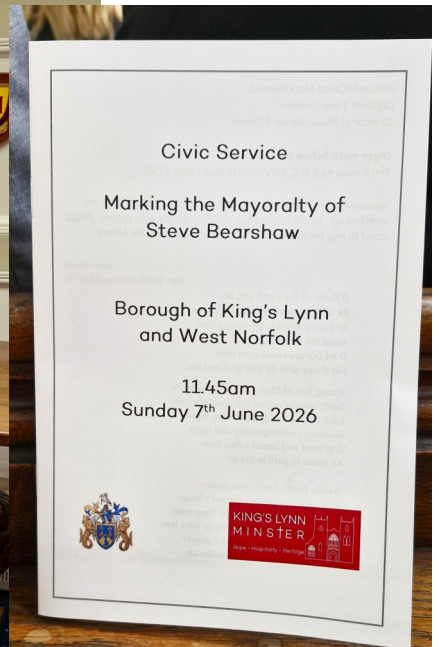


CLENCHWARTON

Your Village News

July 2026





More photos from local resident Steve Bearshaw's Mayoralty Service at Kings Lynn Minster on Sunday 7th June. More on page 9.



Maureen Wyborn and some of the delicious cakes and savouries she baked for the Church Craft Fair in May. Maureen also bakes for our Thursday Coffee mornings.



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 JULY for the
AUGUST 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 JULY edition of **YOUR VILLAGE NEWS**

Feeling very pleased as today I heard my first ever cuckoo - on the marshes near Gedney. In this edition, read about our local resident becoming Mayor, how our roads have always been in a state since time immemorial, and a whole raft of events which shouldn't leave anyone time to be bored!! Then there are all the events going in King's Lynn as well. I'm definitely going to the quizzes, and some events in the town, but one not to be missed is The Nelson's Shantymen at St Margaret's Church on 25th July. Don't miss out!!

JT

Parish Magazine Subscription

Thank you to everybody who has paid the subscription for this year. If you have not paid yet please arrange to do so shortly, by speaking to the person who delivers your magazine.

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.

COVER PAGE (and inside pages) credits:

All photos this month by Jan Taylor

Editors note - please do send in any photos you would like to see in the magazine - we would be most grateful for any contributions.



**Coffee Morning
at St Margaret's Church
Every Thursday between 10-12 noon**

Do come along for a drink and a friendly chat.
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FATHERS DAY

June 21st was Fathers Day in the UK

The modern iteration of the holiday originated in the United States. A woman named Sonora Smart Dodd from Spokane, Washington, advocated for the holiday in 1909. After listening to a Mother's Day sermon, she felt fathers deserved equal recognition. She was raised solely by her father, a Civil War veteran, after her mother passed away during childbirth.

The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910. Decades later, US President Richard Nixon signed it into law as a permanent national holiday in 1972, a tradition that was subsequently adopted by the UK.

In some countries a white rose is worn in memory of fathers who have died.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM STEVE FOX



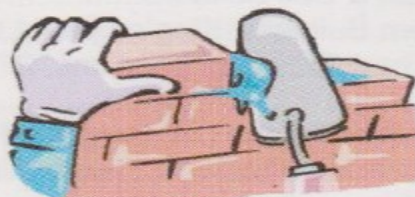
"Some notes and corrections to last month's Parish News:

At the annual parish meeting all councillors stand down and I therefore spoke as a resident (as I am doing now) expressing my concern about editorial checking of the Parish News. I did not speak as a councillor and am therefore perplexed as to why I was singled out and named when the other residents who spoke were not identified.

The planning application surrounding the new car park has NOT been refused. The locks on the pavilion were changed due to months of impasse and non-payment of fees by some parties. This unfortunate situation needed to be rectified to relieve the financial burden to the parishioners.

The mention of a poll on Facebook regarding the Parish Council lacks context. When I last looked, it was apparent that a great number of the respondents did not actually live in the village at all. In fact, I note some votes from the north of England and one response from as far away as Australia. Facebook is not a democracy."

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From CMC (Methodist Chapel)

Quiz - Friday 3rd July 7.00pm

Come to the Methodist Chapel where you will be placed in a team. There is no entrance fee. Refreshments are provided. Donations welcome.

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.

Local resident becomes Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Clenchwarton resident Steve Bearshaw recently became Mayor of our Borough, having served a full term as a Deputy Mayor. Steve works full time for the RAF but they are very supportive of their serving members who wish to serve their local community in this sort of capacity. Just as well, as Steve will be attending in excess of 260 events during this coming year. This role is one which has been in existence since 1248. Steve will be supported in his role by his wife Marisol. To read more about Steve go to www.west-norfolk.gov.uk and search current Mayor.

The photos on the front cover and inside cover page show Steve after the Civic service marking the Mayoralty at Kings Lynn Minster on Sunday 7th June, the Mace Bearers in their medieval traditional costumes, and Steve and Marisol outside the old Council Chambers, in the beautiful building opposite the Minster.

St Margaret's Church Services in JULY



- Sun 5th** Holy Communion Service - led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sun 12th** Morning Prayer, led by a Churchwarden
- Sun 19th** Holy Communion Service - led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sun 26th** Morning Prayer, led by a Churchwarden

All services followed by tea and coffee

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

Methodist Chapel Services in JULY



- Sunday 5th** Rev S Ncube
- Sunday 12th** Rev J Goddard
- Sunday 19th** J Sargent – visiting preacher
- Sunday 26th** Worship Team

All the above services begin at 10.30am and anyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are served at the end of all our services.

The Clenchwarton Talk

Saturday July 18th – 2.30pm

Methodist Chapel

The speaker is Andrew England and his talk is entitled "Sergeant Dunbabin, a King's Lynn hero".

There is no entry cost and refreshments are provided.

Donations always welcome.



Walking Group

Saturday 11th July 9.30am

The walk will start at the village school. There is no cost and anyone is welcome to join us. In our walks we also discuss the changes that have occurred over the years in our village.

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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

I'm writing this after a morning in the garden where I have been trying to get rid of the roots of creeping ivy. How deep those roots go! How far the tendrils of those roots spread! And how beautiful are the tender leaves which climb and cling to anything they can!

There are places in my garden where I don't mind the ivy and I am happy to let it do its own thing, but in this part of the garden I want to plant new things and I don't want them to compete with a thick network of ivy roots

After a morning of extremely hot and demanding work, I had a large pile of roots and runners.

As I looked at them, I decided to play a Bible word game and see how many references there are to roots. In the NRSV translation of the Bible root appears 60 times, roots 23 times, and rooted 6 times. Here are three of those references:

Job 8:16-17 The wicked thrive before the sun, and their shoots spread over the garden. Their roots twine around the stone heap; they live among the rocks.

We can see so often how wickedness in our world can tangle round people, wrapping them tightly in difficult situations.

Isaiah 11:1-3 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

This reading is often read at Christmas to describe the Messiah who brings radical justice and divine wisdom to the world.

Colossians 2:6 As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him.

Good roots – love, peace, joy, hope – produce strong growth and stronger roots. What we believe matters. It can be a challenge to make sure fear, hate, prejudice, and unkindness (among other things) don't take root in us or our lives and our communities.

I pray that your spiritual weeding and planting goes well this month, and that we will share in a harvest of blessings for all.

I am always happy to talk about faith with anyone who would like to.

Every blessing

Revd Jackie Goddard

PASTORAL LETTER

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



About twenty years ago I lived in an old house, and every year a pair of mallard ducks would rest on the high roof of the neighbour's big shed which overlooked my garden. In late spring or early summer, I would be treated to the sight of mummy duck and around a dozen ducklings wandering through my garden, heading for a large pond. It took a while before I realised how the ducks got into the garden. It was very straightforward. When the ducklings were a day old, they jumped off the roof. Just like that. They would land in the flowerbed before wandering off with mummy. On one occasion I saw the actual jump. Baby ducklings bounce quite well, and they are usually all right. But just think about it. One day old. No formed wings, just tiny arm-like appendages. And they jump out into space. Duck health and safety rules don't exist. Meanwhile, we humans become less willing to take any risks at all.

Avoiding risk feels safe, but in the long run it can limit your growth and leave you unfulfilled. Ultimately, life rewards courage, not blind caution. Think of a decision you've been putting off- could you take the first step towards making it happen? Each of us – including those who would say they were Christians – has a little box in our head filled with the things we don't want to try. The question we need to ask is – why? Is our reluctance right and prudent, or will it for ever keep us from finding a more fulfilling life? Try building up your risk muscle and see where it takes you.

QUIZ - FRIDAY 3rd JULY

METHODIST CHAPEL 7PM

Come and test your knowledge!!

You can come with your own team or come alone and be placed in a team to level the numbers. There is no entrance fee. Refreshments are provided. Donations welcome.

JUNE Diary of Events in Clenchwarton and surrounding area.

EVERY THURSDAY 10am - 12 Noon

COFFEE MORNING at St MARGARET'S CHURCH. ALL WELCOME



Save
the
Date

- Wed 1st **PUB QUIZ** 8pm start at The Victory. Book your table on 01553 605600. Please support The Victory - we don't want to lose the village pub - again!!
- Thurs 2nd **Coffee Morning** 10am -12pm at St Margaret's Church
- Fri 3rd **Quiz** 7pm Methodist Chapel hall
- Tues 7th **Coffee morning** 10am -12pm Methodist Chapel hall
- Tues 7th **Free Organ recitals** 12.30pm - 1.30pm. The Minster, Kings Lynn
Refreshments from 10.30am. Every Tuesday until September
- Thurs 9th **Coffee Morning** 10am -12pm St Margaret's Church
- Sat 11th **Walking Group** 9.30am start from Village School - see page 12
- Thurs 16th **Coffee Morning** 10am - 12pm St Margaret's Church
- Sat 18th **The Clenchwarton Talk** 2.30pm Methodist Chapel - see page 10
- Thurs 23rd **Coffee Morning** 10am - 12pm St Margaret's Church. Talk about
Assistive Technology Enabled Care at Home, from 11am - 12 noon
- Fri 24th **Summer BBQ** 6.30pm St Peter's Church, Walpole St Peter - see
page 27
- Sat 25th **NELSON'S SHANTY MEN CONCERT** 7pm St Margaret's Church -
see page 15 and page 40
- Thurs 30th **Coffee Morning** 10am - 12pm St Margaret's Church

**PLEASE DO ATTEND AS MANY OF THESE INTERESTING, AND IN MANY CASES, FUN
EVENTS AS YOU CAN. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU .**

LOOKING BACK- ST MARGARET'S CHURCH by Jan Taylor

We had a return visit from the excellent 'Singers of Note' who once again raised the roof with their wonderful singing under the baton of Musical Director Margaret Blenkin and accompanied by talented pianist Craig Torr. The audience were kept informed about each song, and amused by some jokes

continued on next page

LOOKING BACK – continued from previous page

ably told by Master of Ceremonies Andy Taylor. The Singers, who describe themselves as a group of friends who love to sing, looked extremely smart with the men in DJs and ladies in beautiful evening gowns. The songs included 'When I'm 64' by the Beatles, 'Skyfall' by Adele, 'Cabaret' from Cabaret, 'Bui Doi' from Miss Saigon, 'Oh What a Beautiful Morning' from Oklahoma! plus many others including some beautiful songs written especially for choirs. If you missed them they are at St Faiths Church in Gaywood on 12th September (7pm).

LOOKING FORWARD

DIARY OF EVENTS 2026

- 23rd JULY** **"GADGETS and GISMOS" - ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ENABLED CARE** for your home. 11am– 12noon. Free event by Norfolk County Council. This event is part of our Thurs day Coffee Morning which is open to everyone from 10am.
- 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. Sparkling wine available. In churchyard by the memorial garden. (In church if raining). Just turn up!
Contact Debra 07565 057216
- 3rd OCTOBER** **QUIZ NIGHT.** 6.30pm for 7pm start in church £5 per person. 6 people max per team. Refreshments available. Tickets available or just turn up.
Contact Jan 07725 940453
- 14th NOVEMBER** **WINTER CRAFT FAIR.** 10am – 2pm in church. Refreshments available. Stalls available.
Contact Debra 07565 057216

View from the Gallery Thursday 4th June

by David Hutton

The meeting started promptly with only 13 people in the room. During the public section a lady made some excellent points. She suggested the PC needed to carry out a Community Asset Review which dovetailed into the Borough strategy. This would provide the necessary foundation for future projects. She thought the present approach of our council was too piecemeal and this would make it difficult to get support from necessary parties in developing the village. It was agreed to make this a future agenda item. During the finance section there was some discussion regarding the recent work on the dykes – had the waste been removed (nobody seemed to know for certain) and the accuracy of the recent electricity bill for the Pavilion (it seemed too high). The IT and Privacy policies were adopted and should soon be available to read on the website.

Regarding village matters, the Bus Stops still need some minor details to be ironed out before they are installed. The public access toilets at the Pavilion have been damaged. After some discussion it was agreed to look at the CCTV. The proposed car park was discussed for 30mins. Both Sport England and the Internal Drainage Board have objections and the PC will need to make compromises to gain approval. The changes could mean the car park will have six less spaces than was proposed before the objections. Cllr Lucas believed better organisation of the parking spaces along Hall Road could compensate for this loss. Finally, two decorators linked to the football club have offered to paint the inside of the Pavilion and the PC accepted this offer.

Some councillors seem unhappy with the Parish magazine. They may respond by publishing a newsletter for residents to counter some perceived errors.

My Reflections by David Hutton

The proposed car park is a big project for a village the size of Clenchwarton. We shouldn't be too surprised that other voices get involved as the proposal goes through the planning stages. Compromises will/have to be made to ensure the car park becomes a reality. It didn't appear that our council had any alternative. Hopefully, as we move forward the path towards completion is smoother.

The offer to paint the Pavilion is generous and shows once again there are

Continued on next page

My Reflections *cont. from previous page*

folk in the village who want to make a positive contribution. Working together is the best way forward. I am reminded of the old Chinese proverb. If you want to travel fast, travel alone, If you want to travel far, travel together.

The Co-option policy is now published on the PC website. It seems a sound policy which should make co-option a straightforward business. The aim of the policy is also to show that the council endeavours to treat all applicants fairly and alike, and to ensure that the process is also seen as fair, open and transparent. Also the May 14th minutes were published soon after their approval. Both of these positive developments are welcomed.

Open Letter to Clenchwarton Parish Councillors

7 May 2026

Dear Councillors,

Over a period of time, a number of concerns and expressions of disappointment regarding the actions and conduct of the Parish Council have been brought to my attention by family members and friends. For some while, I was reluctant to place too much weight on these views, preferring to believe that there would have been sound reasons for the Council's decisions and that the position may not have been fully understood.

My concerns became more focused last summer when I learned of action being taken in relation to the village sports clubs, including restrictions on the use of the community playing field and pavilion. I found it difficult to understand how this situation had arisen.

During my twenty years serving as both a Parish and Borough Councillor for Clenchwarton, I was a member of the Village Playing Field Committee, a sub-committee of the Parish Council. It comprised councillors, representatives of user groups and volunteers, and was established following the construction of the pavilion by volunteers. Its purpose was to oversee the day-to-day management of the playing field and its associated assets. The structure of the committee helped to ensure transparency, inclusion and shared decision-making. It was also closely involved in the acquisition of the additional twelve acres of land purchased from Mr Huddleston, which extended the field behind the bungalows in Hall Road.

I was therefore surprised to learn that user groups appeared both concerned and unsettled by the actions being taken by the Parish Council, as I had

Continued on page 19



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Open letter to CW Parish Council *cont. from page 17*

understood that they formed part of the decision-making process. I was subsequently informed by the Parish Clerk that she was unaware that a Playing Field Committee had ever existed, and that the Parish Council had full control of the playing field and its assets.

Between August 2025 and February 2026, there were numerous email exchanges between the Parish Clerk and me as I sought, without success, to establish how the Parish Council came to exercise sole autonomy over the playing field. I fully appreciate that circumstances and local needs may change over time. Accordingly, I requested copies of the minutes of both the Parish Council and the Playing Field Committee so that I might properly understand what had occurred and how the committee came to be disbanded.

I was then informed that Parish Council minutes covering several years had been lost and could not be accounted for. It was therefore deeply concerning to learn, by the Parish Chair's own admission, that minutes and documents had been left unsecured and unattended in the Memorial Hall.

Upon learning this, I wrote to all councillors on 3 February, via the Parish Clerk and Chair, setting out the seriousness of the matter and drawing attention to Section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The loss of minutes and associated documents relating to the history and governance of the village represents a serious failure in record-keeping and accountability. Responsibility for this matter must, ultimately, be established.

Having allowed the Council sufficient opportunity to consider and address this issue, I now consider it necessary, as a matter of civic responsibility, to report the matter to the following bodies:

- The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
- The Borough Council Monitoring Officer, in relation to breaches of the Code of Conduct
- The Information Commissioner's Office, regarding the failure to keep personal data secure
- The External Auditor, noting that the Council formally signs off that documents are kept securely under lock and key - which they were not, as recorded in Council minutes

I regret that matters have reached this stage.

Cont. on page 22

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Open letter to CW Parish Council *cont from page 19*

I recognise that the Parish Council has faced internal difficulties in recent years, and I appreciate that the current administration is working hard to address past failings. I also recognise that this work takes time.

However, regardless of whether responsibility lies with the current Council or its predecessors, it is important that those accountable are identified.

Pending the outcome of any investigations undertaken by the relevant authorities, I do not propose to enter into further correspondence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Brandon

Honorary Alderman Paul Brandon

Response from Clenchwarton Parish Council to the letter from Paul Brandon.

10 June 2026

Dear Parishioners

The current councillors have been working over the last few years to try and get the Parish Council back to running correctly after several years of staff absences and discord between previous councillors. Processes were not being enacted democratically as they currently are.

In undertaking this process, it became clear that previous council paperwork including minutes were not being stored correctly and that minutes etc were missing. Laptops were not returned to the Current Council and if they were then they had been wiped of all data. All the current data is kept in several places and very secure, but no such processes or policy were in place until recently. The current Councillors have made enquiries where these minutes may be as sometimes these are kept in Libraries, Norfolk Records Office etc but to no avail. Mr Brandon himself advised that some were taken to the Library but the Library have confirmed that they hold no minutes or any paperwork regarding Clenchwarton Parish Council.

The Council have found a Crime Number that the Council's filing cabinets were broken into 5 years ago but no record of what, if anything, was taken.

Cont. on next page

CW PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO OPEN LETTER *Continued from previous page*

Mr Brandon advises that there were minutes of a sub-committee of the Parish Council but due to the nature of the members, this would have been a working party and minutes made by the Council were not compulsory. Working Parties should be set a target/project and should not be used as an on-going committee. The working party should report their findings to the Full Council for the Council to use to help them decide on the project.

The Council would appreciate ex Councillors checking for anything that they have which could piece the records together, and the council will not take action for Council paperwork not being surrendered as per the rules, just happy to receive anything that anyone family etc may have to help.

The Current Council have the same concerns regarding this missing paperwork but reporting the Current Councillors to these bodies will not magically make the paperwork reappear. The current Council have worked to get the accounts in order and claim back several years of VAT which had not been claimed. All data is now secure and kept to the correct standard/policy. The current Council cannot be held responsible and accountable for what happened before them.

Let's hope that paperwork can be found in lofts, attics, cellars to help the current Council fill in the lost information. I will be pleased to collect anything that has been found, please email me at Clerk@clenchwartonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Sarah Bristow

Parish Clerk/RFO

THURSDAY 23rd JULY

St Margaret's Church 11am -12 noon

Free Special Event - "Gadgets and Gismos"

Technology Enabled Care

with Norfolk County Council

See report from County Councillor Alexandra Kemp for further details

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT by Alexandra Kemp

Free Special Event "Gadgets and Gismos" with Norfolk County Council Technology Enabled Care - Thursday 23 July - Clenchwarton Church 11am-12pm

Don't miss this. By special request, Norfolk County Council's Assistive Technology Team are coming to Clenchwarton this July, to answer your questions and demonstrate the latest gadgets to help residents stay safe in their homes. Assistive Technology includes Movement Sensors, Door Sensors and Global Positioning Systems that can raise an alert to a Carer; Falls Detectors, and other Triggers and Sensors to support a person around the home. Many of these can be provided free.

The Future of Norfolk Care Homes - Motion to Council.

In a rare departure from the usual fixed order, my motion to press the new Administration to halt the timetable to sell off all 20 of the County Council's Care Homes to an American company was debated first, before the other Motions at the first full County Council Meeting on 28 May. So far so good. But, although over 50 Councillors had rallied to support it being debated (overruling the crazy rule that a similar Motion can't be debated within 6 months however important it is) the voting showed that only 24 Councillors voted in favour of the Motion itself. 52 voted against. It called on Council to undertake Condition Surveys of all Norse Care Homes, with a view to the Council itself investing in them (which should have been done all along) with a view to keeping them with Norse or bringing them in house. A large investment? Yes, but what is the cost of not doing so? The very future of Norse Care Homes in West Norfolk? Control over the level of fees? Loss of experienced staff? The financial impact on families? County borrowed nearly £900 million to invest in infrastructure. Why borrow for Norwich Roads, but not West Norfolk Care Homes? I continue to press upon the new Administration the importance of not entering into the mass sell-off.

Infrastructure for Clenchwarton - Water

The resurfacing of Main Road near the School was scheduled for late May, but has had to be put back to the first week in September, because of the proximity to burst water main repairs. After three burst water mains in week, around the May Bank Holiday heatwave, I have asked Anglian Water to raise an internal investigation and review of the infrastructure through Clenchwarton, with a view to an upgrade. (Anglian Water are laying a new connection

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

between Terrington and Clenchwarton this Summer.)

Cycling

Widening the pavement area, constructing a shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians along Main Road Clenchwarton and the Clenchwarton Road West Lynn, is exactly the project to challenge use of the car, but County Hall had not been able to find the funding. I plan to commission a feasibility study with my Member Highways Budget, to make it shovel-ready.

Ferry

A Clenchwarton resident wrote to me recently about improving the Ferry Landing Stages so disabled children can use it. The feasibility study is complete - a metal walkway would improve accessibility for cycles, buggies and people with mobility issues, but the Harbour Master cannot guarantee the safety of wheelchair users. The Borough is looking at CIL funding and asking County to match-fund the new Landing Stage. The new Landing Stage needs to be in place in the next 2-3 years.

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

ROADS by Grahame Sampson

I have been reading an account by a Mr Wilkinson written in 1899 of a brief history of our road system with his views on the changes that the Government had just announced. He was writing about Britain as a whole, but I have added in how Clenchwarton was also affected and we now have the advantage of knowing what happened next. It is striking how much the problems seen by Mr Wilkinson are still the problems witnessed by many today.

In pre - Roman times the usual mode of transport was by boat, and people

Cont. on next page

ROADS cont from previous page

lived in settlements by rivers which provided both water and food in the form of fish. Long distance travel was nearly impossible as the country for the most part was heavily wooded. We are used to believing that it was the Romans who first built us roads and they built them straight but we are probably doing an injustice to the pre Roman tribes. Most, if not all Roman roads, were based on tracks which were already in existence but the Romans simply hardened them, maybe widened some, so that they could move troops across country more quickly.

After the Romans, the roads were not maintained very well and people again relied on boats to travel distances. Both the Saxons and later the Vikings came by boat, and like previous newcomers, went down the rivers and formed settlements nearby for access to water and food. Over time, however, the land was gradually becoming deforested which allowed for new tracks to be formed. People did not rely on the roads, and it was only a disaster in 1745 which brought to the attention of the Government the danger to the state caused by the parlous condition of the roads. Before 1745 Turnpike Trusts had come into effect to help maintain the more important roads, but these were largely out of the control of central Government, and controlled instead by local signatories. In 1745 the rebellion by the Jacobite's led by Bonnie Prince Charlie brought the road system into the public eye. General Wade's failure to relieve Carlisle because of the appalling state of the highway between Carlisle and the army headquarters at Newcastle also meant that the rebels were able to get as far south as Derby unopposed. The Highlanders were unencumbered by baggage or wagon and Wade was unable to move his artillery quickly enough to keep up.

After the war the Government wasted little time to ensure this could not happen again. In 1756 General Wade was given instructions to pull down large stretches of Hadrian's Wall, in order to build a new road south of the wall, linking the cities of Newcastle and Carlisle by a straight road. This was followed by the construction of a number of roads for military and civil purposes, and led to a vast improvement, in communication particularly in Cumberland.

There were still big problems however. The pack horse and the early road maker did not make improving things easier. The Turnpike Trusts were both heavily in debt and only interested in local roads under their own management and could not see the bigger picture.

Cont. on next page

ROADS cont from previous page

It was at this time that the changes in Clenchwarton were being made that indicate the local nature of most of the changes. The main road through Clenchwarton turned down Rookery Road before swinging to the left and passing past Margareta House. The owner of Margareta House being a rich and locally important person was able to get the roads altered so a new road was built parallel to the older one and passing by the newly built gatehouse to Margareta House rather than the house itself. The length of Ferry Road was also shortened.

(To be continued)



Nature Watch by Paul Evans

The Common Chiffchaff

I was recently invited to assist on a year one school trip to Sandringham House. I have to say that the children were a credit to Clenchwarton School. Their part of the visit took us to the grounds and gardens where we sat for lunch. The birdsong in the area was quite the cacophony. At the same time the children's relaxed lunchtime chatter reminded me of the noise created by sparrows roosting in a hedge. I took advantage of the free-ish time to turn on the Merlin birdsong id App (there are other similar apps) on my phone. Amongst many others, it quickly identified the Common Chiffchaff.

The chiffchaff is a small, if not dainty, olive-brown warbler which quickly flits through trees, shrubs, and vegetation. One of the ways to identify the chiffchaff is a distinctive tail - wagging movement. Chiffchaffs usually (though not always) have dark legs and a pale eye stripe. They are easily confused with the Willow Warbler which has pale legs and a yellow eye strap. Listen to the song which gives it its name; no other warbler makes that very distinctive chiffchaffing tune. The chiffchaff feeds on insects and invertebrates. Flies, gnats, midges and caterpillars form a large part of its diet. Seeds and berries may be taken in winter. I have been given to understand that they will take insects in flight, but sadly this is an event I have yet to witness.

Almost all of the UK's chiffchaffs are summer migrants, breeding here before flying to warmer climates in the autumn months. They tend to nest close to the ground in dense vegetation. A clutch of five to six eggs will normally be laid in May or June. The chicks will hatch after around 14 days and fledge 14 days later. If favourable conditions prevail, two broods may be raised each year. Excepting the Scottish Highlands, they can be found nesting UK wide. Chiffchaffs have been known to fly all the way to sub - Saharan Africa to overwinter – an incredible feat for a bird that weighs less than a £1 coin!

Research has indicated that an increasing number of birds are now staying in the UK all year round. Up to a thousand birds are now thought to spend the entire year in the UK. As with all such things it is thought this is due to the country's warming climate, which means the birds can survive the warmer winter months. If you want to find chiffchaffs locally, load any of the bird song id apps on your phone and try it in any of the hedge lined village back lanes. It won't be many attempts before the chiffchaff is on the list of birds identified.

Continued on next page

NATURE WATCH Cont. from previous page

Should you see a chiffchaff during the winter months, do report the sighting to any of the well-known organisations such as the RSPB or the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Winter sightings will certainly help the research into the changes in numbers and the habits associated with them.



(Editor's note: Whilst out walking along our local lane next to a ditch, using our Birdsong ID app, we heard a common whitethroat, reed warbler, blue tit, chiffchaff, goldfinch, blackbird, and a wren. Lovely.)

NOTICE BOARD

Advertise your local groups in the village, for free. If you run a group in the village and would like to take advantage of this please send an email with full details including contact number/email address to Grahame at grahamesampson@btinternet.com.

Sadly no notices this month, apart from St Margaret's church. Please do encourage any groups you belong to, to put something in this magazine. This will benefit many of our newer villagers.



St Margaret's Church - 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. Thank you.

The Food bank staff and recipients are always extremely grateful.



MEMORIAL HALL JULY REPORT

CMH Management Committee

www.clenchwartonmemorialhall.org.uk



You will be pleased to hear that our thriving pre-school Giggles 'N' Squiggles has booked the hall for another full academic year. We are looking forward to a continuing partnership.

We are having a steady stream of bookings: Here & Now Yoga, and Transpawmation Puppy Training . A new addition hopefully will be Kickboxing for Adults. In addition there are several children's birthday parties and twice in quick succession the hall has been booked as a polling station.

Two other exciting bookings are WE BUY VINTAGE on 11th July, 0900-17.00 (see posters on notice boards) and CAMBRIDGE COINS on 22nd July, 0900-16.30, buying and selling gold, silver, jewellery, medals and bank notes. It would be lovely to see these two events well patronised by residents.

The Committee is getting closer to putting our application in for registration with the Charity Commission. Hopefully all the paperwork will be completed in July.

During the summer holidays the hall floor will be polished again. It just shows how well used the hall is and we would like to thank Nicola, our cleaner, for the hard work she will put in afterwards.

Unfortunately, 2 grant applications have been refused to us. One by the Parish Council for £250 to help with the costs of improvements in the ladies' toilets, and the other by Lovewell Blake Fund at Norfolk Community Foundation for a PA system and projector for the hall. The PC's reasons were given as already having had a grant last year and not having sought match funding before applying. The Lovewell Blake Fund asked lots and lots of clarifying questions but in the end the stumbling block was that we are not registered with the Charity Commission.

We tried our best and will continue to do so. However, if there is somebody out there who could help us with grant applications, please get in touch at contactcmh5523@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you

Thank you for patronising the hall. If you have any ideas or something you would like to see or do in the hall, please get in touch.



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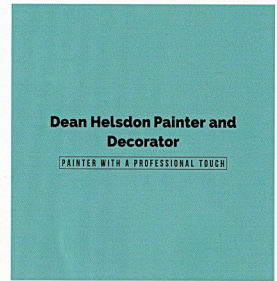
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PUZZLE CORNER

All the answers are surnames of famous authors.

- 1 Asked the way to Amarillo.
- 2 On board the Victory with Nelson.
- 3 Makes exceedingly good cakes allegedly.
- 4 In King's Lynn links the Southgates Roundabout with Gaywood with the help of Vancouver.
- 5 Sounds like a make of car in the past which were made with sense and produced with pride.
- 6 Sounds like it could be a French automobile. Just what you need to get home from the cold.
- 7 He won the Olympic sprint race once, probably not with the help of a time machine.



Good Luck! The answers are on page 38

WHAT'S ON IN KINGS LYNN IN JULY

Music in the **BANDSTAND** in The Walks every Sunday from 7 June to 13 September 2026 2pm - 4pm. 14 weeks of live music in the Walks.

King's Lynn Food Festival (July 25 - 26): Head down to the Tuesday Market Place for a massive weekend featuring over 30 regional food stalls, street food, and drink vendors.

Festival Too (July 3–4 & July 10 - 11): Catch the final weekends of this massive, free-admission live music festival held in the Tuesday Market Place, hosting well-known headline artists.

Folk in the Town (July 18 - 19): Enjoy two days of free live music performances, spanning traditional folk, bluegrass, Americana, and folk-rock. A kid-friendly weekend right in the Tuesday Market Place.

King's Lynn Festival (12th - 25th July)

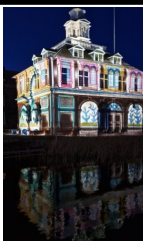
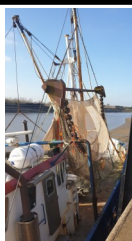
For details see www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

Merchants Market (25 July) 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Tuesday Market Place.

Browse a fantastic selection of local makers, producers & crafters who each hand-make their products. From craft beer to jewellery, sweet & savoury bakes, honey & preserves, dog treats and hand knitted items, to name a small selection.

You can also check out what else is going on in the next few months by looking at the Borough Council website—www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/165/events

Lots to look forward to in August and September !!





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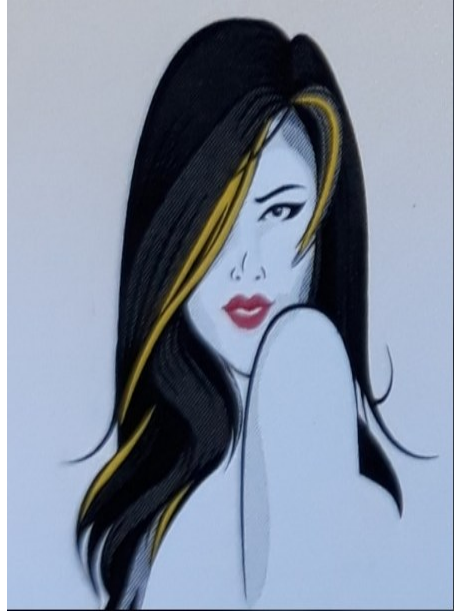
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Rectory Drive 10.40-10.50

St Annes Crescent 10.55-11.10

Linford Estate (1) 11.15-11.30

Hall Road opp. no 28 11.35-11.50

Black Horse Road 13.00-13.20

Wildfields Close 13.25-13.45

36 Station Road 13.50-14.10

St Peters Road (1) West Lynn 14.25-14.45

St Peters Close/Cedar Way 14.50-15.10

19 Ferry Road West Lynn 15.15-15.35

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 CORNER - answers



Puzzle Page Answers

1 Christie (Agatha)

2 Hardy (Thomas)

3 Kipling (Rudyard)

4 Tennyson (Alfred, Lord)

5 Austen (Jane)

6 Le Carre (John)

7 Wells (HG)



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