

CLENCHWARTON
Your Village News
APRIL 2026



The purple crocuses were given to us by Mr John Hardy, president of the Trinity Rotary Club. They are planted every year to raise awareness of Polio. These are in the churchyard near the small Willow Tree.



The ladies who prepared and served the Free Hot Soup Lunch to twenty-seven people in February. From L - R: Carol, Jan, Debra, Annette, and Jane. If you haven't tried us yet why not join us on Monday 20th April between 12 noon - 2pm

Would you like a speaker for your group?

The Magpie Centre are pleased to share that one of their dedicated volunteers, **Caroline**, is available to give talks to local groups. Caroline shares the history of Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) and The Magpie Centre, the difference our work makes in the community, and how people can get involved. If your club, society or parish group is looking for an engaging and informative speaker, please do get in touch.

For more information or to book please contact:

- The Magpie Centre, West Norfolk
- Website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk
- Phone: 01553 810202

Title page main photo credit: ALICE JOHNSON 1st place in under 11s category in our 2025 photo competition. **See page 5 for details**

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 14th APRIL for the
MAY 2026 edition**

CLENCHWARTON
Your Village News

From the editors:

We are determined to make this magazine an inclusive voice for our entire community.

We welcome all contributions, however modest, on the understanding that we will not publish any offensive material, and may have to edit articles for reasons of space.

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors.

GS; DM; AJT; JT

Welcome to the April edition
of YOUR VILLAGE NEWS

Well - for a while it looked as if spring was here. What wonderful warm weather we had in the middle of March. It is so lovely to see the beautiful daffodils everywhere and the trees and hedgerows 'greening up'. However as I write this the cold winds and rain are back. Easter is almost upon us. This is the most important time in the church calendar when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as he enters Heaven to be with his Father. You can read more about the meaning of Easter on pages 14 and 15. **HAPPY EASTER.**

Parish Magazine Subscription

We are pleased to announce that, despite a significant increase in printing costs, the annual subscription has once again been held at £4 (less than 34p a month!!). Many people pay £5 or more for which we are very grateful.

The subscription is now due and there are many ways you can pay. You can pay the monies to whoever delivers your magazine, or you can drop the money into one of the following addresses:

16 Black Horse Road, 18 Margareta Close, or the Church at the time of the Coffee Morning on Thursday. If you are putting the money through a letterbox please remember to put name and address on the envelope so we know who has paid and where to deliver to.

Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer: Clenchwarton Parochial Church Council, Barclays Bank, sort code 20-46-65, account number 80271632. For the Bank transfer please use ref: your surname and first line of your address so we can identify you.

For those of you who also advertise with us, the renewal is now due - see page 5 for details.

Thank you for your continued support of the magazine. We hope you consider it is YOUR magazine.



**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.

We look forward to seeing you.

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FRONT PAGE PHOTO

Last year we held our second photo competition and once again were amazed at the quality of all the photos. We had three categories and last year some of the photos were showcased in this magazine, some on the front page. I held Alice's photo until this year because of the subject matter. We are so lucky to have beautiful bluebells at this time of year and it seemed appropriate to show Alice's photo this month. Alice entered the under 11s category and this is what the judges said about the photo:

"THE FLOWER IS IN FOCUS;THE CHURCH YARD BEHIND SLIGHTLY BLURRED, GIVING CONTEXT TO THE OVERALL PICTURE. VERY INTERESTING SUBJECT. WELL DONE"
Stew Flint and Sue Mussell, Judges.

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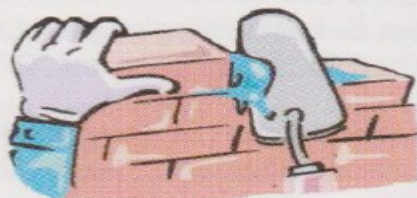
Dates for 2026 Events

- Spring Market Saturday 7th March (in Church)
 - 10am – 3:30pm
- Bingo Thursday 19th March (WSP Parish Hall)
 - 6:30pm for 7:30pm start
- Quiz Saturday 9th May (WSP Parish Hall)
 - 6:30pm for 7:30pm start
- Quiz Saturday 12th September (WSP Parish Hall)
 - 6:30pm for 7:30pm start
- Harvest Supper Saturday 26th September (WSP Parish Hall)
 - 6pm for 6:30pm start
- Christmas Market Saturday 28th November (in Church)
 - 10am – 3:30pm

Full details will be on Facebook and our website nearer each date

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“Build with Confidence, Call Build Right”

From The Methodist Chapel

QUIZ: Friday 3rd April - 7.00pm Methodist Chapel Hall, Main Road, Clenchwarton. Just come along and teams will be formed, or bring a team with you. Come and have fun and try to answer the fiendishly difficult questions (though not all the questions are difficult!). Refreshments are provided. There is no cost but donations are gratefully accepted.

TALK: This will be on Saturday 18th April starting at 2.30pm at the Methodist Chapel. The subject this month is the Boleyn family. Forget the film - we will give you the facts with emphasis on their Norfolk roots.

TABLE TOP SALE: May 9th Table Top Sale, open to anyone wishing to sell items, along with plants. Saturday 10am to 2pm, £5 per table. Refreshments available. **Please ring Elspeth on 01553 775698 to book at table.**

Advance notice of a weekend of Celebrating our village along with our Harvest Festival service, weekend of September 19th and 20th. We are planning to invite all village clubs and groups, the shop, school, preschool etc and anyone using our premises to take part in displaying their activities, or Harvest themed display, in our hall with refreshments. More information nearer the time.

A polite request from St Margaret's Church about our Memorial garden

It is lovely that so many of the memorial stones in our Memorial Garden are tended regularly. In order to keep it looking well cared for it is important that fresh flowers are removed when they are dead; that all artificial flowers are changed regularly as they fade, discolour, and in some cases start to come apart; and that only small funeral flowers are left as there is simply not room for large displays. Also, please do not spread memorial flowers etc on to the grass surrounding the stones, as it makes it very difficult for our volunteer to mow this area.

St Margaret's Church Services in APRIL



- WED 1st** 7pm Stations of the Cross – led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- THURS 2nd** 7pm Maundy Thursday service, followed by an hours Watch – led by Andy Taylor
- FRI 3rd** 11am – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT WALPOLE ST PETER CHURCH
- SAT 4th** 8pm Service of Light – led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sun 5th** **EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion Service, led by Andy Taylor**
- Sun 12th** Morning prayer with Hymns, led by a Churchwarden
- Sun 19th** Holy Communion Service, led by Revd. Barbara Burton, followed by our Annual Church Meetings.
- Sun 26th** Morning prayer with Hymns, led by a Churchwarden

All services at 10am unless otherwise stated.

ALL VERY WELCOME at all our services, whatever your age.

Methodist Chapel Services in April



Sunday April 5th Easter Sunday Preacher Mary Cumbers

Sunday April 12th Worship Team

Sunday April 19th Rev Ncube

Sunday April 26th Rev Goddard Holy Communion

You are welcome to attend any of the services. Easter is the key time in the Christian Calendar and is a good time to visit your local chapel or church. What is Christianity all about? Find out and you will receive refreshments and can chat to any of our congregation

All our services start at 10.30am

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From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Revd. Jackie Goddard

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



Happy Easter.

We can think that Easter is only one day, but it's not. The Easter Season lasts for fifty days, from Easter Sunday (5th April) until the Feast of Pentecost (on 24th May). Fifty days! It is the time when Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead and all that means for our understanding of death, and life, and faith. How might you continue to celebrate once the Easter eggs have disappeared and life moves towards Summer?

One of the most famous Bible verses comes from John's Gospel chapter 3 verse 16:

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.

God loves this world. It is not a sentimental, romantic, or nostalgic love. It is powerful, passionate, and transforming. God loves every part of this world and every person. When human beings focus on destruction and chaos, on differences and division, on greed and selfishness, God's love offers comfort, healing, restoring communities, and establishing peace. God's love is the model for our actions. It challenges us to see other people through a lens of love, not scorn, or hate, or indifference. It asks us to look at ways in which we are not loving, and to deal with things that are wrong. It never gives up.

How can we celebrate Easter in the 50 days to Pentecost? By choosing acts of love, by being an encourager and by Spring cleaning our lives to get rid of negativity or unloving attitudes. We can read the Jesus story and seeing where God takes you.

I pray you find joy celebrating this Easter season.

Every blessing
Revd Jackie Goddard

PASTORAL LETTER

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



The weather may not be perfect but Spring is on the way and the sunshine definitely feels warmer, and all around us plants and trees are showing new life. There is a book in the Bible called the Song of Songs, and it contains a poem about how falling in love feels like spring after a hard winter. This is a translation:

My beloved spoke and said to me;
“Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me.
See! The winter is past, the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth, the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves is heard in our land.
The fig trees form its early fruit;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me”.

We celebrate Christmas in the depths of winter, reminding us that Christ comes into the dark and cold of this broken world. But we celebrate Easter as Spring arrives, reminding us that, through Christ's death and resurrection, God is making all things new. Experiencing the love of God is supposed to feel like the first day of spring after a hard winter. If you're looking to encounter some of that, come and join us in our Easter celebrations – we would love to see you.



Walking Group

Saturday 11th April 9.30am

We will be once more on our travels. This time we will start from Terrington St Clement. Meet at the Chapel for a 9.30am start. To get to the chapel turn off the Main Road at Marshland Street and then turn left. Go past the Co-op and it will be on your left. There is a car park and there will be toilets and refreshments afterwards if you wish. Anyone can join us – we would love to see you.

TALK AT MARRIOTTS WAREHOUSE - TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 7.00pm

Talk by Professor Stephen Upex of the University of Cambridge on “Edmund Tyrrell Artis and the Durobrivae”. The cost is £5.

*APRIL Diary of Events in Clenchwarton
and surrounding area.*



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

- Thurs 2nd 10am -12pm **Coffee Morning** at St Margaret's Church
- Fri 3rd 7pm **Quiz** Methodist Chapel hall
- Tues 7th 10am -12pm **Coffee Morning** Methodist Chapel
- Thurs 9th 10am -12pm **Coffee Morning** at St Margaret's Church
- Sat 11th 9.30am **Walking Group** meeting at Terrington St Clement
Methodist Chapel. *See page 13*
- Sat 11th 2.30pm **TALK - JUDAISM, IT'S CUSTOMS, AND A FAMILY HISTORY.**
St Margaret's Church *see page 15*
- Thurs 16th 10am -12pm **Coffee Morning** St Margaret's Church
- Sat 18th 2.30pm **The Clenchwarton Talk** Methodist Chapel - *see page 9*
- Mon 20th 12.00am - 2.00pm. **Free Homemade Soup Lunch.**
St Margaret's Church.
- Thurs 21st 7.00pm **Talk** Marriotts Warehouse, King's Lynn - *see page 13*
- Thurs 23rd 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** St Margaret's Church
- Thurs 30th 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** St Margaret's Church

St Margaret's Church - Looking Back

On Monday 20th March we had our second Free Soup Lunch. Once again we had five different soups to choose from. With the church laid out café style it encouraged people to sit and have a chat over their soup, tea/coffee and a biscuit. If you haven't tried it yet why not come along to our next one on Monday 20th April. This will be our last one until October, when we start up again as part of the Warm Hub at church.

Continued on next page

Looking Back continued from previous page

In March we had our five year (Quinquennial) inspection when the church Parochial Council (PCC) is legally required by the Church of England to have the church inspected by an appropriately qualified person (in our case an architect who has worked with churches for most of her career). We await her report when we will undoubtedly be given a list of expensive repairs that need to be done (to add to our long wish list!).

Looking Forward

All events will be at the church unless otherwise stated.

We now have an exciting and full programme of events throughout the year; all are listed below. Please do make a note of them - you are very welcome at all our events. Tickets are now available for our two concerts.

DIARY OF EVENTS 2026

- 11th APRIL JUDAISM – A PERSONAL TALK ABOUT JUDAISM, IT’S CUSTOMS, AND THE HOLOCAUST** by Dave Cripps. **2.30pm church**
Free entry, refreshments available, donations welcome.
- 15th MAY ‘A RACE NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER’ 6.30pm for 7pm start in church.** An hilarious evening using fluffy dice, and wooden animals! Tickets £5 per person. Tea/coffee/biscuits available or bring your own refreshments.
Contact Julian 07584 048063
- 16th MAY SPRING CRAFT FAIR. 10am – 2pm in church** Refreshments Available. **Contact Debra 07565 057216**
- 20th JUNE CONCERT BY ‘SINGERS OF NOTE’. 7pm in church**
Songs from shows, opera, popular classics – somethings for everyone. Tickets now on sale. £12 each. Licensed bar and soft drinks available **Contact Jan 07725 940453**
- 25th JULY CONCERT BY ‘NELSON’S SHANTY MEN’ 6pm in church.** Tickets now on sale £10 each. Licensed bar and soft drinks available
Contact Debra 07565 057216
- 8th AUGUST STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA 2.30pm – 5pm.** In churchyard by the memorial garden. (In church if raining).
Contact Debra 07565 057216
- 3rd OCTOBER QUIZ NIGHT. 6.30pm for 7pm start in church** £5 per person. 6 people max per team. In church. Refreshments available.
Contact Jan 07725 940453
- 14th NOVEMBER WINTER CRAFT FAIR. 10am – 2pm in church.** Refreshments available. **Contact Debra 07565 057216**

VIEW FROM THE GALLERY By David Hutton

Clenchwarton Parish Council meeting Thursday 5th March

The meeting began promptly, with six councillors, clerk, Cllr Kemp and nine members of the public present. Questions from the public were dealt with quickly; the football club chair inquiring whether he could begin mowing the playing field (see later). Cllr Kemp's report included reminding us that the May 7th County elections were now taking place and the cycle path from Lynn to Clenchwarton was threatened by funding issues.

A representative from the Memorial Hall committee presented a report. Their committee is benefiting from new personnel and the relationship with the PC should be healthier moving forward as they have agreed a joint 'Statement of Intent' (which was signed later in the meeting). Residents interested in learning more regarding the future of the Hall can visit their website or attend an Open day on March 20th or the AGM on April 20th. They have also recently posted a statement on Facebook.

Moving on to village matters, the groundsman will be carrying out some 'temporary' repairs on the potholes on Hall Road. The proposed new car park is proving to be more complicated than was thought. Cllr Thornalley has met with Borough Council representatives, and the outcome means changes to the proposed location. It will now slightly impinge on some of the soccer pitches, but the football club don't foresee this as problematic. There was a brief discussion as to whether it could be built on the present basketball area, but there was little appetite for this suggestion. Cllr Thornalley was meeting with an architect the following day so more news may be forthcoming. The Dykes issue seems to be solved. With the help of the football club the PC has received three quotes, and work should begin in April costing around £600.

We then moved on to the hire agreement between the PC and the football club. An agreement has eventually been reached and the documents were signed. Christmas was then discussed.

The final discussion was about the absence of Borough Cllr Bearshaw. Some members of the PC think he should be attending this monthly meeting.

(Your Village News approached Cllr Bearshaw for comment, and his response is printed on the next page).

My reflections - by David Hutton

It's pleasing to report that the saga between the PC and football club has reached a conclusion that both parties appear happy with. The football clubs concern regarding the 'no rights' clause in the agreement was allayed because they believe it to be unenforceable. Having witnessed the January meeting, I was surprised by this sudden development (it's only taken over 700 days), but it is good news and I am sure welcomed by all residents. Hopefully some councillors will reflect on the saga. Sending emails tantamount to eviction notices, changing the Pavilion locks, requesting senior citizens wishing to use the toilets to make a phone call then wait for someone to travel from Terrington to open them, are not examples of good governance. Such action has lost the council support across much of the village, and it will be an uphill task to restore this.

The PC continues to ignore good practice concerning minutes. It took 50 days before the January minutes were published. The Co-option policy is still not on the website over 90 days since that was requested at the December PC meeting. The recent structural survey of the Pavilion has yet to find its way onto the website, despite it being agreed at the February meeting.

Cllr Bearshaw's response is as follows: -

"It's interesting that some members think I should attend when previously I was made so unwelcome. At one time I would receive an invite with an agenda attached but haven't for a considerable time. Nor to date have I received any contact from Clenchwarton Parish Council about their desire for my attendance.

I used to routinely attend Clenchwarton PC meetings where meeting clashes permitted. (I currently balance family commitments against a day job and over 110 hours a month of Borough work. So, being unwelcome made it easy to prioritise other work)

Following my requests for the PC to abide by standing orders and for transparency, the layout was rearranged to ensure I no longer had a "seat at the table".

Following that, a timer was set when I delivered my report. This is also against standing orders and would result in a highly condensed report. Interruptions

Continued on page 21

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Response from Cllr Steve Bearshaw, *continued from page 17*

from Councillors further curtailed my report to the point where it became apparent that my contribution was not welcome

As an example, as over 100 residents who were in attendance would testify, I attended the meeting when the Bowls and Football club were locked out of the facilities, and when I asked if I could clarify a legal point and give assistance, I was denied the right to speak. Understandably, this reiterated that my attendance was neither welcome nor required.

A very different approach is taken at Tilney Parish Council meetings, where my reports are well received, discussed and a regular resultant is that I leave with actions for the betterment of the village.

There is no requirement from a Borough perspective for Borough Cllrs to attend Parish Council meetings, although there is a clear benefit when the Borough Cllr is allowed to speak or provide guidance. Especially on planning matters.

I am always happy to attend PC meetings where the PC feel I can add value.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Standing orders in local government are the written, legally mandated rules that regulate a council’s internal proceedings, administrative procedures, procurement, and meeting conduct. They ensure transparency, establish proper authority, and govern how decisions are made, often incorporating statutory requirements, such as those within the Local Government Act.

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS



- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 10 Wine | 9 John |
| 8 32 | 7 The Four Gospels |
| 6 Simon Peter | 5 He was hung on the cross |
| 4 Leonardo Da Vinci | 3 John the Baptist |
| 2 Jerusalem | 1 Judas Iscariot |

Memorial Hall March 2026



We would like to thank the “YOUR VILLAGE NEWS” for this opportunity to provide an update on the Memorial Hall on a monthly basis.

- The process of the handover of the Treasurer role has now been completed and we welcome Tracy Wilson as our new treasurer, we are looking forward to working with her. She has been a great help already during this process.
- At the same time we would like to thank Kevin Puddephatt for his contribution over quite a number of years.
- We can also welcome Karl Tordoff as a new member to the Memorial Hall Committee. He has a lot of experience he can share with us having been a past Chair of the Memorial Hall as well as a Councillor and Chair of the PC.
- Our discussions with the PC have resulted in a very satisfactory outcome which will culminate in the two parties signing a ‘Statement of Intent’ outlining the roles and responsibilities of each party.
- Unfortunately the hall floor refurbishment has been postponed until Easter.
- We have had discussions with several people on how we might be able to improve the disabled toilet facility in the short term before the facilities can be totally revamped. So far we have come up with the following measures/suggestions:
 - a) remove the vanity panel and replace with a curtain, in order to give easier wheelchair access
 - b) replace the arm rest in the disabled toilet as it is rather rusty and worn
 - c) fix a lock to the main door so the entire facility can be locked in the event of a male user needing to access the disabled toilet.
 - d) we have also had one set of taps in the ladies replaced and will have the other set replaced during the Easter break.
- Our next AGM will be on April 20th, 7.00 in the Memorial Hall. Please come and join us with your opinions and suggestions and feel free to get involved. We always welcome new Members to help run the Hall!

Thank you for your time.



PUZZLE CORNER



Easter falls at the beginning of this month so all the questions relate to Easter.

- 1 Who is said to have betrayed Jesus?
a) Pontius Pilate b) John the Baptist c) Judas Iscariot d) Mary of Magdalene
- 2 Where did Jesus die?
a) Bethlehem b) Nazareth c) Jerusalem d) Glastonbury
- 3 Who was not present at the last supper?
a) John the Baptist b) Simon Peter c) Simon the Zealot d) Judas Iscariot
- 4 Who painted in the fifteenth century a famous picture of the Last Supper?
a) John Constable b) Sandro Botticelli c) Leonardo Da Vinci d) Pope Gregory
- 5 How did Jesus die?
a) He was drowned in the Dead Sea. b) He was hung on the cross c) He was shot by a Roman firing squad d) He was swallowed by a whale.
- 6 Who 'denied' Jesus?
a) Simon Peter b) Mary his mother c) Matthew the Tax Collector d) All of the above.
- 7 Where can you read about the Easter Story?
a) The Book of Genesis b) The Four Gospels c) Revelations d) War and Peace
- 8 Approximately how old was Jesus when he died?
a) 32 b) 52 c) 72 d) 92
- 9 Who, according to one of the writers of the New Testament was the favourite Disciple of Jesus?
a) Paul b) Simon Peter c) John d) Timothy
- 10 What did Jesus drink at the Last Supper?
a) Wine b) Tea c) Orange Squash d) Coffee

Good luck!

Answers on page 21

NATURE WATCH by Paul Evans

Most years, around the time of my poppy appeal collection in Warrens Lane and Clapper Lane, I have witnessed the arrival on migration of large flocks of redwings. This in itself is a treat because they have a tendency to travel/migrate at night. Some twenty-five years ago, my attention was first drawn skyward by the gregarious chattering sound, described as high-pitched, drawn-out, and a slightly buzzing "tseep" or "srri". At that time I struggled to decide what they were. Fortune smiled on me that day in that I had just knocked on a door, and as luck would have it, it was answered by a wonderful gentleman who, since childhood, had worked on farms all over Norfolk. He noted my interest and instantly identified them for me. How I wish I had recorded that 15-minute conversation!

Recognised to be the UK's smallest thrush, the redwing is around 21cm in length with a wingspan of up to 35cm. It has a creamy-white chest covered in dark brown streaks/smudges, a very distinctive red/orange underwing and a creamy-white stripe above its eye. It is not to be confused with the fieldfare, which is often seen feeding with groups of redwings. The fieldfare differs in appearance in that it lacks the redwing's eye stripe and has a yellow-orange chest.

These birds are nomadic and will move around the countryside in search of fruit-laden trees, bushes and shrubs. Redwings feed on worms and berries, particularly hawthorn and rowan. When food is scarce, particularly during periods of snow or deep frost, they will venture into gardens and orchards in search of food such as windfall apples which are another favourite. Redwings were the first bird species which were found to be able to detect fruit using ultraviolet vision. This is because the waxy coatings of berries reflect UV light, making them more appealing to birds. Should you wish to observe them they can be seen in large numbers feasting on the hawthorn berries in the hedges either side of Bailey Lane. You will also find Fieldfares in the same lane often in mixed flocks of fieldfares and redwings. They can be a frustrating bird to watch as they remain constantly alert to danger and frustratingly move away from observers/walkers and into the surrounding fields. Take a decent pair of binoculars and remain patient. Any wait will prove well worth it as they move back in to feed around you.

Redwings migrate from Iceland, the Faroes and Scandinavia to the UK. They spend the winter here, usually from October to April. Only a very small number of redwings breed in the UK, most of which are restricted to the north of Scotland. They meticulously build a cup-shaped nest out of grass, moss, twigs and

Continued on page 34

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



Tea with a Pony Returns This May at The Magpie Centre

We're delighted to announce that our much-loved Tea with a Pony sessions are returning for the 2026 season! Sessions begin on 6th May and will run through until the beginning of October at The Magpie Centre in West Norfolk.

Tea with a Pony offers a relaxed, welcoming opportunity to meet our wonderful ponies up close, enjoy refreshments, and learn more about the work of Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) and The Magpie Centre. These sessions are designed to be inclusive, friendly and accessible, creating meaningful experiences for people of all ages.

The sessions are particularly popular with:

- Local community groups
- Dementia support groups
- Care homes
- Schools and children's groups
- Social clubs and wellbeing groups

Spending time with ponies can be incredibly therapeutic. For some visitors, it brings back fond memories of horses from years gone by. For others, it's a rare opportunity to enjoy animal interaction in a calm and supportive setting. The combination of gentle pony interaction and tea and cake makes for a truly special outing.

Each session offers the chance to:

- Meet our ponies
- Learn about their personalities and daily routines
- Discover the impact of RDA sessions at The Magpie Centre
- Enjoy tea, cake and good company

(see photo on page 35)

If you're part of a local organisation and would like to arrange a group visit, we'd love to hear from you. Full details can be found on our website.

The Magpie Centre, West Norfolk
Website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk
Phone: 01553 810202

Memories by Debra McGowan - Part 10

The bus canteen was huge and served food all day because of the different shifts that we worked. Some of the buses started out from the garage at 5.00am and the last bus back in was about midnight. We also ran a night bus to take the last few drivers home and to pick the early drivers up in the morning.

Back in those days the majority of people smoked, in fact sometimes when the canteen was really busy, you couldn't see from one end of the canteen to the other because of the smoke. In the morning when you reported for work you would take your cash tray out and fit it in the cab of the bus. The money in the cash tray was your responsibility, if your contents from the bus fares was short at the end of the day you had to make it up. By the same token if your takings were over then the extra money was yours. The company would turn a blind eye if you made what was known as your 'tea money'. This was money made from not giving someone a ticket for their journey, in fact some regular passengers knowing this would say 'keep the ticket'. However, if you started fiddling big time it would cost you your job!

We also got paid in cash; at the end of the week we would collect our wages. However the fact that the money in the tray was ours until it was paid in did cause one big headache for the company. The gambling! A lot of the drivers would play poker during their breaks and on occasion these games would involve a lot of money. We also had a game machine in the canteen with a jackpot of £100 which was almost a weeks wages: the average wage was about £154.50. A few of the drivers used to get so involved in either the card game or the fruit machine that they would use the money from their bus taking and then at the end of their shift they would not have the money to pay in. So when they collected their wages at the end of the week, the company would have deducted the money they owed from their wages.

You had to be 21 years old to be a bus driver at that time and we had a lot of good looking male bus drivers between the ages of 21 and 40 years old. Unlike London Transport, none of our buses had a screen between the driver and the passengers. This was due to the fact that we rarely had trouble on our buses and the drivers didn't want them. What this did mean was that you would often see the male drivers driving the bus with a lady up front keeping them company. In fact I remember when I was at school one of the drivers that we often saw was a dead ringer for Alvin Stardust and he was very popular with us all.

(To be continued)



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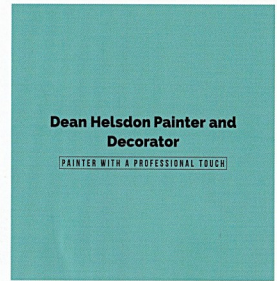
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MY POST ROUND EXPERIENCE 1967 - 1987 CLENCHWARTON POST OFFICE Part 2 by Thomas Eggett

Every month Tesco and Sky magazines arrived. A typical morning mail would include a variety of football coupons, Readers Digest, holiday brochures, personal letters, airmail letters, shopping catalogues, and holiday postcards. Every three months the phone, electric and water bills arrived. Election times were like Christmas, with cards and propaganda leaflets. Then there were the leaflets/flyers. No postie will ever get rich delivering them! The good news deliveries: the monthly Premium Bond winners, birthday cards, and anniversaries etc. Every few years Yellow Pages delivered for 2p!

It was always a nice tonic to get "Good morning Tom/Thomas". You just felt appreciated. Much better than "you left my gate open" - which was probably the paper boy / girl! Or "keep off the lawn - stop using it as a short cut" - as if I would. I did respect the postmen who cycled all the way round the Marsh, returning via Hall Road in all weathers.

At Christmas we always had a poorly wrapped parcel arrive, and I can smell

Continued on next page

MY POST ROUND EXPERIENCE continued from previous page

the alcohol now. Was it brandy? During the Christmas period each delivery was allowed one Christmas casual to help. The permanent staff would sort and prepare the mail; the casual would deliver.

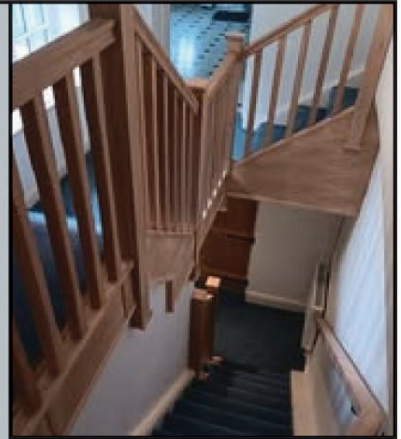
In 1977, I believe Sylvia Archer the Auxiliary post lady retired on health grounds. I applied and transferred to her round. It meant double hours and pay and a full, if dull, grey uniform. In the summer we had a light grey uniform. One lady, on seeing me in this thought I look liked a soldier from the German Africa Corp. As I had been a postie for seven years I soon settled into the new round. At the time I transferred I didn't foresee that in a years time my father would retire and the post office would be transferred to me. The implication being I had to get the round completed, ready to open the PO at 9.00am. At least it kept me fit. (To this day I still find myself walking briskly into town.)

It was also about this time that Harold Smith was informed his bicycle was being withdrawn and replaced with a moped. He was delighted. No more pedalling the bicycle around the marshes in high winds delivering the mail. How he kept his Royal Mail cap on I will never know! With the arrival of the moped I did get up to some pranks as Harold was such a gentle, patient, placid gentleman, who took it all in his stride! Hiding a brick under his bundle of letters in his pouch and on his return he would ask "What idiot put a brick in the bottom of my pouch, which I found whilst delivering around the marsh?"

I always considered the second delivery a waste of time and money - paying the postie to deliver a handful of letters. This was eventually phased out.

Whilst the majority of dogs were kept under control and were friendly, there were occasional problems: the lady who was adamant her dog only bit trouser legs not the postie's leg! The resident who insisted their dog had not bitten the postman. When I mentioned this to the postman he lifted his trouser leg to show a badly bleeding dog bite. Royal Mail wrote to the owner warning them to keep their dog under control. The postie then had to deliver the letter to the owner.

On a couple of occasions I did Harold's delivery. When I got to Station Road it looked as though it went on forever. One address I always considered a grand style manor house was Kenwick Hall, although it appeared to be a damp derelict place. I thought it was spooky with no letter box so I had to knock on the door. After a minute or so the door slowly creaked open and a very elderly lady appeared, dressed in very old fashioned clothing. "Yerrs". I handed over the letter and promptly left! *(To be concluded next month)*



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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.



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NATURE WATCH By Paul Evans *continued from page 24*

lichen. These can be found low to the ground in dense vegetation. It is this fact that makes them an easy target for predators such as the fox, stoat and weasel. Four to six eggs are laid, and after 10 - 14 days the chicks hatch. It takes approximately two weeks for the young to fledge; that said, they will still depend on their parents for a further two weeks. Due to the quick fledging time, this allows for most pairs to produce a second brood.

Due to the tiny numbers that breed in the UK (usually less than 20 pairs) the redwing is classed as a Red List species of conservation concern. It is strongly believed that climate change could ultimately cause the loss of this already small breeding population.



Tea with Pebbles at The Magpie Centre - see page 25



Harold Smith - Clenchwarton Postie in the 1970's and 1980's

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