

CLENCHWARTON

Your Village News

MAY 2026





**SPRING
CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY
16th MAY**

10am - 2pm

**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD**

CLENCHWARTON

REFRESHMENTS

FREE ENTRY

CONTACT DEBRA McGOWAN 01553 773467

TO BOOK A TABLE (£5)



Cover page: We have travelled further afield for our cover photos this month. The Custom House, The Purfleet, Kings Lynn. Beautifully lit in the evening recently: Jan Taylor; An early Rhododendron at Sandringham: Martin Moore.

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 MAY for the
JUNE 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 MAY edition of YOUR VILLAGE NEWS

Spring is well and truly here with trees blossoming, tulips and blue bells flowering, and potatoes and other vegetables starting to grow. At the church we are looking forward to all the social events planned for the year, starting with our hilarious Race Night on the 15th May, very closely followed by our Craft Fair on the 16th with 17 craft stalls. We hope to have a sunny day so we can spill out into the churchyard for our refreshments! Please do join us at all the events listed on page 15. See you there!

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.

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.

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 Margaretta 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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A PLEA FROM DEBRA

We need help to look after the church flower beds and the memorial stones.
This work has always been done by volunteers. You can do whatever you
choose to do, whenever it is convenient for you, **BUT** please contact me first
(07565 057216) as there are certain rules we have to follow.

THANK YOU

Puzzle Corner Answers



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8 Baldwin 9 Douglas-Home 10 May

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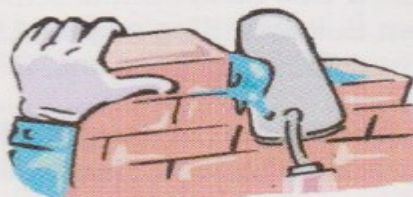
A BLAST FROM THE PAST

April 2004: Grants totalling £1,250 from the Safer West Norfolk Steering Group and the Marshland Activities Group, helped provide new equipment for Clenchwarton's teen Drop-In centre.



Pictured at the centre are, front, Tony Bush and Sharon Backham; back from left, the Rev Andrew Davey, Nigel Hunn, Ady Chaplin and Paul Brandon

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"Build with Confidence, Call Build Right"

From The Methodist Chapel

Quiz: Friday 1st May 7.00pm. Takes place at the Chapel on the Main Road. Come with a team or come on your own and you will soon be in a team. There is no cost of entry. Refreshments are provided and donations are welcome.

COFFEE MORNING: Tuesday 5th May - 10.00am -12.00am

TABLE TOP SALE: May 9th 2pm - 5pm. There will be a whole range of items on sale including plants. Refreshments will also be available. Come along. You might find just what you have been looking for.

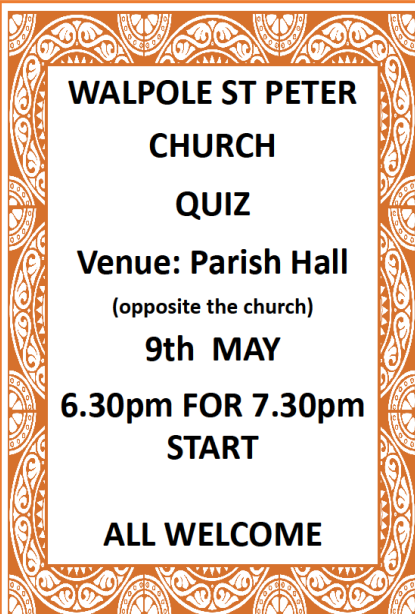
There may still be tables available so if you want to book a table please contact Elspeth on 01553 775698. The cost is £5 a table.

TALK: Saturday 16th May starting at 2.30pm. The subject this month is the scenic banks of the River Wear.

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.



**WALPOLE ST PETER
CHURCH
QUIZ**

Venue: Parish Hall
(opposite the church)

9th MAY

**6.30pm FOR 7.30pm
START**

ALL WELCOME

St Margaret's Church Services in MAY



Sun 3rd	Holy Communion Service - led by Revd. Barbara Burton
Sun 10th	Morning Prayer, led by a Churchwarden
Sun 17th	Holy Communion Service - led by Revd. Barbara Burton
Sun 24th	Morning Prayer, led by a Churchwarden
Sun 31st	Joint service at St Peters Church, Walpole St Peter NO SERVICE AT ST MARGARET'S

All services at 10am unless otherwise stated, and all are followed by tea and coffee

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

Methodist Chapel Services in May



Sunday May 3rd	Judith Semmens – local preacher
Sunday May 10th	Cafe Service
Sunday May 17th	Revd. Jackie Goddard – Holy Communion
Sunday May 24th	Lesley Best- visiting preacher
Sunday May 31st	Revd. Jackie Goddard

All the above services begin at 10.30am and anyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are served at the end of all our services except for the cafe service when refreshments are drunk during the service.

The Clenchwarton Talk

Saturday May 16th 2.30pm Clenchwarton Methodist Chapel.

The talk is entitled “A Journey up the River Wear” and the speaker is David Hutton. There is no entry fee and refreshments are provided. You may be so interested that you plan a visit to the north east of England where an industrial past meets with what is often scenic beauty.

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From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Rev. Jackie Goddard
j.goddard@methodist.org.uk
(07881 952098)

Clenchwarton & Terrington St Clement
Methodist Churches



On the same day last month, two very different messages came out of the USA. The first, from President Trump who threatened to “bring (Iran) back to the Stone Age where they belong.” The second, from Commander Reid Wiseman, as Artemis II received the Go to launch to the Moon. “We go

for all humanity.”

There is a chasm between these two visions of the future of our world. Someone said that the difference between a missile and a space rocket is the window that allows you to see what you are doing. Between destruction and exploration, we find world builders and nation destroyers, visionaries and violent dissenters, cheerleaders and critics. We find those who question truth and those who manipulate it. There are open and closed hearts and minds across the globe. Thus it has always been because this is our human nature. We are capable of both great good and appalling evil. Each of us makes a choice – to build or destroy, to love or fear. We make our choice in small and large actions, every day.

As the Easter season continues through most of this month, the Christian Church holds a mirror to the world. Jesus, the man, shows us how to love our neighbour, reach out to enemies, care for the weakest and most vulnerable, and to set aside our pursuit of things which only build ourselves up for those things which benefit everyone. As the Son of God, Jesus invites us to push at the edges of what we have learnt so far and discover wonder and mystery. There is so much more to know.

On May 24th, the Christian calendar moves to the wonderful celebration of Pentecost, and then (until we get to Advent again) we are in what the church calls Ordinary Time. It is ordinary to love. It is ordinary to work for peace. It is ordinary look to bring to joy and comfort to others. It is ordinary to choose exploration over destruction. May you be blessed in choosing God’s extraordinary ordinariness this month.

Every blessing
Rev. Jackie Goddard

PASTORAL LETTER

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



How do you like birthdays? Do you try to forget when yours is, or do you make a big splash every year? Do you like presents, or would you rather have experiences? This month Christians celebrate the birthday of the church. It happens at Pentecost, which is celebrated fifty days after Easter, so this year Pentecost is on 24th May. We remember the story in the book of Acts in the Bible, when the Holy Spirit was given to the followers of Jesus, which gave them confidence and courage to go and tell the world that they had found something wonderful.

Birthdays can be a time for re-evaluating, for looking back and planning ahead. Whether you are a part of the church or not, it's good to take stock and work out where next to go. To look back at the times when we have not taken care of ourselves or others; when we have not been that nice, or thoughtful; when we have allowed ourselves to become lazy and self-serving. But to look also at the things we have done well, the talents we have used well, the times when things worked out. Perhaps the beginning of summer is a good time in the year to take stock of ourselves - the better weather, the abundance of nature around us and longer days somehow make us feel that new things are possible. So, if you decide to begin a new healthier eating regime, or to take up a pastime that will enrich you, or take some exercise, or if you think it's time to repair a relationship or to take yourself in hand in other ways, I wish you every success. And if May is your birthday month too, I wish you a very Happy Birthday!

Walking Group

Saturday 9th May 9.30am



Are you new to the village?

For May we will be returning to our home village. The walk will start at 9.30am from the village school on Saturday May 9th. For anyone new to the village or would like to know more about the history this is an opportunity to learn more. We do as much talking as we do walking and we hope it will be informative and entertaining. There is no cost.

Anyone can join us – we would love to see you.

MAY Diary of Events in Clenchwarton and surrounding area.



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

- Fri 1st **Quiz 7pm** Methodist Chapel hall
- Tues 5th **Free Organ recitals** 12.30 - 1.30pm. The Minster , Kings Lynn
Refreshments from 10.30. Every Tuesday from now until
September
- Thurs 7th **Coffee Morning** 10am -12pm at St Margaret's Church
- Sat 9th **Walking Group** 9.30am start from Village School - *see page 13*
- Sat 9th **Table Top Sale** 2pm - 5pm Methodist Chapel Hall
- Sat 9th **Quiz** 6.30 for 7.30pm start Walpole St Peter Parish Hall in aid of
Walpole St Peter Church
- Thurs 14th **Coffee Morning** 10am -12pm St Margaret's Church
- 15th May **'A RACE NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER'** 6.30pm for 7pm start.
St Margaret's Church
- Sat 16th **Craft Fair** 10am - 2pm St Margaret's Church. 17 stalls!
- Sat 16th **The Clenchwarton Talk** 2.30pm Methodist Chapel - *see page 10*
- Thurs 21st **10am - 12pm Coffee Morning** St Margaret's Church
- Thurs 28th **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. THERE IS SOMETHING ON ONCE OR TWICE, AND IN SOME
CASES THREE TIMES A WEEK. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR EVENT OR GROUP PUBLICISED HERE PLEASE SEND
DETAILS TO GRAHAME SAMPSON grahamesampson@btinternet.com**

LOOKING BACK- ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

March was a quiet month for social events. However we were very busy with services during Holy week (the week before Easter) - some of which we shared with our friends at Walpole St Peter church, with whom we share our Rector, Rev'd Barbara Burton.

Continued on next page

Looking Back continued from previous page

We held our last Free Soup Lunch this last until **October 15th from 12 - 2pm**. In the past three months we have served approximately 51 people, with 10 different types of homemade vegetable soup with bread rolls, and we have catered for lactose and gluten intolerance. Not bad when we have no running water or cooking facilities in the church! We have been blessed to have a small team of willing volunteers always ready to sit and chat with our customers if we are not too busy.

Looking Forward

All events will be in 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

- 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**

Memories by Debra McGowan Part 11

Back in the 1980's during the school holidays the bus company supplied two double-decker buses to the Borough Council. This was for the WASP scheme (Watford Activity Summer Play).

Tony Lerpiniere and I would drive the two buses around the town throughout the summer holidays, stopping at various activity centres, such as the leisure centre and swimming baths. The kids would jump on and off the bus wherever they liked, and we had two helpers with us on the bus to make sure the kids knew where they were going. However, we would terminate our route at the Holywell Community Centre at Tolpits Lane. Here we could have a short break and grab a coffee if we wished.

A lot of the kids would stay on the bus to travel to the centre with us, for two reasons! One was the bridge at Tolpits Lane! The bridge was small but with a large hump and Tony and I would both drive over it as fast as we dared, with the kids and helpers hanging on for dear life. The bus would literally take off into the air and crash to the ground and the kids loved it. Another thing that we would do was when we turned the bus around in the car park at the Community Centre we would turn the bus in a tight circle and go round about three or four times. An old double-decker bus could tilt sideways about 28 degrees without toppling over, so although from the outside it might have looked a bit frightening, it was as safe as can be. Although on one particular morning when I had finally stopped spinning the bus around, there were two police officers standing by their police car looking at me. One of the officers came over and asked me what I was doing and I very innocently, told him that I was turning the bus around ready for our next trip. The kids and the helpers were all trying not to laugh and he was left speechless. I was just glad that they hadn't seen me earlier flying across the bridge at Tolpits Lane, because I would have been in trouble. As usual we made it through the summer with both buses in one piece.

The highlight of the WASP bus was the end of summer flour fight, which took place in the Community Centre car park. There were two rules, No eggs! Flour only! The helpers would search the kids every time they got on the bus to make sure that they had no eggs. If we found any they were confiscated, the second rule was the no flour was to be thrown on or at the bus. Once the fight started it was a free for all, with two buses full of kids being let loose in the car park. Once the flour fight had finally finished there was so

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

much flour everywhere you would have thought it had been snowing.

Another thing that I was involved in was the yearly coach charity trip. My friend Penny had joined the buses a few years after me, and we were chosen to take two coaches on the Green Line day out. All of the London County bus garages would supply a couple of coaches to take disabled children and their families to Thorpe Park for a day out, which was always arranged for Cup Final Day. I think this was because there was little traffic on the road due to everyone watching the football. Penny and I would decorate the coaches the night before with the help of the bus engineers and drivers blowing up the balloons for us. Then the next morning we would drive to the service station to meet up with the other coaches and join the convoy, along with police escorts heading to the park. There would be about fifty coaches along with other smaller buses from different charity organisations. The weather was always brilliant, which was why, to my husband's horror, I picked Cup Final Day to be married on!

I met my husband Ian on the buses and we were married at All Saints Church, King's Langley. We had our reception at the local school. It was a big wedding with my best friend Sarah as my maid of honour, and I had five young bridesmaids. There were a hundred guests, invited to both the wedding and sit down meal. My dad's friend Noel was a chef, and he did a fantastic spread, and a friend of ours, Tony and his daughter Jane, ran the bar. We had bought a bottle of spirit and of wine once a week for a year and Dad got the beer from a local brewery just before the wedding. We even had a 'Master of Ceremonies' to ensure everything ran smoothly! Ian's brother Gary was his best man and for a wedding present he took us back to Hong Kong (where he was living at the time), and he also arranged a trip to Thailand for us to complete our honeymoon.

To be continued

Editor's Note

I used to live about 4 miles from Debra and Ian when they lived in Kings Langley, although we didn't meet until we moved to Clenchwarton. My children never went on the WASP scheme so were not treated to Debra's bus driving antics. I am sure they will be cross about that when they read this months instalment of Debra's Memories! JT





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View from the Gallery: Thursday 16th April by David Hutton

Parishioners might be surprised that the meeting took place on the 16th April, not the first Thursday of the month as would be the norm. At the March meeting the Council chair did read out that the next meeting would take place on April 9th. However, the council later decided to cancel that meeting, but neglected to inform the people of the Parish of their decision. Unsurprisingly, the Hall was sparsely populated when I arrived.

During the public questions I did raise this cancellation and received a poor explanation and heard no apology. I also raised the issue of co-option onto the council. The September 2025 minutes state that 4 residents had applied to join the council. Over 200 days later PC informed me that only one person has been co-opted onto the council (Mr Foster) and one turned down. I did enquire regarding the other applications – no progress made. Finally, I asked why the co-option policy wasn't on the website (I had raised this in December 2025). The clerk repeated what she said in December – she would put it on. A lady from the Memorial Hall (MH) also raised concerns regarding the recently approved grant policy, in particular the £250 ceiling that the PC has placed upon grants.

During the County Councillor section I learnt that the fly tipping at the Terrington end of the village is an Environmental Agency issue. The feedback from MH representatives stated that their Open Day was poorly attended. However, small but significant improvements are taking place within the building.

The Finance section was unusually interesting especially the discussion between the PC chair and the MH representatives. Apparently the MH committee needed £1000 to improve the flooring. The PC provided a grant of £1000 but the MHC also received £250 of funding from Cllr Bearshaw's funding stream. The PC chair queried whether the MHC should be returning some monies. However, the MHC had already seen this as an issue and contacted Cllr Bearshaw, who advised the MHC that they could use the £250 from his funding on improving other aspects of the Hall. The PC Chair asked to see receipts etc. The MHC is also after more monies (£250) to improve the toilets.

Continued on page 27

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Obituary

Harold Smith

At the age of 97 Harold Smith has sadly died. He made a huge impression on so many people as was shown by the large number who attended the funeral service at Mintlyn, and the even larger number who attended the more personal service at Clenchwarton Chapel.

Harold was the village postman for many years. He was a key member of the Chapel and had been a local preacher for most of his life. He gave us his memories in the parish magazine which started with his birth at Leiston in Suffolk where he was the eldest of many children. He spent time in the RAF where he first went to Norfolk serving at RAF Marham.

It was as a preacher whilst serving at Marham that he went to Clenchwarton and was smitten by the young organist Barbara Lane. They eventually married and had two children – Roger and Rosalind. Harold became a postman and eventually came to Clenchwarton to replace as postman William Lane, Barbara's father.

The reason that Harold had so many people at his funeral despite his age which usually reduces the number of attendees was two fold. Firstly, he cared about the community and was active in so many groups but secondly, and crucially, he was so liked and respected.

This respect is shown by the many quotes given by some of his friends at the service at the chapel. “ For me he was the rock of our chapel. Unassuming but with a quiet sense of humour”;

“ My lasting memory is of a perfect gentleman. He was always there to listen and to give advice when asked. He was kind and gentle and I don't think he had a nasty bone in his body”; “Harold was the nicest person you could hope to meet. He never had a bad word about anybody. He was more than one important member of the chapel. For many years he seemed to be the chapel.”

Many others spoke of things he was part of and his love of amateur dramatics. He was a key member of the village entertainment group for many years, always taking delight in every role and he was still entertaining in his 90's at Goodwins Hall. He loved drawing and painting, was a member of an arts club and there must be plenty of Clenchwarton people with one of his watercolours.

Harold, you will be badly missed by so many.

HAROLDS LAMENT 17 November 1988

Created by the late John Bush (relief for holidays and sickness)

For many a year I've risen at five
And got in my little red van
I drove to the office to sort all the mail
And worked just as fast as I can
But if I ever needed a signature
They never get up in the morning.

I had letters and packets and large parcels too
Littlewoods pools, Truprint, Sun Bingo
To fall with a PLOP through the door
But if I've a recorded delivery
They never get up in the morning.

The things I've put up with throughout the years
Above all from Postmaster Tom
And letters and parcels so badly addressed
There's no telling who they're to or from
And if I've a Special Delivery letter
They never get up in the morning.

There are some people that don't understand
When I have a parcel to take
All they can say when I knock on the door
Is "No Noise, please, the baby will wake "
But if I've got a Data Post parcel
They never get up in the morning.

When I have a parcel to leave at a house
Be it summer or winter or spring
I can knock on the door till I'm blue in the face
Or give the loud doorbell a ring
But you can be sure if there's a big dog
He'll always be up in the morning.

But now that's all finished and I have retired
No house hold deliveries to sort
No more of Tom's tricks nor bad- tempered dogs
And now that these are things of the past
"I" won't get up in the morning.

The above was read out at Harold's retirement party by Tom Eggett.

MEMORIAL HALL MONTHLY REPORT



Clenchwarton Memorial Hall held an Open Day recently. Unfortunately we had very little response which was very disappointing as we would like the public to become a lot more involved in their Memorial Hall.

The Management Committee would love to hear from you all. What do you want to happen in the Hall? Ideas for activities are always welcome. Unless we hear from you we don't know what you want.

At the moment we are in the process of getting quotes for painting the Hall outside and also for plastic soffits, fascia boards and guttering. We then have to weigh up the costs and make a decision.

The Committee has put in for another grant from the Parish Council to help with the costs of making the disabled toilet more accessible for wheelchairs.

We have also submitted a grant application to the Norfolk Community Foundation to help with the purchase of a portable PA system and a projector for PowerPoint presentations with the view of inviting speakers. Please Clenchwarton, give us ideas and tell us if you know of somebody who would give a talk.

We have received a very good audit report which will be posted on our website shortly together with end of year accounts.

Thank you for reading this.

CMH Management Committee

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TABLES. By David Hutton

The government has now published the school performance tables for 2025. These tables are essential for parents looking to assess school performance prior to making a decision regarding their child's education. These tables usually contain progress measures, which assess how much a child has improved over time from a specific starting point. Many prefer these progress measures claiming they reflect the work of the school rather than the talents of the

Continued on next

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students within the school. This year several progress measures are absent from the tables. For example there is no Progress score for Secondary schools in 2025 because the pupils sitting the GCSEs in 2025 had their national curriculum assessments (SATs) cancelled in 2020 (their starting point). Anyone interested can still find some relevant data on the government website.

www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk

If you access the site, choose 'Local Authority', write Norfolk then click on 'Compare results in a table' and you will get the results in an easier format to understand.

The one area for 2025 where there is a progress measure is the 16-18 age group. The starting point for the pupils who sat their A-Levels in 2025 is their GCSE performance in 2023. I have summarised the outcomes for the three school VI Forms students in Clenchwarton are likely to consider as the institution they wish to continue their education at.

SCHOOL	PROGRESS SCORE	PROGRESS DESCRIPTION
DOWNHAM MARKET	+0.09	Average
KING EDWARD	-0.04	Average
SPRINGWOOD	-0.06	Average

Average in this scenario doesn't sound impressive but, it isn't a negative, it simply means that students were gaining the grades expected of them. Generally they neither over nor under performed.

NOTICE BOARD

We would like to have a page where we advertise all 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

There are will shortly be quite a few new houses in the village - so why not take advantage of this to advertise your club to our new residents.

NATURE WATCH By Debra McGowan

This month from 3rd May - 9th May is Hedgehog Awareness Week.

We are very lucky. Not only do we have the RSPCA Wildlife Centre at East Winch, but we also have a number of other rescue centres in this area where we can take an injured hedgehog. In some areas where there is nowhere to either take an injured hedgehog or get advice on what to do to help hedgehogs, the BHPS (The British Hedgehog Preservation Society) is always on hand to give advice. You can also find a list of what you can do to help in the church.

The BHPS use this week to highlight the problems hedgehogs face in the UK - so they have created The Hedgehog Pledge with seven practical options to inspire everyone to act with hedgehog in mind.

Pick just one or do one every day of Hedgehog Week!

You can pledge to:

- Add more hedgehog highways!
13cm x 13cm square gaps in boundary walls and fences ensure hedgehogs can access vital habitat! Create more - but talk to your neighbours first! Once made, you can if you are able to log them at www.bighedgehogmap.org
- Create, improve or protect a wild space Log piles, leaf heaps and wild edges attract natural food and offer shelter for hedgehogs.
- Always check for hedgehogs before strimming, mowing or hedge cutting. Many hedgehogs are harmed or killed by garden machinery every year - simply check before you start can save lives.
- Go totally organic in the garden or allotment.
Pesticides and chemicals can harm wildlife and destroy the food chain. Embrace the wild instead!
- Be net savvy.
Netting can become tangled in hedgehog spines: make sure sport nets are put away and check garden netting regularly, not just for hedgehogs but other animals that can get trapped.
- Provide water for wildlife all year round!
Make it part of your routine to check, clean and refill water sources for hedgehogs in your garden or outside your workplace. Add a few pebbles so bees and butterflies can perch and safely drink too.
- Become an NHMP volunteer spotter!

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In partnership with People's Trust for Endangered Species, BHPS leads the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme, surveying hedgehogs across the UK. Help classify images taken on specialist trail cameras from the comfort of your own home! Visit www.nhmp.co.uk to become a 'spotter'!

Hedgehog are an important indicator species - they don't need a lot to survive, so if they aren't coping well, it means the habitat is deficient and that should ring alarm bells for other species, including humans.

Take the Hedgehog Pledge during Hedgehog Week and beyond - it can really make a difference. Thank You.

BHPS (British Hedgehog Preservation Society)

Website: info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk

Call: 01584 890 801

View from the Gallery continued from page 19

The PC questioned why they were the first point of call for funding and deferred their decision, until the MHC had researched whether there were other funding streams that could meet their needs.

Moving onto village matters. I will stick to the salient issues and not report the tedious discussions such as the purchase of a strimmer (Petrol or battery). Residents will be pleased to know that four new bus shelters are coming soon. The proposed car park is creeping closer, but the Internal Drainage Board has queried whether part of a dyke needs to be filled. One detects Cllr Thornalley is becoming a tad wearisome with the process. There was also a long and inconclusive discussion on whether people can play golf on the playing field. Some costings were mentioned during the meeting. Emptying of dog bins +£1000, the electricity bill for the Pavilion was high, a proposed entrance gate for the playing field with a height restriction (a response to the traveller issue) approximately £3500.

The hire agreement for the bowls club was difficult to follow as councillors didn't always state what they were unhappy about. The Bowls club chair had emailed some suggestions for the agreement (all were rejected!). An urgent meeting needed to be called!

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MY POST ROUND EXPERIENCE 1967—1987

CLENCHWARTON POST OFFICE By Thomas Eggett. Part 3

After 60 years I can still remember certain incidents. An embarrassing moment in Rookery Close: the front door had not been shut properly and as I pushed the letters through the vertical letterbox the front door opened to reveal the WC in use! I shut the door immediately! Why do architects design bungalows with the WC opposite the front door! Every Monday to Saturday at an address in Bailey Lane I was greeted with the lovely smell of a full English Breakfast cooking as I walked past the kitchen window.

In the early eighties the Moped was phased out and Harold finally got a van. He was so pleased. About the same time our uniforms were rebranded. Our dismal grey uniforms were replaced by navy blue uniforms, peak cap, jackets and warm NATO style pullovers. I was so proud to wear such a smart uniform. A decade or so later Royal Mail rebranded the uniforms to today's red jackets, replacing our proper peak caps with baseball caps.

I was not needed. We had to remind the new posties to shut certain gates. One new relief, on the first day of training, having delivered all the letters, was aghast being told 'right - now we have to deliver all the parcels'. Oh no! He'd had enough. We never saw him again. The village started with one postie, increasing over the decades to four. How many today? Four? Harold Smith retired in 1988. He had delivered the village mail for twenty three years, on the bicycle, the moped and finally the van. The position was filled by Pat Ford/Edwards. Pat retired in summer 2008.

In 1987 I decided to resign as I was struggling to get the round completed and get back to open the post office by 9am. I was doing a four hour duty in three! On occasions I was returning to the post office with just minutes to spare.

Today the number of letters has plummeted, but packets and parcels are increasing. Trolleys and vans have mainly replaced the old cycles.

Editor's note.

Thank you to Thomas for the very interesting article about the changing times of the village postie. In future editions he will reflect and write about his 30 years experience as a sub postmaster.



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You can visit our website at
<https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk>



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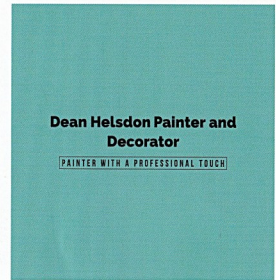
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My reflections on the May 26 Council Meeting, by David Hutton

Sound governance requires clear communication. To put out into the public domain that a meeting was to be held on April 9th then to cancel, without any effort made to inform the residents of Clenchwarton, is quite simply poor and inexcusable.

The Co-option policy was accepted by the PC in July 2023 when it was resolved to place it on their website. It isn't there now. Was it ever put on? If yes, who removed it? It is difficult to comprehend why a council 'committed to transparency' is not putting a Policy on its website four months after its absence was pointed out to them. The Co-option of residents to fill the vacancies on the PC has progressed slowly. Previously the PC had shown some urgency on the co-option issue. For example, the May 2025 minutes state 'The Clerk advised that she would like to stand outside the shop on a Saturday and just talk to people and see if anyone is interested'. This enthusiasm appears to have evaporated. I have now submitted a 'Freedom of Information' request to our PC to obtain a copy of the elusive policy.

The next meeting of the PC is scheduled for May 14th due to elections being held on the 7th.



WHO TO CONTACT IN A FLOOD

We understand how awful flooding can be and how much distress it can cause.

We work very hard to stop flooding from our sewers and we would like to make sure you know who to go to for help if you are affected.

Identify the type of flood*

Is the flooding coming from drains?

Is the flooding caused by a sewer or a Burst water mains?

Is the flooding from a blocked public drain/ flood manhole, rising up through the ground, flooding a road?

Is the flooding from a main river or the sea?

Is the flooding from a small river, Channel or ditch?

Who to contact*

Contact your local Highways services

anglianwater.co.uk/services/sewers-and-drains/flooding

Contact Anglian Water

03457 145 145

anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/report-an-issue

Contact your Lead local authority

anglianwater.co.uk/services/sewers-and-drains/flooding

Contact the Environment Agency

0345 988 1188 or 0800 80 70 60

enquiries@environmentagency.gov.uk

Contact your Lead local flood Authority of local Internal Drainage Board.

anglianwater.co.uk/services/sewers-and-drains/flooding

Find your local IDB here:

ada.org.uk/idb-map



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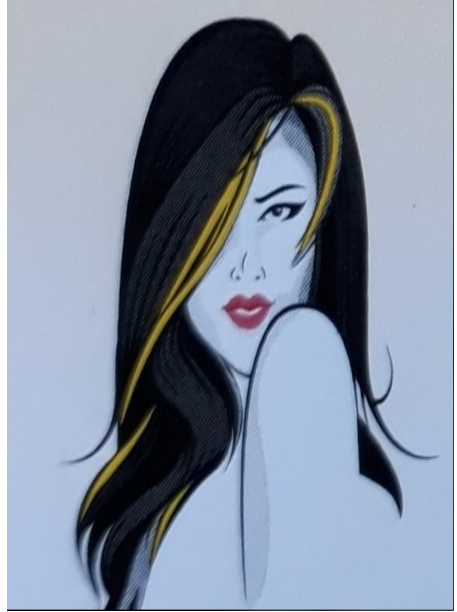
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There is no visit in April due to Bank Holidays

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Day: Friday

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Margaretta Close 10.00-10.15
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

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It's free to join! Everyone



Puzzle Corner - Prime Ministers



- 1 Where Adam and Eve found themselves.
- 2 Shakespeare's boy?
- 3 More than a mound for a religious building.
- 4 A worker on the roof.
- 5 What workers used to do at Lincolin
- 6 Andrew and Peter were cross about the highway.
- 7 A musical mackintosh
- 8 The hairless runner won the race.
- 9 The fir tree was not moving .
- 10 The fifth month

Answers on page 5



Easter Sunday at Church



Dave Cripps and some of the interesting Jewish artefacts he brought along to his talk



Above: Harold Smith R.I.P 2026



Right: Beautiful bluebells in my garden. JT



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