factories where they were made to the airfield where they were to be flown by the Royal Air Force. She flew 18 different types of aircraft. During the war they were based at White Waltham, in Berkshire. She went back up in a Spitfire 60 years after the war, after the ATA girls were finally recognised by Gordon Brown.

Her second marriage was to Charles Lofthouse. She died in November 2017, at the age of 94. Before she died, Lofthouse was one of the two surviving World War Two "Spitfire Girls".



## Shakespeare - The Bard by JT

Given all the exciting news coming from the Guildhall Theatre in Lynn, (and given that I love music!), I thought it would be appropriate to have some Shakespeare in our magazine.



*"If music be the food of love, play on; Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting, the appetite may sicken, and so die"*

This quote is from William Shakespeare's play, Twelfth Night, specifically from Act 1, Scene 1. It is spoken by Duke Orsino as he expresses his lovesickness for the Countess Olivia. He believes that if love is like a hunger, then music is the food that nourishes it, and he wants to consume so much music that his love will become overwhelming and eventually disappear.

## Puzzle Page

**The questions are all cryptic clues on English towns**



- 1 An opening for the male sheep in Kent.
- 2 A visit to County Durham for the first American President?
- 3 Naomi's niece has left wing views, living in Cornwall.
- 4 Only a small amount of water but it appears to be covered in oil on the Lancashire coast.
- 5 Sounds like a trip to the Isle of Wight is called for?
- 6 It is growing intelligence in Essex.
- 7 In Derbyshire they do this if they want their food to be well done.
- 8 Sounds like a buzzing insect writes verse in Leicestershire.
- 9 A change to interning in Berkshire.
- 10 I see those three somewhat disturbing characters in Macbeth and it sounds like the one in the centre is in Cheshire.

*The answers are on page 5. Good Luck!*



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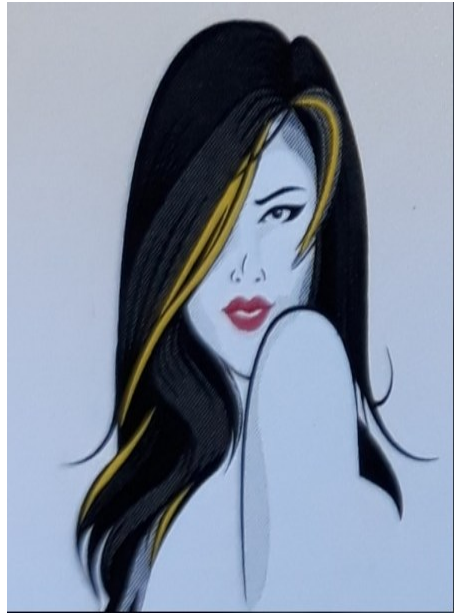
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## FOOD BANK BOX IN CHURCH

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 are always extremely grateful. There is a thank you card on the notice board in the porch. Thank you.



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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN KING'S LYNN

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**FESTIVAL TOO** FRIDAY 4, SATURDAY 5, FRIDAY 11 JULY AND SATURDAY 12 JULY: Festival Too, Tuesday Market Place. The final two weekends of Festival Too are on the Tuesday Market Place. Visit [festivaltoo.co.uk](http://festivaltoo.co.uk) for the latest information.

**FREE FILM NIGHT** FRIDAY 18 JULY: Tuesday Market Place. Visit [discoverkingslynn.com](http://discoverkingslynn.com) to find out what film is being shown free.

**THE KING'S LYNN FESTIVAL** 13TH - 26TH JULY: offers a wide variety of orchestral concerts, jazz, folk, choral, classical recitals, talks, films, exhibitions. For brochure visit the Corn Exchange Box Office or [www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/about-us/online-brochure](http://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/about-us/online-brochure)

**FOLK IN THE TOWN** SATURDAY 19 AND SUNDAY 20 JULY: Tuesday Market Place. **Two days of traditional folk, Americana, folk rock, bluegrass** and everything in between, all live and free.

**KING'S LYNN ROUND TABLE** SUNDAY 27 JULY: **Street Food Sunday**, Tuesday Market Place. Sit in the sunshine and sample something new. Many vendors will be lined up in the Tuesday Market Place.



Photo by Alice Johnson age 11. This was **Highly Com-mended** in our recent photo competition in April.

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**Contact Us**  
 CLENCHWARTONCFT@GMAIL.COM

**BINGO NIGHT**

Friday 25th July

7pm for 7:30pm start

Walpole St Peter Parish Hall

Great Prizes  
 Refreshments  
 Raffle

Come along for a fun night

*Walpole St Peter Church*



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR  
AFTERNOON STRAWBERRY /  
CREAM



JOIN US FOR  
AFTERNOON  
STRAWBERRY/CREAM TEA  
AT  
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH  
SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST  
2.30pm - 5pm  
IN THE CHURCHYARD  
By the Memorial Garden  
(IN CHURCH IF RAINING)