

**CLENCHWARTON
Your Village News**

**BUMPER
EDITION**

DECEMBER 2025



Merry Christmas



Happy Christmas





CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

at

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

on

TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER

at

4PM



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
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 10th DECEMBER for the
JANUARY 2026 edition (Please note earlier date)**

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 DECEMBER
EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE
NEWS.**

We have a jam packed edition this month, with details of what's on in our village and Kings Lynn. Plus we continue with Debra's fascinating memories of her life, and repeat an article, first printed in 2012, about school life in the 1940s.

Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors and distributors, without whom this magazine would not be possible.



THIS MAGAZINE NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

- We would love to have some more adverts in this magazine! Do you run a small (or large!) business locally and feel you would like to support this magazine by taking out an advert? Prices listed on page 5 opposite. Contact Debra on 01553 773467
- When putting the magazine together there are often gaps and I have to try to find something of interest to fill them. It would be great if other people would be willing to send in articles about something that interests them - a hobby, an interesting country they have visited etc. Editors rights reserved!! Please email grahamesampson@btinternet.com
- Photos needed - lots of opportunities coming up: fireworks, Christmas, New Year. Do you have a special celebration in your family? Can we see a photo? Please email a copy to me: 1753jan@gmail.com

Front cover - top small picture: free clip art

Front cover photos - Jan Taylor



**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
Gentlemen joining us every Thursday.

Please contact Debra (01553 773467) if you require
transport to get to any coffee morning.
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St Margaret's Church Services in DECEMBER



Sunday 7th	Revd. Barbara Burton - Holy Communion Service
Sunday 14th	Morning prayer with Hymns, led by a churchwarden
Sunday 21st	Revd. Barbara Burton - Holy Communion Service
Sunday 21st	3pm NATIVITY SERVICE WITH CAROLS
Wednesday 24th	4pm CHRISTMAS EVE - CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
Thursday 25th	9.30am CHRISTMAS DAY - Revd. Barbara Burton - Holy Communion service
Sunday 28th	Morning prayer with Hymns, led by a churchwarden

All services at 10am unless otherwise stated.
Everyone welcome at all our services

Methodist Chapel Services in DECEMBER

Sunday 7th	Rev Jackie Goddard Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	Greg Sargent
Sunday 21st	Christingle Service
Sunday 28th	No service at Clenchwarnton, service will be at Terrington St Clement Chapel



All services begin at 10.30am unless otherwise stated
Please join us at any of our services. All are welcome to attend.

WALKING GROUP

There is no walk in December but we will be back in January.



After the Christmas festivities you may consider that it would be healthy to walk more in the New Year. We look forward to seeing you.



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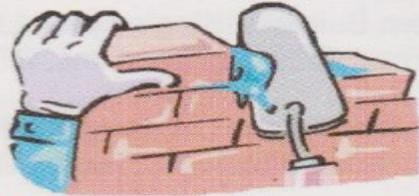
PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

(QUESTIONS ON PAGE 42)



- 1 Mistletoe
- 2 Turkey
- 3 It is not specified but generally depicted as three because of the three gifts
4 Queen Charlotte who was formerly of Brunswick in Germany (it was an es-
tablished German custom. The custom spread further once Albert married
Victoria.
- 5 364
- 6 1843
- 7 The Nutcracker
- 8 January 7th—the Russian Orthodox Church follows the Julian Calendar
- 9 January 6th – Epiphany
- 10 Confectioner and Baker Tom Smith in Clerkenwell in the 1840s

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Junior School Essays

These come from Junior School essays on the Old and New Testaments.

- In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire at night.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- The seventh commandment is that thou shalt not admit adultery.
- The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him
- Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you.
- The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- St Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- Christians only have one spouse. This is called monotony.

Tuesday 16th December 7.30pm

Peru - a talk at Marriot's Warehouse, South Quay

Peru is a very interesting country which has already been the subject of a talk at the Clenchwarton Talk. There is no talk at the Chapel this month but there is an opportunity to attend a lecture at Marriotts Warehouse on the South Quay at King's Lynn which is entitled "The transition to Agriculture on the South Coast of Peru" which is being given by Dr David Beresford-Jones from the University of Cambridge. This lecture is part of a series put on by the West Norfolk Archaeological Group. The talks are all by top speakers and cost just £5 to attend on the night or £18 for the whole season of lectures.



DECEMBER DIARY OF EVENTS
in CLENCHWARTON
 and surrounding area for



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

- Tues 2nd 10am -12pm **Coffee Morning** Methodist Chapel
- Thurs 4th 10am -12pm **Coffee Morning** at St Margaret's Church
- Sat 6th 2.30pm **Christmas Concert** All proceeds to the MND charity
- Tues 9th 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** Methodist Chapel
- Thurs 11th 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** St Margaret's Church
- Sat 13th 10am - 12 noon **CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP** 10 Places available. £10 per person. In church. Contact Vera 01553 774698
- Tues 16th 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** Methodist Chapel
- Thurs 18th 10am - 12pm **CHRISTMAS Coffee Morning** St Margaret's Church
- Wed 24th From dusk - look out for Santa and his Sleigh (*see page 22*)

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

- Sun 21st December** 10.30am **Christingle Service** at the Methodist Church
- Sun 21st December** 3pm **NATIVITY SERVICE with carols** at St Margaret's Church
- Wed 24th December** 4pm **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** at St Margaret's Church
- Thurs 25th December** 9.30am **Christmas Day Holy Communion Service**

Cross Words

Aocrdnig to rsearch at Cmbagrdie Uinervtisy, it denos't mtater wath oredr the ltteters in a wdro are in, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is ttah the frist and lsat ltteter be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a ttoal mses and you can slitl raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bceuae the huamn mnid does not raed evrey lteter by istlef, but the word as a whloe.

ST MARGARET'S Looking back

As we come towards the end of the year the fund raising events reduce in number. Last month we concentrated all our efforts on our Winter Craft Fair. Thanks to a lot of hard work by Debra, we had 15 stalls with an amazing array of craft items. Debra also worked hard to prepare the church to accommodate this number of stalls. With our own refreshment stall and bric-a-brac stall, plus the 'rent' for the stalls, (a mere £5each) we made a wonderful £434. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way, and to all those who supported the event.

Sadly once again we had some minor vandalism in the church during half term, and once again have had to reduce our opening hours to school opening times only (9 - 3pm Monday - Friday). The police are aware as this was all captured on our CCTV cameras. We are hoping to return to normal opening hours in the near future. **The church is still the village Warm Hub.**

On Sunday November 9th we held a service of Remembrance and laid wreaths at all three War Memorials in our village. How many other villages have three memorials I wonder? You can read some more about why we have the Memorial Hall plaque on pages 37, 38 and 39 in Memories of Primary School.

Looking forward

During December we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and have several services (*listed on the opposite page*) to help us focus on this, amidst all the hustle and bustle of the festive season. Why not take some time out of your busy lives and come to one of the services to learn about why we have Christmas?

Free school holiday Brunch at the Methodist Church

This initiative was launched in November during the school half term, supported by a grant from our local County Councillor, Alexander Kemp. Called FISH (Free Food In School Holidays) the aim is to offer heathy breakfasts to anyone who needs it in this cost of living crisis. It is being run by the Revd. Jackie Goddard and a team of volunteers from the Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome and all eat free. Revd. Jackie said "This is more than breakfast. We want families to feel welcome and know that there is a place where they can come to eat for free.

Details of the next FISH breakfast will be published in the January magazine..



From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Revd. Jackie Goddard

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



It seems that since September my life has revolved around food: beginning with an abundance of apples on my tree and Harvest festivals. At Terrington Methodist Church, we have hosted a Food For Thought programme each week and tasted mouthwatering recipes. In Half Term, we held free breakfast brunches - (FiSH) Food in School Holidays - to support children and families. At the same time, there have been collections for the Food Bank and the Night Shelter; and the Methodist Church has promoted appeals to support food relief for Gaza and Jamaica.

Food is a basic human need, and food security is a key economic consideration for every nation. We build healthy communities by our response to this basic need. This is not new. It is no coincidence that many Bible stories include food. God knows our needs.

In the Christmas story, we hear that Mary and Joseph looked for somewhere to stay. They probably looked for something to eat too.

In his ministry, Jesus is called the 'Bread of Life'. He came so we might live life to the full, and that fullness includes knowing that today you will not go hungry. As we celebrate Christmas, there will be huge excesses of food for some, and incredible scarcity for others. The media may run adverts full of festive fare alongside appeals by relief charities as they respond to food crises at home and around the world. It is a good time to reflect on our relationship with food. Perhaps we can have our own local conversations, aiming to make sure no one in our villages is going hungry as the new year begins.

Every blessing for Christmas and 2026 from all at the Methodist Church. May the God of abundant love meet you in your celebrations, surprise you in your hopes, and come close to you through the coming weeks.

Revd. Jackie Goddard

PASTORAL LETTER

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



For me, singing carols is an essential part of celebrating Christmas. Christmas hymns have been written since at least the 4th century and probably earlier, whilst live Nativity scenes have been re-enacted for almost 800 years, after St Francis of Assisi had the brilliant idea of having live animals and actors recreating the first Christmas.

However, in the mid 17th century our Parliament banned the singing of Christmas carols; Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans, who were in power at that time, felt that the birth of Jesus was such an important event that it should be a solemn day of fasting, not feasting. Whilst we can try to see their point of view, sending soldiers around to confiscate any goose that was being cooked on December 25th did not go down very well with the public!

Of course, Cromwell was correct in saying that Jesus' birth was very important. God sending his son as a human baby to show us how much he loves us is something to be celebrated, especially as we know that Jesus, when he grew up, loved parties. The gospels are full of them.

This Christmas please do join us at Clenchwarton Parish Church for one of our Christmas services. There is a Nativity Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 3pm, our traditional Christingle Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve and a Communion Service on Christmas Day at 9.30am. We hope you can join us and we look forward to seeing you.

With blessings for a joyful and peaceful Christmas.



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CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP



SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER

10am - 12 noon

in St Margaret's Church

Tickets £10

Places limited

Contact Vera Osborne on 01553 774698

Clenchwarton Parish Council meeting

6th November 7.30pm by Grahame Sampson

Four councillors and approximately 14 members of the public attended. Apologies were received from Councillor Edwards and Councillor Lucas.

The first question from the floor regarded the inaccuracy of previous minutes. No amendment has been made despite the inaccuracy. The seriousness of this and the threat to Democracy has been highlighted by two letters to the magazine. A question was also asked regards the applications to join the Parish Council which have yet to be dealt with and what is happening regarding the creation of a Recreation Field Committee?

Both the Football Club and the Council appear to be united in their wish to complete the Tenancy Agreement as soon as possible.

The County Councillor's report follows elsewhere in the magazine but was read out in her absence.

Christmas appears to have been discussed in every meeting this year and as expected a further twenty minutes was taken talking about Christmas trees and Christmas lights. (*I wondered why they do not save over £100 by just asking the village if anyone can provide them with a tree and what happened to last year's lights?*)

Village Matters - a grant has been obtained for the bus stops. Damage at the Football Club dugout was deemed a Health and Safety issue and the club have been advised to deal with it.

Car Park Update –the Council are finding obeying a Biodiversity Order a headache. The Bureaucracy is currently defeating them.

Dykes - they still need a third quote. This, too, has been going on for months. All agreed that this has been going on for too long.

The Council agreed a quote on toileting facilities.

The Football Club want to be able to cut the field and supply fertiliser to it if appropriate – they have been given permission for the winter months but would like that agreement to include April. There was a complete impasse, for despite at least two of the Councillors willing to agree, the clerk said it was not possible as it would upset the contractor.

Continued on page 21

Following a recommendation from Councillor Fox a retrospective planning application for Ferry Road was approved.

Haulage lorries bound for the Fosters Development off the Main Road have been going down Station Road at a rate of 10-12 lorries an hour. They should be staying on the A17 until the Pullover Roundabout. The contractors are being written to and also about the telegraph poles which have been left in the middle of the pavement.

The meeting ended for the public at 9.30pm so the Council could discuss the Memorial Hall and Personnel. By then only four members of the public had lasted the course. The next meeting is on the 4th December at 7.30pm.

Observation from Grahame about the above meeting:

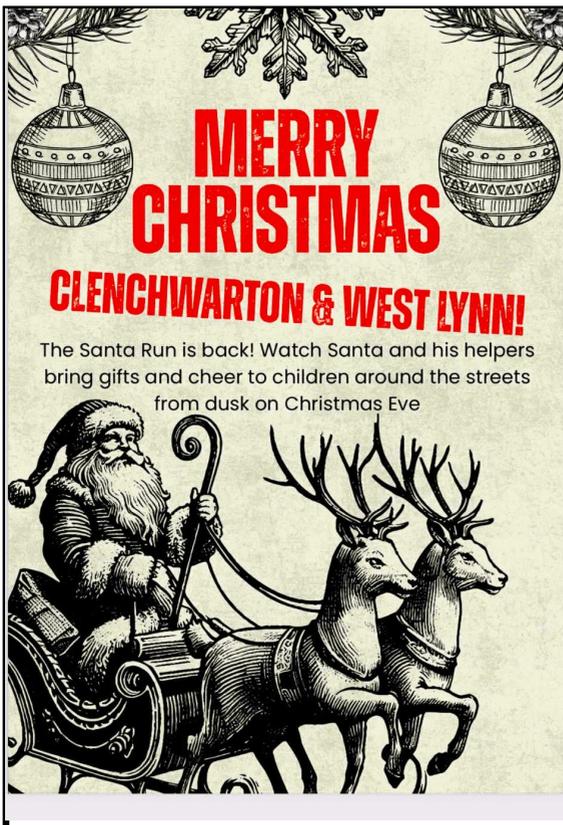
This was a frustrating meeting for the public who attended but it was also frustrating for the Council. There were murmurings of discontent with two councillors appearing to be considering resigning. This is serious. The Council is well short on numbers and needs to encourage villagers to stand from across the village at the next election. That is not a failing of the present council, more a failure of bureaucracy which is stifling the council. In the interest of local democracy it does not seem right that they are so tied.

KING'S LYNN FOOD BANK - COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Could you collect one item each day for the Foodbank – a reverse Advent Calendar where instead of receiving you give? Their suggestions are:

December 1 st	tinned soup	December 2 nd	shampoo
December 3 rd	baked beans	December 4 th	tinned tomatoes
December 5 th	rice	December 6 th	deodorant
December 7 th	biscuits	December 8 th	confectionery
December 9 th	tinned fish	December 10 th	coffee
December 11 th	Jam	December 12 th	breakfast cereal
December 13 th	tea bags	December 14 th	Pasta
December 15 th	fruit Juice/ squash	December 16 th	Laundry Detergent
December 17 th	tinned vegetables	December 18 th	cooking sauces
December 19 th	tinned pasa	December 20 th	tinned meat
December 21 st	toilett rolls	December 22 nd	rice pudding
December 23 rd	UHT long life milk	December 24 th	tinned fruit

PLEASE LEAVE IN THE BOX IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH



SANTA RUN
24TH DECEMBER
FROM DUSK.

KEEP LOOKING
OUT FOR SANTA
HIS SLEIGH, AND
HIS ELVES ON THE
ROADS AROUND
CLENCHWARTON



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

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

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

You can visit our website at
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Borough Councillor report by Counsellor Steven Bearshaw

I reported in the Dec 24 magazine that both the St James' swimming pool and the Hunstanton Oasis Swimming pool have reached the end of their lives. Indeed, the two facilities account for 40% of the Council's overall carbon emissions, and operation of the Borough leisure facilities is subsidised to the tune of £1.4m annually.

At the time we were presented with 3 options. Including rebuilding the St James' pool on site, and accepting the loss of a swimming facility in King's Lynn for a couple of years. The Oasis refresh has had to be shelved due to the promenade requiring significant repairs which need to be undertaken first. In the last 15 years, the UK has lost over 1000 swimming pools, primarily due to budget cuts and increased running costs. The result being a standalone swimming facility is no longer a feasible option, and the most cost-effective way to future proof our new facility is to wrap it into another leisure facility in our part of the Borough to make it as cost effective as possible.

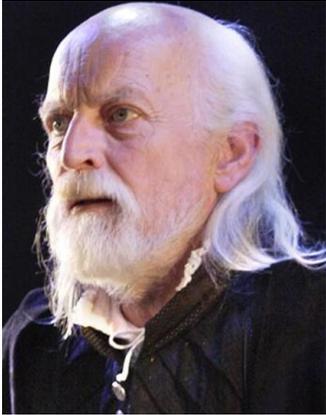
The obvious location is Lynnsport. However, this does bring additional constraints into the mix. Namely in the National cycle route 1 which is a 1,264 mile cycle path which runs the length of the East Coast passing through London, Lynnsport and Edinburgh. The route is subsequently out of the Borough or even the County's remit to re-route, and previous challenges have resulted in significant delays to projects and ultimately a denial.

Since we're putting in a new swimming facility, we should aim for the UK competition standard which is either a short or long course 25m or 50m respectively, and 8 lanes of 2.5m with 2.5m either side of the outside lanes, and a spectator seating area.

The layout of Lynnsport as a complex isn't ideal either, and the golden solution would be to rebuild the entire facility encompassing all clubs and sports needs from the start. Sadly time and budget constraints don't allow for this.

Then we come to the aforementioned route 1. This passes close to Lynnsport, and bolting a competition specification pool and learner pool onto the side of Lynnsport would encroach on the route, therefore constraining the size of the new facility.

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



ANDREW JARVIS 6.6.47 - 16.11.25

It is with great sadness we report that local resident and professional actor Andrew Jarvis died peacefully at home on Sunday 16th November.

Andrew had lived in our village for many years with his wife Gillian, and everyone who knew him was touched by his kindness and generous spirit.

Born on 6th June 1947, Andrew was an actor for 55 years. He worked in repertory theatres throughout the country - spent ten years with the RSC, and five years with the English Shakespeare Company, during which time he won the Manchester Evening News award for his performance of Richard III. He appeared many times in the West End and in two seasons at the National Theatre. He also played Gandalf in the West End production of Lord of the Rings travelling to and from London on the train 98 times! His last stage role was opposite Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart in Pinter's 'No Man's Land'. His TV appearances included roles in Eastenders, New Tricks, Gunpowder and Doctors, and he worked with Mike Leigh on the film Peterloo. Over the past twenty years he worked continuously in Drama Schools across the UK as a Teacher and Director. This culminated in him becoming the Head of Postgraduate Performance Courses at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts for several years.

Andrew was a Board Member of the British Shakespeare Association, an Honorary Patron of Brownsea Open Air Theatre and the President of the Sunday Shakespeare Society.

Andrew was born and raised in Chesterfield, Derbyshire and was an avid supporter of the football team. Being the manager of this team would be the only job he would have preferred to being a professional actor. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, and we send his widow Gillian our sincere condolences.

**WALPOLE ST
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FESTIVAL**

Saturday December 6th
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County Councillor's Report by Alexandra Kemp

Riverbank Footpath Completed

The new West Lynn Footpath surface was finished at the end of October by the trusty team at Norse. Funded by £287,000 from CIL and £5,000 from my Member Highway Budget it is 1183 linear metres long, 1.2 metres wide, surfaced with layers of dove grey gravel, bonded with asphalt, and has been completed on the cusp of winter. It connects the waterproof surfaced path round the riverbank into Lynn.

Improving accessibility and connectivity to and from Lynn, by weatherproofing the missing stretch up to the Freebridge, and fulfils residents' aspiration for better all-year-round access for all, saving more car journeys. It links the two parts of the town and the Norfolk Coastal Trail.

This important addition to West Norfolk's connectivity and walking infrastructure has been over two years in the making. It was touch and go whether the footpath would be started, let alone finished by this winter, because of chronic nationwide delays with Flood Permitting. But we were on the case. With hard work, and the support of the County Highways Team and the Environment Agency and Borough, we tackled all the obstacles head-on.

Clenchwarton Food in School Holidays Events

The first Food in the School Holidays Free Breakfast Brunch Event for families, started in Clenchwarton this half-term, in the Methodist Church on Main Road It is being run by Revd. Jackie Goddard and her team of volunteers. I am funding the events from my County Councillor Community Grant. Young people must be accompanied by a Parent or Carer. They eat free too. Everyone is welcome to stay all morning. Colouring activities available. Watch out for the next event in the February half-term.

New Bus Shelters in Clenchwarton

I have supported the Parish's application for 3 new Bus shelters in Clenchwarton, along the school bus route.

Norfolk County Council is supporting Clenchwarton with £10,320 (80% funding) for 3 new Bus Shelters, from the Bus Improvement Fund.

County Launches Budget Consultation

We scrutinised the Council's Budget proposals on the Strategic and Corporate

Continued on page 29

Select Committee last month. Norfolk County Council is now consulting on how to save £41.6 million next year. Strategies for saving money include Population Health Management, keeping people fitter for longer, reducing the need for social care, offering help to people at risk of falls, cutting the cost of home-to-school transport. Options offered are increasing the Council Tax by 3%, 5% or more than 5%. Have your say at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget or call 0344 800 8020; Text Relay 18001 0344 800 8020.

Stopping the Wisbech Incinerator

It has always been my belief that it is never too late to stop a wrong decision. I have written to the Government again, emphasising incinerators produce ultrafine particles (UFPs). These are extremely small particles less than 0.10 micrometres in diameter, that are often not captured before they reach the air. Their high surface area can carry toxic substances. Their small size allows them to penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, posing significant health risks. Pollutants from the Wisbech Incinerator could be carried towards the Wash by the prevailing westerly winds across the flat open Fen landscape forever. The NHS 10 year plan is to reduce health inequalities and to prevent illness occurring in the first place. Therefore, Government must ban new incinerators, especially those that would impact on the most deprived communities and put pressure on our overstretched local NHS and local hospital. Please send a polite email to the Minister for Nature Mary Creagh MP ps.mary.creagh@defra.gov.uk

Hall Road Parking

Highways has costed a Traffic Order for double yellow lines along Hall Road up to the Pavilion at £10,000. This is on my list for next year's Councillor Highways Budget, subject to consultation.

Continued on page 30



Continued from page 29

The lead-in time is 18 months, like the Small Holdings Road Traffic Order I paid for from my Member Highways Budget. Let me know what you think.

QEH

We live in a world of centralisation. It was announced that the QEH New Hospital Rebuild Programme has been merged with the James Paget Hospital Rebuild in Great Yarmouth. West Norfolk wasn't consulted. I am asking for assurance that the new QEH will retain all its patient services.

Kind regards,

Alexandra

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South, Norfolk County Council, including South Lynn, West Lynn, Clenchwarton, West Winch, Setchey
Landline: 01553 630329/ Mobile: 07920 286636

Letters Page



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS By David Hutton

I was perturbed when I read Andrew Taylor's report in the October edition. His strongly worded article claimed that the PC minutes referring to item 10 of their July meeting, (this relates to changing the locks on the Pavilion which has led to children being stopped from playing organised football on the village playing fields) were inaccurate. This serious allegation regarding the governance of our village caused me to attend the October PC meeting and seek clarification, as there are always two sides to a story. At the meeting I asked our council to address the issue that Andrew had highlighted. No apology was offered. The justification offered which is in the approved minutes, is shown below:

The Clerk advised that it was felt that it should not be discussed in public so was discussed excluding press and public and voted on in that part of the meeting. It was felt that due to the circumstances that it should be reported fully, I added to the minutes so all in the same place in the minutes.

So, as Andrew stated, the minutes are inaccurate. He had witnessed the council discussing the issue and reported no decision was made. However, after the

Letters Page continued from page 30

public were dismissed, the council re-visited the issue and decided to take their contentious action. Who proposed and seconded their contentious action and how individual councillors voted, is not recorded. The minutes state that the decision was taken when the public was present which is untrue. Council members should not have approved the minutes as an accurate account.

Our council has recently stated its desire to be transparent. It should realise that accuracy is a vital ingredient of transparency. They would do better to admit and rectify mistakes rather than seek to justify them. The thrust of the Local Transparency code that the government introduced in 2015, was Public data should be as accurate as possible at first publication. Our council needs to take heed as accurate minute taking is crucial for ensuring effective communication, transparency, accountability, legal compliance and the overall success of an organisation.

The July 3rd meeting minutes also caused me to raise another issue with the council. Residents had to wait over 70 days for these minutes to be accessible on the website. This is indefensible and well beyond all published advice, though some councillors sought to justify it. This wasn't a one off; as it took nearly 60 days for the September minutes to be published on the website. The Society of Local Council Clerks advises the following "*It is good practice for the clerk to make the minutes available for public inspection as soon as possible after the meeting. Prior to signing off they can be labelled 'draft minutes'.*" Any Council committed to transparency would follow this advice. The key principle here is that the clerk can action decisions immediately after a council meeting, but residents may not know of any resolution until the minutes are published weeks later. Hence, I believe it is important to publish draft minutes as soon as possible after a meeting.

The local government transparency code issued in 2015 was introduced to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability. It should make it easier for local people to contribute to the local decision making process and help shape public services. This last sentence should be a plumb line that we measure the actions of our council against. At the moment a growing number of residents fear they are falling short.



Letters page continued from page 31

From Clenchwarton Knitters.

Many thanks for the wonderful response to the knitted/crochet poppies made and sold locally. A staggering total of £236.18p was raised and I have today sent a cheque to the Royal British Legion, King's Lynn. Well done and again-thanks.

Trudie (Clenchwarton knitters)

STAY WINTER WELL (taken from *YOUR NORFOLK* magazine, Autumn 2025 issue.)

Some ways to stay well this winter:

Staying healthy

Talk to your pharmacist about blood pressure checks, over the counter medication, and general health advice.

Phone 111 in non-emergencies and REMEMBER - it is accessible 24/7.

Make sure you keep a stock of emergency health supplies for the winter months, such as cold and flu remedies.

Remember GP practices and pharmacies will have different opening hours over the festive period so make sure you are aware of these and also order prescriptions in good time.

Bugs, coughs, and sneezes spread more in winter months. If you feel you are becoming ill, practice good hygiene such as catching sneezes in tissues, washing your hands for at least 30 seconds, ventilating your house properly and avoid close contact with others.

www.nhs.uk/find-a-pharmacy

Help for living costs

The Household Support Fund (HSF) supports people who are struggling with the cost of living and everyday costs. The HSF can help in various ways, including through cost of living vouchers, the Crisis Support Fund, toiletries to go, school uniform support, warm spaces and more.

www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving

Continued on page 33

STAY WELL FOR WINTER continued from page 32

Keeping your home warm

Check your home is insulated to help keep heat in. If your home requires improvements you may be eligible for a grant to help with costs.

Heated blankets can be a cheap source of heat in the winter months. They require minimal energy to heat up which saves on heating bills.

www.norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk

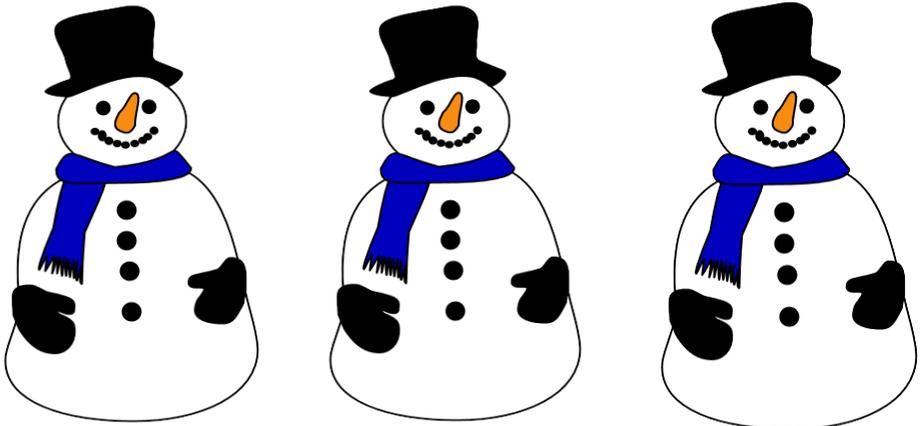
Carer's emergency planning

If you care for someone who is vulnerable, it is important to plan ahead for the support you or the person you care for would need in an emergency, especially during the winter. This includes:

- Creating an emergency plan
- Making important information easy to find
- Requesting a home fire safety visit
- Planning emergency pet care

www.norfolk.gov.uk/carersemergencyplan

DID YOU KNOW... that medical moisturisers used to treat skin conditions including eczema and psoriasis can become flammable when dried on to fabrics. Please carry out a fire safety check if the person using them smokes or is likely to sit near a heater. You may also qualify for a free Home Safety Fire Visit from Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service



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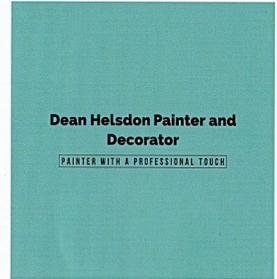
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CAN YOU HELP?

Many of you will know that our medieval church needs to install a toilet and a modest kitchen facility to make it more relevant to the community. With better facilities we can look at running a parent/carer and toddler group, and other things that would be of benefit to all. An outside Portaloo and getting water from an outside tap are not long-term solutions!

Do you have experience of making grant applications, and the time to do it?

The few of us that look after the church don't, and have failed to secure grant funding in the past, primarily due to rushed and unprofessionally constructed applications.

So, if you feel you can help to secure funding for a project that will bring your church into the 21st century, please get in touch.

Debra McGowan 01553 773467

Andy Taylor 07939 055031 / Email: treasurer@clenchwarton-church.org.uk

What's On in Kings Lynn this month

Friday 5th December – Sunday 7th December 10am – 6pm

Kings Lynn Minster FREE Family Event

Join us for our first ever Christmas Tree Festival here at the Minster. The Minster will be adorned with lots of beautiful Christmas Trees supporting local charities and businesses in the area. Entertainment & refreshments will be available throughout the weekend.

6th Dec - 7th Dec 10am - 4pm Festive Merchants Market, Tuesday Market Place. Packed with gift ideas from local, independent businesses. Come and soak up the atmosphere and tick off your present list for what will be a super-festive weekend with street entertainment, the Market, Santa's Workshop and the Inaugural Christmas Tree Festival at The Minster.

Every weekend. Street entertainment, with much-loved Gran Turismo making a return appearance, and shoppers will be asked to vote for their favourite Christmas window, and the annual competition re-opens from 29th November.

Every weekend until Sunday 21st December, Santa's Workshop will be open for crafting, letter writing and meeting the man himself to receive a small gift. Head down the High Street to No 114 (next door to The Deck of Cards) to be greeted by one of Mother Christmas' Elves. The workshop will be open from 10-12:30, 1-4pm, no booking required and a charge of £2 per child will be made on the door. This event is appropriate for children up to the age of 10.

Sunday 21st December 2025, 5pm King's Lynn Town Carol Service – a Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. Join us for this festive treat with our Minster Choir, a traditional service of Nine Lessons & Carols, followed by Mince Pies & Mulled Wine. All Welcome.

24th December Christmas Eve 11.00pm Midnight Mass at the Minster



Memories Part 6 by Debra McGowan

I left Debenhams to go to Israel. I had been wanting to go travelling for a while, but none of my friends wanted to go with me. They were either in love or in good jobs that they didn't want to leave. So I thought that going to a kibbutz would be a good way to start, and they were a big thing back then. Luckily I travelled on an open return ticket! I had travelled to a kibbutz in the Golan Heights, which at that time bordered Lebanon. The Golan is a strategic plateau at the crossroads of Israel, Lebanon and Syria. By the start of the 1970's Israel controlled the vast majority of the Golan Heights. Israel had captured the territory from Syria during the Six-Day War in 1967, and placed it under military administration. In December 1981 Israel formally annexed the area that it controlled, a move not recognised by the international community.

The 1970's was a period of heightened tension and conflict in the region. I had travelled to the area with three other travellers that I had met in Tel Aviv. A girl by the name of Bev, who was on the same flight as me and two boys who we had met in Tel Aviv. I believe that the kibbutz we travelled to was called Daffna in the Upper Galilee in northern Israel. It was located seven kilometres east of Kiryat Shmona and surrounded by three streams of the Dan River. The Dan River is the largest tributary of the Jordan River, whose source is located at the base of Mount Hermon. One day not long after we had arrived at the kibbutz. The four of us, along with a friend that we had made, decided to follow the course of the River Dan up into the mountains. We followed a trail which led into the mountains and we found several wading pools which were wonderful to swim in. The sun was warm and so was the water in the pools where we swam. In fact we became so engrossed with the beautiful scenery around us that we completely forgot not only the time, but how dark it was becoming. Soon we realised that it was too dark to go back along the trail that we had climbed up, and all we could do was to keep climbing and hope that eventually we would reach a road on which we could travel back.

We did eventually reach a road and started to travel back towards the kibbutz. What we didn't realise was that we had actually crossed the border into Lebanon. As we followed the road we eventually came to a Lebanon Army Checkpoint and we decided that the only thing that we could do was to cross the border back into Israel. There was no actual barrier, just a hut by the side of the road with one guard. As we walked passed the guard he slowly raised his rifle to our backs, shouting out in Lebanese which we guessed meant STOP!

Continued on page 37

Continued from page 36

We didn't look back. The five of us, we just carried on walking ,and thankfully the guard lowered his rifle.

A few of us got sick whilst at the kibbutz, but because I had an open plan ticket my friend Bev travelled back with me to Tel Aviv and helped me get a flight back home. My dad was shocked when he picked me up at the airport, because I had lost a lot of weight. I had typhoid and malaria, but once back at home I slowly recovered.

I didn't feel strong enough to go back to work with my dad, so I got a job at Glacier Metal, a ball bearing company in Alperton, Wembley. It was mainly women in the factory packing the bearings, six of us at a table. Four of us wrapping the bearings, one lady putting the bearings on the table for us to pack and another lady at the end of the table packing the bearings that we had wrapped and boxed. Other than our manager who was male, it was all women who were working at this part of the factory and they could be quite intimidating. In fact the coffee machine was in our department and if the men came in for a drink, they normally came in two by two because some of the ladies would chase after them and try to grab them.

A few months before I started working there, there had been an attempted armed robbery. Back then we were always paid in cash; two men had entered the factory with a sawn-off shotgun and actually fired the gun at the door frame next to where the manager was standing. They threatened to shoot him if he didn't hand over the wages, but he stood his ground even after they had fired the gun at the door frame. A clerk in the office had set off the fire alarm and called the police. Realising that they were not going to get the money they decided to get out of there as quickly as possible. The women in the factory tried to stop them by throwing the chairs that they sat on in their way and trying to trip them up as they ran by. The robbers made it out of the building before the police arrived but there was never another attempt to rob the factory.

(to be continued)

Memories of life and Primary School in the 1930s and 1940s

This month we relive an article printed in 2012 following my interview with David Lake. Sadly he has since died but he gave an account of life in Clenchwarton before the war and during the war. He lived at Banklands

Continued on page 38

Memories of life in the 1930s and 1940s continued from page 38

Cottages where his father worked as a horseman. He was born in 1936 so would have gone to Clenchwarton Primary between 1941 and 1946.

When I was at school the Headmaster was Mr Myall who had been Headmaster since 1915, and continued in the post until some time after 1945. Mr Myall had served in the First World War and had been injured at Arras. His injury was in the foot so he always walked with a limp. There were nowhere near as many children in the school as there are now. I believe the total population of the village was only about 100 around 1940 and everyone knew everyone. Including Mr Myall there were only three teachers at the school. Miss Ketteringham was the senior assistant and had been appointed in 1914 and was still there in 1945. and Miss Collison was the junior teacher who had joined in 1936.

Mr Myall was cultured and thought poetry very important. There was also much concentration on writing and literature. I joined Mr Myall's class in 1944 having graduated from Miss Collison and Miss Ketteringham. Miss Ketteringham arranged the events in the village for the coronation and ran the Women's Institute. She always stood in the classroom by the fire with her back to the fire so the children felt little heat.

Everybody walked more then and cycled everywhere. Hardly anybody possessed a car. The school had bicycle sheds and non flushing toilets at the back of the school. It must be remembered that the school was much smaller in size then, only the older part of the school existed. There was no hall or school-rooms at the back of the hall. The school changed in character during the war as evacuees came to the village. We only had a two bedroom tied cottage but we were obliged to take in two evacuees – Patrick and Grace Lovelace from Leyton. My parents put a division across one of the bedrooms to make the cottage usable as a three bedroom property, but in our property were my parents – 4 boys (I had two brothers) and 1 girl. At the school one room was divided by screens into 3 classes. The Londoners had their own lessons and at first the war was exciting for us boys. There was always a race to collect shrapnel. There was little bombing but on one occasion a bomb fell on Long Road,

Memories of life in the 1930s and 1940s continued from page 38

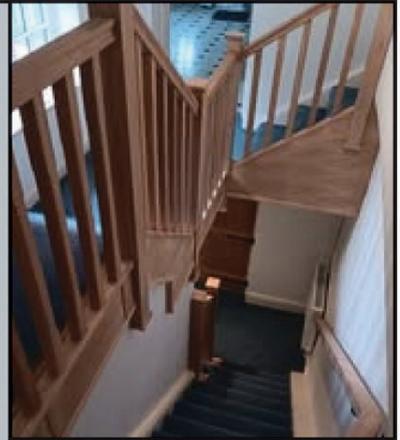
Terrington, and although that was a mile away it caused the ceilings of the houses at Banklands Cottages to fall down. The war changed for us and stopped being a game one traumatic morning on the 23rd April 1942. We were in the playground when a plane came over us very low and on fire. The plane was a Sterling Bomber from RAF Downham Market and with seven men in the crew it crashed just 50 yards from the school in full sight of us in the field, where there are now houses in Rectory Drive and Beverley Way. It brought the war home to all of us.

Not much arithmetic was taught by Mr Myers. We were kept up to date by Mr Myers with current affairs. He often read poetry and then encouraged the class to talk about the poem. He would write notes on the Blackboard with chalk and we would copy these notes in an exercise book and then draw a picture to illustrate what we had heard. We also did Horticulture on the garden behind Mr Myall's school house. This served three purposes. Firstly, it taught us how to dig and to plant seeds etc. Secondly, it fulfilled the Government's request that everyone should dig for victory. Lastly, Mr Myall got his garden dug for him!

The school did not have a playing field and there was no Recreation Field in the village, so children did not have anywhere to play.

Almost every grown up worked on the farms so there was little regard for education. Before the war, few passed the Scholarship which would have allowed them to go to Grammar School or High School. Most children were resigned to have to work on the farms like their parents. This all changed during the war because of the influence of the evacuee children. They were aware of an outside world with more opportunities. Before the war, some parents sent their children to St James in King's Lynn which boasted a much better pass rate. Clenchwarton and some other village schools improved vastly in this period and there was no going back after the war. It was now that Clenchwarton started to get a reputation of being a good school and after the war it encouraged parents from other villages to send their children to Clenchwarton instead of Clenchwarton mothers sending their children to Lynn.

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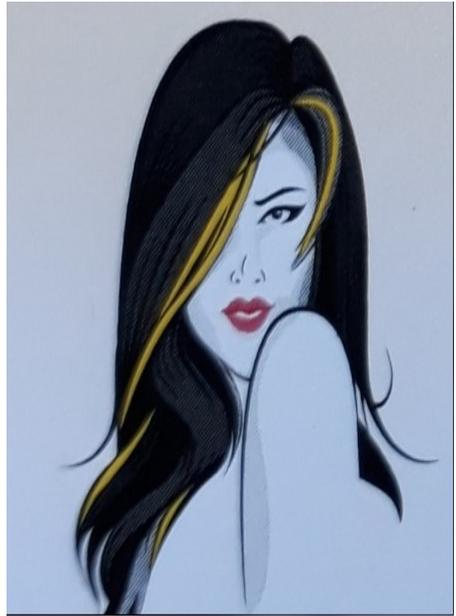
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The Food bank staff and recipients are always extremely grateful. There is a thank you card on the notice board in the porch. Thank you.



MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE



The Mobile Library will come on the following dates in 2025.
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DER502



Day: Friday

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 Rookery Close 10.20-10.35
 Rectory Drive 10.40-10.50
 St Annes Crescent 10.55-11.10
 Linford Estate (1) 11.15-11.30
 Hall Road opp. no 28 11.35-11.50
 Black Horse Road 13.00-13.20
 Wildfields Close 13.25-13.45
 36 Station Road 13.50-14.10
 St Peters Road (1) West Lynn 14.25-14.45
 St Peters Close/Cedar Way 14.50-15.10
 19 Ferry Road West Lynn 15.15-15.35

Join the library and you can borrow up to 20 books which include large print books or you can hire a DVD. For more information contact Dersingham Library 01485 540181.

It's free to join! Everyone

Puzzle Page. (Answers on page 10)



The answers have a Christmas theme this month.

- 1 What in Norse mythology is a sign of love and peace?
- 2 In which modern country was St Nicholas born?
- 3 In the Bible how many magi followed the star to Bethlehem?
- 4 Who is thought to have first introduced the idea of a Christmas Tree to Britain?
- 5 In the song "The 12 Days of Christmas", what was the total of gifts given?
- 6 In which year was the first Christmas card printed?
- 7 What is the name of the ballet written in 1942 which is often performed at Christmas?
- 8 When is Christmas celebrated in Russia?
- 9 On which day do Spanish people exchange presents for Christmas?
- 10 Who invented the Christmas Cracker?



Christmas CONCERT

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SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER AT 2.30PM

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Christmas Fair Clenchwarton Primary School

Friday 5th December
3-30pm-5.30pm

**Festive stalls, crafts, games and
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Facebook-Clenchwarton Primary School PFA

Clenchwarton Primary School

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