

# Church & Village News

Baconsthorpe • Barningham Winter • Edgefield • Hempstead  
Matlaske • Plumstead • Saxthorpe with Corpusty

October 2025

**Pond Hills, Hempstead**

Photograph by Jonathan Neville

## Newsletter Team

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## Parish Council Chairs

**Baconsthorpe** Jonathan Cooper 577527

**Edgefield** Emma Cletheroe 587049

**Hempstead** Paul Sanders 713217

**Matlaske & Barningham** Lucy Raines TBC

**Plumstead** Ruth Campion-Ridge

**Saxthorpe & Corpusty** Guy Hodgson 575277

## Parish Council Websites

**Baconsthorpe**

<https://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc>

**Edgefield**

<https://edgefield-pc.gov.uk/>

**Hempstead**

<https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc>

**Matlaske & Barningham**

<https://matlaske-pc.gov.uk/>

**Plumstead**

<https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc>

**Saxthorpe & Corpusty**

<https://corpustyandsaxthorpe-pc.gov.uk/>

## District Councillors

**Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe**

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[andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

**Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead**

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## Local MP

Steffan Aquarone MP

[Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk)

## Village Correspondents

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**Richard Peaver**

01263 587486

**Jonathan Neville**

07836 675369

**Duncan Wood**

01263 570293

**Harriet Rossi**

01263 577239

**John Birchall**

01263 584290

## Village Websites

[www.baconsthorpe.org](http://www.baconsthorpe.org)

[www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk)

[www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk](http://www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk)

[www.plumstead.org.uk](http://www.plumstead.org.uk)

## Church People

**Rector** Revd Canon David Longe 01263 577252

**Asst Priest** Revd Judy Rosser 07469 390178

**Lay Minister** Dr Jane McLarty 07791 870104

**Church Wardens**

**Baconsthorpe** Harry Steel 07711 890360

**B Winter** Amelia Courtauld 01263 577250

Rebecca Hill 07960 739593

**Edgefield** Emma Cletheroe 01263 587049

Alison Mawson 01263 587236

**Hempstead** Airlie Inglis 01263 577440

**Matlaske** Thomas Courtauld 01263 577250

Duncan Wood 01263 570293

**Plumstead** Vacant

**Sax with Corp** Lesley Last 01263 587782

Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584 221

**Safeguarding Officers**

Catherine McMahon

01263 577357 / [safeguarding@matlaske.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@matlaske.org.uk)

Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or

Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team

[safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org) or 01603 882345

## County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone

[steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk) / 01603 327827

## What's On

### OCTOBER

Wed 1	10.30am	<b>Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning</b>	Village Hall
Fri 3	10.30am	<b>Hempstead Coffee &amp; Catch-Up</b>	Village Hall
Fri 3	7.00pm	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Film Night</b> <i>Mr Burton</i>	Village Hall
Sat 4	9.30am	<b>Edgefield Churchyard Clean-up</b>	Church
Sat 4	7.00pm	<b>Edgefield Quiz</b>	Village Hall
Sun 5	12.00noon	<b>Matlaske Harvest Service &amp; Lunch</b>	St Peter's Church
Mon 6	2.00pm	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b> Autumn Crafts	Village Hall
Tues 7	12.00noon	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Lunch Club</b> (alternate Tuesdays)	Village Hall
Fri 10	12.00noon	<b>Saxthorpe Harvest Supper</b>	Millers Barn
Sat 18	10.00am	<b>Edgefield Craft Fair</b>	Church
Sat 18	2.00pm	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b> Halloween Crafts	Village Hall
Sat 18	7.00pm	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Prize Bingo</b>	Village Hall
Tues 21	12.00noon	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Lunch Club</b> (alternate Tuesdays)	Village Hall
Thur 23	12.00noon	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b> Furniture Upcycling	Village Hall
Thur 30	3.30pm	<b>Edgefield Youth Ministry Light Party</b>	Church
Fri 31	6.00pm	<b>Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub</b>	Village Hall
Fri 31	7.00pm	<b>Corpusty &amp; Saxthorpe Book Club</b> <i>Never Ending Chapter</i>	Village Hall

## Clash Diary

to add an event contact

Corinne Youngs

01263 577263

[corinne@avyoungs.com](mailto:corinne@avyoungs.com)

Nov 1	Corpusty Bonfire
Nov 8	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
Dec 5	Baconsthorpe Christmas Quiz
Dec 7	Matlaske Christmas Party
Dec 13	Edgefield Festive Evening
Dec 13	Saxthorpe Living Nativity

## Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 01263 712202

**Staffed Hours**

Tues 10am-7pm / Wed 2pm-7pm

Fri 10am-7pm / Sat 1pm-4pm

**Unstaffed Hours**

8am-7pm weekdays Sat 8am-4pm Sun 10am-2pm

accessible with Open Library Access

## Post Offices

**Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van**

Wednesdays 10.45am - 11.30am Village Hall

**Corpusty Stores** 587726

Monday-Friday 9.00am - 12.00noon

**Itteringham Shop** 587325

Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

## Banking Hub

**Holt Community Centre, Kerridge Way, NR25 6DN**

9am-5pm weekdays

Monday NatWest Thursday Santander

Tuesday TSB Friday Lloyds

Wednesday Barclays

## Mobile Library Van

**23 October / 29 November**

Matlaske 12:40 NR11 7AQ Old Post Office

Plumstead 13:00 NR11 7LG Walnut Farm

Baconsthorpe 14:30 NR25 6LJ Council Bungalows

14:50 NR25 6LE Hare & Hounds

Hempstead 15:05 NR25 6TL Telephone kiosk

Edgefield 15:45 NR24 2AL The Memorial

16:10 NR24 2AX The Street

Corpusty 16:35 NR11 7BU Great Farm Cotts

Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA> / Route No CEN 411 Tel: 01603 222303

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Church & Village News. Apologies if contributed material is not published due to space constraints. All facts are believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

**Letter from The Rector, Reverend Canon David Longe**  
01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk



Michelangelo, *The Creation of Adam*, 1512, Sistine Chapel ceiling fresco

Dear All

“No one in their right mind thinks accommodating asylum seekers in hotels is a good idea. No one in their right mind thinks we should just live with undocumented, life-threatening migration routes into the UK. And no one in their right mind thinks the experiences endured by most migrants could be a rational choice for anyone.” – Lord Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

These words ring true. Before I trained for ordination, I was a lawyer representing asylum seekers. Many were refused status. I often sat with them for hours as they shared harrowing stories - some through tears, some too traumatised to speak.

In one case, I worked with Helen Bamber (1925-2014), a remarkable psychotherapist who as a 20-year-old entered Bergen-Belsen in 1945 to care for child survivors. She dedicated her life to helping recovering from trauma. One woman we supported - let's call her X - had fled a country where religious freedom was brutally suppressed. Her father, a devout Catholic, was imprisoned and died for sharing his faith. After her mother was detained, X was lured into a brothel, trafficked and abused for years before escaping to the UK with false papers- pregnant and suicidal.

Helen helped her tell her story. Before the hearing, the judge honoured Helen's presence in court, sharing how he was the son of a refugee. Helen spoke of how she still saw the children of Belsen and then went on to say that she also saw their children and grandchildren. The place as silent as we listened. It reminded me of Deuteronomy 5:9: trauma can pass through generations.

Not every asylum seeker has suffered like X or those brought to the UK after the horrors of the holocaust, but many risk their lives to get here. We must ask: what are they fleeing? What are they afraid of? Protests outside hotels and inflammatory rhetoric, as Lord Williams says, are “absurd punishments” inflicted on vulnerable people.

X never spoke of faith, though her life was shaped by it. I regret not speaking more openly with her - maybe I feared it would be unprofessional. Helen's work was also shaped by her faith. I wonder what our conversation would have been like had we spoken about our faith, might it have reminded us that X, Helen and I, were not just, client, professional and lawyer, but fellow human beings, created in God's image?

There are no easy answers to immigration, but there are clear Judeo-Christian principles that can guide our response – principles that call us to welcome strangers and recognise that all, regardless of their status, are made in God's image.



**The Benefice of Matlaske  
Church Services for October**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Wednesday - Meditation</b>	
6.00pm	Meditation - 30 minutes long	Plumstead
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity XIX</b>	
10.30am 5.00pm	Eucharist followed by Harvest Lunch Harvest Service	Matlaske Saxthorpe
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday Service</b>	
6.00pm	Harvest Service	Bessingham
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity XX</b>	
10.30am 5.00pm	Eucharist Harvest Service	Barningham Winter Edgefield
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday - Meditation</b>	
6.00pm	Meditation - 30 minutes long	Hempstead
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity XXI</b>	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Baconsthorpe Plumstead
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last Trinity</b>	
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	<b>All Souls</b>	
8.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Eucharist Eucharist All Souls All are welcome to remember those we have lost.	Matlaske Saxthorpe Plumstead

**Mondays 10.30am - Coffee - Plumstead Church**  
**Tuesdays 10am-12noon Country Mice Toddler Group - Baconsthorpe Village Hall**  
**Wednesdays 10am - Coffee, Cake & Chat - St Andrew's Saxthorpe**  
**First Wednesday of the month Coffee Monrning 10.30am - Baconsthorpe Village Hall**

Details of all our services: [achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-271D/](http://achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-271D/)

**How you can Support the Church & Village News**

Although there is no cover charge, you can support this newsletter by making a donation. It's easy to do with a BACS transfer and would be greatly appreciated.

TSB Business Banking  
Church & Village Newsletter  
Sort Code: 30 94 34 / Account No: 00598342  
Reference: CVN Donation

**MANY THANKS!**

## Baconsthorpe



### A Midsummer Night's Dream

After weeks of simply glorious weather August 29<sup>th</sup> arrived bringing dark clouds and by 10am the rain was biblical. After several phone calls it was decided that gazebos were needed to try and protect the actors as four were expected to lay on the wet grass during the performance. Suddenly at 6pm the skies cleared and the sun broke through. By 6.30pm the village hall was heaving with people and chairs were being placed outside for the play to begin at 8pm. Eighty people watched the performance, it was an atmospheric and wonderful evening.



Hazel Martin  
07879 414577



My thanks go to the wonderful cast for giving us their time and their talent; to Jonathan Cooper for lighting the stage and providing the sound effects but most of all thanks to everyone who came to watch and support. £180 was raised in donations. Hopefully we can all gather again next year for more theatre in the garden at the village hall.

### Very Sad News

At 6pm on Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup> Lilian Lambert passed peacefully away after her long journey with dementia. Lilian had lived at Manor Lodge for 45 years but spent her final years at Halsey House. Lilian was a very kind friend to many in the village. She was much loved and will be sadly missed.

### Good News

Baconsthorpe has a new arrival! Maxim de Soissons was born on August 8<sup>th</sup> to parents Guy and Leonie. Congratulations!



### Dedication of our Tubular Bells

As previously reported, the tubular bells in St Mary's Church have recently been restored. Erected in 1892, they were taken to Dorset to be repaired by Nicholsons, the only experts in the country capable of doing this. They also constructed a new wooden frame. There are only 4 sets of tubular bells in Norfolk, and Baconsthorpe is fortunate to have one of these.



On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, we were joined by Ollie Watson, a well-known local bell ringer. Once the Rector had blessed the bells, Ollie gave a very dexterous display on the ropes as the eight bells rang out above us in the bell tower. We hope that the wind took the musical chimes to the centre

of the village! What followed were at times rather less rhythmical noises as members of the village and wider Benefice turned their hands at playing the bells. Much cake was eaten and tea drunk.

Everyone, of all ages and ability, is welcome to come and play the bells. Please do come and 'have a go' whenever you like.

Harry Steel

### Village Hall News

**Pop Up Pub** Friday 31 October - Chicken Fricassee from 6.30pm - bar opens at 6pm.

**Craft Fair** Saturday 8 November, 10am – 1pm. Come and find some unique Christmas gifts

**Christmas Quiz** Friday 5 December at 6.30pm. A full supper and quiz for £15 per head. For booking please call Emma on 07884 432414. This is always a great night so book your table early

**200 Club** £50 S Belbin, £25 R Hardingham, £10 J Warner

**Thai Evening**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
Baconsthorpe Village Hall 6.30 pm  
Spicy Pork Green Curry with Rice  
or  
Colourful Chicken Cashew Nut  
(vegetarian choices)  
£10 cash on the night.  
Please book on 07729972386

## Barningham Winter



### Trail Run Tops £25,000!

The Little Lifts trail run from Barningham Hall earlier this year raised more than £25,000 for this excellent charity which supports people going through breast cancer treatment. Every space was taken, with runners tackling 10, 20 or 30k courses through our wonderful north Norfolk countryside.

This was the third year the event has been held at the Barningham Estate, with the final amount raised topping last year's total. Thanks to all who supported this event.



Amelia Courtauld  
01263 577250

## Edgefield

### Church News

#### Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride

Thank you to all those who provided a welcome in the church and sponsored our cyclists. So far they have raised over £800, which will be split between Norfolk Churches Trust and Edgefield Church.

#### Churchyard Working Party Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Your churchyard needs you! Our beautiful churchyard is there for the whole village. We need help to care for it and to keep it well maintained. Our annual clearing is at 9.30am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and we would welcome any volunteers. Please bring strimmers, rakes, tools for weeding and bags. Refreshments will be provided.

#### Harvest Festival Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Our annual celebration of harvest is at 5pm on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The service will include well known harvest hymns, prayers read by children and a hunt for knitted harvest mice. It will be followed by our harvest supper, and all are very welcome.



Richard Peaver  
01263 587486

### Autumn Craft Fair Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October

The Craft Fair will take place between 10am-4pm in Edgefield Church. We have a wide variety of crafts on sale, a plant stall and some tasty refreshments. Please come along and enjoy seeing what talent there is locally, and maybe buy some Christmas gifts!

### October Half-Term Children's Activities

The Youth Ministry Team are planning a Light Party with crafts and activities for children at 3.30pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October; watch out for posters and flyers!

Alison Mawson

### Village Hall News

The next event for your diaries is our ever-popular Christmas evening, to be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. A Turkey supper, silly games and general fun - what's not to like?

The final draw of the 2024/25 200 Club was as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Hilary Diamond (£50), 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheryl Rutland (£30) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Karen Rodgers (£20). The annual prize of £200 was won by Alastair Baillie.

Despite notices on the bins on the Green stating "no dog mess", the bins are still crammed full of poo bags. If this persists, the bins will be removed and you will have to put the bags in your own bin!!

Jim Frost

### Edgefield Speedwatch (from the Parish Clerk)

After many years of running the Speedwatch, Jeremy has stepped down. This was run for five years and Edgefield Parish Council wishes to thank Jeremy and the rest of the team for all their hard work and dedication in collecting documented evidence of the speed of the traffic driving through our village. Edgefield Parish Council has now been asked to return the equipment to Norfolk Constabulary, but before they do, if anyone wishes to continue with the Speedwatch, please can they contact Edgefield Parish Council at clerk@edgefield-pc.gov.uk.

## Hempstead

### 200 Club - September Winners

£50 S Hawkey; £25 A Inglis; £15 M Thody; £10 J Tomlinson

Coffee & Catchup Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 10.30am - village hall - all welcome.

### Hempstead Evensong Pimms



A lovely sunny evening provided the backdrop for Pimms and nibbles following the evensong service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Over thirty villagers were thanked with drinks in the churchyard by the PCC for their help and support of the church over the last year. These included those who are regular donors, clean, arrange flowers, help with the spring clean and churchyard clearing, help with fundraising and all manner



Jonathan Neville  
07836 675369

of other support. The PCC are extremely grateful for everyone who gets involved in any way and the community spirit this engenders.

Airlie Inglis

### Hempstead Arts 2025

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year and run by Ian Summers with help from the Hempstead PCC, Hempstead Arts was a wonderful village event.



A vibrant mix of artists exhibited a wide range of pictures, pottery, glass and wood creations all of which were for sale. Most of the artists gave 15% of their sales to the event but some very generously offered to give 100%. The refreshments were outstanding and some visitors come back yearly just for the sausage rolls and cakes!

Over the whole weekend the village hall became a social hub of both village and visitors, many lingering over lunches and teas whilst browsing and buying cards and works of art. We were blessed with the weather and happily the hard work of all the volunteers paid off as the event raised an amazing £3,500 for the church.

Ian Summers, Joanne Sanders, Pat Doy, Francis and Jenny Feilden and Diane and Tony Collier deserve particular thanks as they worked tirelessly all weekend. There was also a terrific village turn out on Sunday afternoon to clear and clean the village hall which was enormously appreciated and everyone was rewarded by a drink in the setting sun at the end!

**Crafty Creations** - Look forward to seeing you all again.  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm - Autumnal Crafts  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm - Halloween Crafts  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am - 12noon - Furniture Upcycling



## Matlaske

**100 Club** £25 Corinda Carnelley, £10 John Perks, £5 Jim Shepherd

### Past Times

Cricketing an excuse for a booze-up:

*Norfolk Chronicle* - Saturday 13 September 1817

### CRICKETING

The return CRICKET MATCH between the Gentlemen of the Aylsham Club and the Gentlemen from Aldborough, Matlask, Baconsthorpe, and adjoining parishes, will be played at Aylsham on Wednesday the first day of October, when the stumps will be pitched at ten o'clock - Good Ordinaries will be provided at the different Inns in Aylsham.



Duncan Wood  
01263 570293

## Plumstead

A heron has become a frequent visitor to the wildflower meadow. We are fortunate to have this calm space in our community.

We look forward to welcoming a new churchwarden, but in the meantime a small but dedicated Parochial Church Council is holding the fort. Plans to make alterations in the church itself are still going ahead.

is there anyone in Plumstead who would be prepared to deliver the CVN to houses along Cherry Tree Road, approximately 28 copies? Unfortunately we've lost one of our deliverers.



Harriet Rossi  
01263 577239

## Saxthorpe with Corpusty



### Sizzling Time Had by All

A brilliant time was had by all who attended the summer Sizzle on the Green, with added duck race on the last day of August. Although the aim is not primarily to raise money (just for people to come together to have fun at the lowest possible cost at the end of the summer holiday) we look set to have a nice donation to share between the village hall and St Andrew's Church. This is in addition to the float to put towards the event next year.

Many thanks to the organisers, generous supporters and everyone who helped setting

up and on the day, in particular those from the parish council, parochial church council, village hall committee, friends of Corpusty school (and all their significant others). Also grateful thanks



John Birchall  
01263 584290

to Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service with fire fighters from the Reepham station who made a welcome appearance and - with help - won both rounds of the tug of war, and to GF Whites butchers in Aylsham. And of course everyone who came along.

### Lunch Club Returns



Karen Keenan, one of the lunch club band of dedicated volunteer chefs had only the dregs of the delicious trifle she had made to finish up after, all the rest was scoffed by the 29+ folk at the first lunch club back after the summer break in early September- a great turn out.

Don't forget the lunch club continues on alternate Tuesdays at the Village Hall from 12 - 2pm, and all are welcome



### Village Hall - Fundraising Made Simple

The village hall committee has just set up an Easy Fundraising account which means you can help us raise funds at no cost to you. Every time you shop at one of over 7,000 brands (including Sainsbury, Tesco, M&S, John Lewis, Amazon, Argos and many more popular brands) they will make a small donation to our village hall. Absolutely no cost to you.

All you need to do is sign-up either on your PC, laptop or phone at [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), set the donation reminder, and that's it.

### Views on New Railings

A wide range of views on the new railings at the western end of the village green were heard by the Parish Council at its September meeting. While some people wanted the railings moved to enclose just the children's play area, others strongly supported the current line. Access to the Green was also discussed and the council agreed to put up signs asking drivers not to block the gates, and if possible to re-profile the ground at the gates to help people with push-chairs.

### Resplendent Plough

Corpusty & Saxthorpe's special village sign - the plough on the green - is resplendent in a new coat of red. Thanks are due to Nick Casburn, who carried out the crucial preparation, and Guy Hodgson, who drew upon his phone-box painting skills to apply the striking new top coat. The plough now does justice to the new lettering on the plinth.



## The Village Gardener - To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



As I write this, there is a welcome nip in the air a golden glow to the light and the cosiest of all feelings (before the hard core reality of Winter kicks in...) October is here! And I could not be more pleased. So far it's a pretty spectacular Autumn, hedgerow-wise that is. We have had black thorn bushes near our home that normally produce barely any sloes that have this year been absolutely bedecked with sloes to an almost absurd degree, sloe picking is generally quite tough going and takes a determined mind set, this year it was laughable, we hardly needed to move a few feet to pick all the sloes we could possibly want to transform into Sloe Gin and still leave copious amounts for the birds. It's

been the same with the blackberry bushes down our drive, generally they produce the most mean-spirited scant berries...but not this year...abundance is all and most gratefully received!

October is such a good month to gather in and make snug, By the start of the month I hope to be all set to harvest our apples but to also cast a wistful eye at our three new apple trees Norfolk Beauty, Hanworth Coddling and Norfolk Dumpling\* that were really nibbled back by the deer we share our garden with so much so there's nothing to harvest there except the 'could do better' report on our deer defences. Happily the deer don't appear to like Quince trees (result!) and our three new trees have delightful baby quinces on them. There is also hope for our large espaliered quince trees that have had a brutal time of it with powdery mildew these last five years or so. After a concerted campaign with homemade garlic spray over numerous days in late spring, our trees do appear much happier. So fingers toes and everything crossed for next spring! I will also be gathering copious own brownie points for clearing out our greenhouse and establishing new storage for our plant pots, neither are glamorous tasks but getting the most out the garden this time of year be it pickling preserving and storing or getting the garden set for next year feels a good wholesome move. My other half reminds me too that now is a good time to plant wallflowers, I will confess to have never grown them but on hearing how beautifully scented they are I am now somewhat intrigued and Sarah Raven does have a stunning range of colours in her collection, but I also know my Mother in law (a talented and dedicated gardener in her own right) has fond memories of picking her wallflowers up from an honesty stall each year all beautifully wrapped up in newspaper. Long Live the Honesty Stall!

No question this month, but instead it's Mick's Top Tips which happily covers planting wallflowers, he reminds me that they are part of the brassica family and as such need to be planted deep to avoid either frost heave which can literally push the said plants out of the ground or excessive rocking in the wind which will just make the plants miserable as they struggle. If you can plant them in drifts rather than small clusters for a better effect then all to the good now sit back and await the joy!

Finally a reminder that the delightful Apple Day will be at Gressenhall on October 12<sup>th</sup> a day not to be missed!

Please do keep the questions coming in! Email us at [redmaple@btinternet.com](mailto:redmaple@btinternet.com) as ever the most interesting question will be published next month!

Michelle & Mick McCarter



\*best apple name ever

## History Watch - Annie Higdon



Norfolk is renowned for many famous women across generations, we had Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich in mediaeval times, Harriet Martineau and Elizabeth Fry in 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Edith Cavell and Annie Higdon some hundred years ago.

Annie is remembered for the longest strike in British history from 1914-39 and the reason for it is worth telling. Appointed as Headmistress at Wood Dalling (between Heydon and Thurning) she was unhappy with the cold insanitary conditions that the children had to endure in the school and the way the local farmers frequently keep children away to do farm work. Her approach did not go down well with the authorities and both she and her husband Tom, the assistant teacher were 'moved on' to another school at Burston near Diss. Here conditions were just as dire and in an attempt to improve things Annie found herself at loggerheads with both the farmers and the local rector. She and Tom were dismissed from their employment in 1914. Two of the reasons for the dismissal were of lighting a fire in the school without permission and refusing to curtsy to the rector's wife!



A great backlash resulted in the famous Burston School Strike. Marches with banners reading 'Justice' and 'Give us our teachers back' were organised by the children, and parents then refused to send their children to the school. Initially Annie and Tom taught on the village green and later in a shop. By 1917 a new school funded by public subscription was built. This new school remained in use until Tom's death in 1939. Annie's name lives on in the annual Annie Higdon Award promoted by the National Education Union, a fitting memorial and tribute.

Arthur Pentney

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