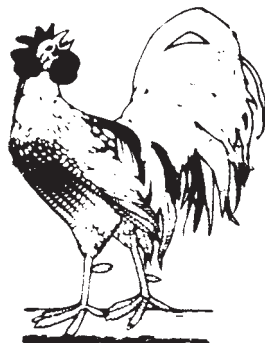


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

APRIL/MAY 2015

Issue No: 2



Gliding by: swans on the Waveney at Brockdish, Easter time

Editors' Notice Board



Can You Help the Little Ouse Headwaters Project?

The Little Ouse Headwaters project, as many readers will know, is a locally and nationally recognised conservation group which has been working for the past twelve years to improve the Little Ouse River and its valley for wildlife and for the enjoyment of the public.

The group is a self-funded charity run entirely by volunteers whose much valued input is crucial to its continuing success.

The LOHP now urgently needs a new volunteer to become Hon Treasurer.

The Treasurer would become a trustee, part of the management team and would have the opportunity to further an interest in wildlife working alongside a number of professional scientists. A full introduction to the LOHP accounting system would be given.

If you would like to know more about this opportunity to make a vital contribution to LOHP, please contact Peter Coster, Oxfootstone House, Brick Kiln Lane, South Lopham, IP22 2JS; Tel 01379 688018



Other items
the Editors think
you might like
to know about

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An Unnatural Thing

There is nothing natural about someone coming back to life when they are dead. When someone is buried in the ground, no matter how long a visitor to the grave may wait, the loved one in the grave will not return.

On the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb to pay her respects but is soon alarmed by the entrance stone having been moved. She calls her friends to come and see, and they leave disturbed at what they saw. Staying there she is suddenly aware that Jesus is there, returned to her, and is overwhelmed. But he cautions her with the words, 'Do not hold me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.' This was an odd thing to say as she was not actually holding him at the time. But maybe he could hear in her voice that she wanted him back as he had been: back to the way things were before he died. But he was not going to let that be, rather he was going on to his father and taking her with him.

Death and grief are natural things to experience, but with that stone rolled away something unnatural had begun. Easter day declared something new for the first time: God had planted a seed of life in us to tell us there is nothing we cannot do – move mountains, banish fears, love our enemies, even change the world. The only thing we cannot do is to hold on to Jesus and make him fit our past. He has asked us instead to let him hold us and take us into the very presence of God who is not behind us but ahead of us, every step of the way.

Happy Easter.

The Rector, Canon Tony Billett

TEAM MINISTRY PAGE

Rev'd Wendy's e-address is wendy.evans2009@gmail.com

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday is 29th March – a fifth Sunday – so everyone is asked to go to St Mary's, Diss for Eucharist services, at 8am or 10.30am:

Holy Monday to Wednesday: there is Compline and an address at Diss at 7.30pm each evening.

Maundy Thursday: Eucharist commemorating the Last Supper is at Diss at 7.30.

Good Friday: a three hour Meditation service is at Diss from 12 to 3pm; there is Last Hour at the Cross at North Lopham from 2 to 3pm.

Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil Service is at Diss at 8pm.

Easter Day: every parish church will have an Easter Eucharist – see service plan.

Annual Meetings

Each Parish will hold a Vestry Meeting to elect Churchwardens for the coming year. Please see local notices for details.

APCMs: Diss will have its own Annual Parochial Church Meeting. All the other parishes will join for a single meeting on Wednesday 22nd April, in St Andrew's School at North Lopham, starting at 7pm. This meeting is open to all who are interested in our churches and their activities, and will include the election of the separate PCCs for the next twelve months – only those on the individual church Electoral Rolls are eligible to vote for the PCCs.

Team Ministry Website

The address is printed under the Team logo, on the services page; do visit the website to see just what is on offer across The Team.

There is a link there to Cock Crow!

BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

Great news! We now have water on at the church. You will find a tap just inside the churchyard gate. This was paid for by a legacy from a late the late Eric Burroughes.

New signs have been made, and given, to direct visitors to the church. The north door is now open from 9.30am–6pm daily for the summer.

The Rector and PCC would like to thank Gerald Worby's daughters for very kindly allowing the donations given in memory of their father to go into the church restoration fund.

Building fabric update

In January the Parochial Church Council and our architect, Nicholas Warns, submitted an application for a £97,000 grant to replace all the rainwater goods – when it rains, water pours out of large holes in the roof gutters! Last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a new Roof Fund to help meet urgent repairs to listed buildings of worship (max. grant, £100,000). We were just one of many faith communities who scrambled to complete the forms in time. We like to think we submitted a strong application. Fingers crossed that we will be successful!

Annual Spring Cleaning

Saturday, 11th April from 10am Cleaning jobs to suit everyone! Admire the magnificent ornately carved pew ends whilst polishing the oak. Brass cleaners welcome! Cleaning can be fun. Refreshments served.

Wild flower talk

Please bring your family and join us on Saturday, 23rd May at 3pm when Stella Taylor will be giving a Wildflower Talk, followed by refreshments. Cost £3. Identify local wildflowers in the churchyard such as meadow foxtail and white campion, white bryony, black medick and early Lady's bedstraw. The churchyard is worth visiting throughout the year;

for example, the aconites and snowdrops in January and February this year have been spectacular.

Please make a note in your diary. We plan to hold a Strawberry Tea on Saturday 27th June. More details in the June edition of Cock Crow.

Friends of St John the Baptist Church; All new Friends welcome. Just £5 membership helps preserve the building for current and future community use. Please contact Linda 687729, Leo 688400 or Diana 688291 for further information.

Next Friends meeting: Thursday 11 June at The Highlands, High Road, Bressingham: 687729.

Come and join us. *Diana and Linda*

Bressingham and District Ladies Club

Our club meets on the third Monday of the month, 7.30pm for 7.45 at Bressingham Village Hall.

At our meeting on 16th March, Basil Abbot spoke about the first airborne crossing of the Atlantic.

Later in March, members and their partners celebrated the club's birthday with our annual party accompanied by an excellent buffet.

20th April is the AGM and we will be visited by a music hall legend of yesteryear – Rachel Duffield in the guise of Marie Lloyd. Once the formalities have been dealt with, perhaps the evening can be rounded off with a good old sing song.

On 18th May we will be hearing about Tracking the Wilderbeest in Tanzania.

As you can see, our programme is varied and we hope there is something for everyone. If you would like to come along, visitors are always welcome (£3 to include refreshments).

Call Sue 01379 687541 for further information.

Village Hall

We have now raised the appropriate money for the work to be done on the village hall end gable wall which was at risk of collapsing.

A well respected local builder will be starting work shortly. The work will take 7/8 weeks and should all be finished for a BIG function at the beginning of June, as long as there are no hidden problems and the weather is good.

It is the 60th anniversary this year of the barns opening as a Village Hall. The date was Saturday 5th February 1955. They held a Bazaar in the afternoon and a Quiz at night time, with the Farmers versus the Professions. We don't seem to know who the winners were but they were successful evenings and were held fairly regularly, with Whist Drives and Dancing to a radiogram.

With this Diamond event in mind it would be appropriate to hold a Fifties style Dance and we have a Band booked for Saturday 6th June. The Village hall will be decorated to look like an "Espresso" Bar and we would like people to come dressed in fifties style outfits. Final details, prices etc, will be advertised at a later date. But Save the Date. Saturday 6th June.

Quiz Night: Saturday 11th April 7.30 for 8pm £2.50 per head including nibbles. Bar opens 7.15. To book call 01379 688375 or just arrive on the night.

Pantomime: This was held in the February school half term 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' It was performed over three nights and we made a grand profit for the village hall Funds of £1,100. It was very well received by all the audiences and the cast and back stage staff worked their socks off to give three good performances.

Bressingham Flyers Petanque Club

If you would like to play petanque
(French Boules)

for fun or competitively,
join us on any

Saturday morning 10.30am
Bressingham Village Hall car park

Qualified instructors available

All enquiries please email Dave
the-orangery@tiscali.co.uk

Parish Council

Four Parish Councillors and two parishioners attended the March meeting in the Village Hall.

Highways; Mr Hewitt reported on his recent survey of the roads in the parish. Various potholes were identified but the condition of the verges was of great concern, particularly in Fersfield Street near the church. Heavy goods and agricultural vehicles are responsible for much of the damage as most of the roads are too narrow for large vehicles meeting to pass.

The danger to cyclists was of concern and Chairman Mrs DeLaSalle stressed it was important that they should wear high visibility clothing.

It was also noted that some street signs are missing and some fingerposts on footpaths have been damaged.

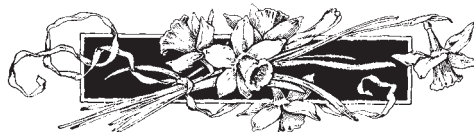
Mrs DeLaSalle said that maintenance work should be completed by the end of April.

Allotments; the ditch has been dug and the water is flowing quite well. It had been reported that there had been shooting on the allotments and signs are to be put up that it is Parish Council land.

Notice boards; Councillors agreed on the design and cost for three new ones for the parish.

Chequers pub; The owners have appealed against the decision by SNDC to list the premises as being of community value. The Chairman of Friends of Bressingham Chequers requests help to form a list of groups who used the pub to satisfy the judge it is needed as a community asset.

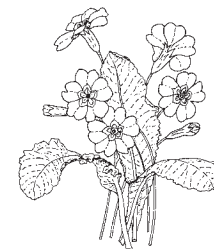
Parish Councillors; At present the Council is 3 short of the complement. It was agreed there should be a leaflet drop to all properties urging parishioners to come forward to serve. If more people come forward, there could be an election in May.



FERSFIELD NEWS

St Andrew's Church

The signs of Spring are certainly evident in St Andrew's Churchyard and the grass-cutting season is again upon us. It's always a delight to see and hear so many birds and soon the other animals will be emerging; we are so very lucky to have such a fine nature-reserve in our midst.



The water company is at last repairing the leak that has turned the road outside the gates into a water-course, even without rain. We look forward to making a dry passage to the west path. The associated traffic lights are something of a novelty in Fersfield – we shall miss them, and they do respond quickly to approaching traffic. Passing heavy vehicles often leave the village's verges in a sorry state: those between the rectory and the church should soon be restored – once the leaking pipe is repaired!

We have reached the 'waiting for the wall to dry out stage' in the rain-damaged chancel. This part of the church remains out of commission for a while longer. Services are being held in the south aisle chapel at present: it is a delightful place and so full of light on a sunny morning. If necessary, we can still use the nave for a large congregation.

Plans are well under way for our summer and autumn events – fundraising for the chancel is a major necessity (initial bills have been paid!) and we would also like to continue to support other pressing causes. (It is an irony that so many children in our world go without clean water – whilst we complain of an abundance of fresh water running past

our gate!) We are planning a later-summer concert event, but first have our Annual Plant Sale. This will take place on Saturday 9th May. Starting at 10am. In addition to first-class plants: geraniums, tomatoes, peppers, etc., there will be cakes, books (and the book-club will be open), refreshments and much more. Do be there! If you would like to make offers of help or enquiries please 'phone(01379) 687355, 687711 or 688565.

On Easter Sunday, (5 April), there will be a 9.30am. Easter Eucharist at St Andrew's, to be taken by a very much-loved celebrant: The Rev. Reg Dakin. Tea/coffee will be served after the service.

Everyone at St Andrew's wishes you all a Happy and Peaceful Easter!

Richard

A Message from Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Why not become a Parish Councillor?

Parish Councils have dealings with the District Council and County Council in trying to look after the interests of all our residents in Bressingham and Fersfield. Our Parish Council is non-political and concerns itself with roads and footpaths, planning and donations and any other relevant issues. Most major decisions are taken by the District and County Councils but the Parish Council has its say over local matters.

Being a Parish Councillor does not need to take huge amounts of your time. Whilst some councillors become very involved, there is no need to spend more than a few hours each month in order to play a worthwhile part. The role is voluntary with free training if you choose to take it.

All you need to do to stand is to get two people to nominate you using the forms that you will find and print from the link shown below:

www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/democracy/7242.asp

The nomination period is from 09.00 on 24 March 2015 until 16.00 on 9 April 2015. For further information concerning Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council, please contact:

Janet Delasalle (Chair): 01379 687973;

Leonora Pearce (Vice-Chair): 01379 688400;

Mike Mortimer (Parish Clerk): 01379 642763.

LOPHAMS NEWS

Saint Andrew's School

St Andrew's Primary School pupils have been very busy over the past few weeks.

Endeavour class has been on a school trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum where the children stepped aboard Concord! There were also lots of guns and they built their own biplane! Discovery class had a ride on a vintage bus.

We celebrated St Valentine's Day with a disco and Valentine's card competition.

Endeavour class were very excited by a great opportunity in maths when they were visited by a high school teacher who taught algebra for the afternoon.

In science, Victory and Endeavour classes have both been making parachutes to 'test the variables', their object, to design the best parachute to land an egg without damage.

If you would like further information about St Andrew's Primary, or wish to make an appointment to visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Louise Norgate Executive Headteacher at All Saints Primary, Winfarthing, St Andrew's Primary, North Lopham and Hapton Primary

St Andrew's Pre School

The children have really enjoyed the recent 'Exploring Space' theme in their 'man made' rocket, making moon rock cakes and star gazing with telescopes – and hot chocolate – in the first half of the term! Now they're busy with seasonal extras: making treats for Mothers Day, and thinking ahead to Easter.

We are thrilled to finally have our new 'Fake Grass' lawn in the garden, just in time for Spring.

Any new residents with children approaching their 2nd birthday, or a bit older, are warmly invited to get in touch to arrange a visit, with a view to joining us. We offer your child a safe way to make friends with those they may then grow up alongside, and can also help them to get to know the 'big' school too. Do note that all 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free sessions each week. Following our

'good' OFSTED rating we can now offer free funded places to eligible 2 year olds as well!

As always, just drop in, view the setting and meet our team. Please note our new contact number is 07854 091257.

PS We are running a mobile recycling initiative, so if you have an old mobile languishing in a drawer, let us take it off your hands and turn it into much needed pennies and pounds for the pre-school.

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month; 7.15pm for 7.30pm

In February, David Morton gave us a most interesting and informative talk on the history of Buckingham Palace, leading us through the changes that various monarchs have made throughout time. In March, Julian Saunders talked about all things 'chocolate'; from its history, where in the world it is grown and harvested to its commercial manufacture and the makeup of the various qualities produced with very much an emphasis on Fairtrade chocolate. Such a talk could not have finished if there weren't a few tastings to tempt us, even if it was Lent!

Looking ahead to our next meeting; April 7th will be our AGM followed by a short play-reading by some of the members. Further ahead on May 5th we have a visit to Morrisons and on June 2nd there will be a talk by Carol Kearns who is a freelance illustrator. Also in June we have our annual Jumble and Bric-a-Brac sale on Saturday June 13th.

We always welcome visitors or new members; phone 01379 687337 for further details.

Garden Club

Please note new venue and time

Meets at *Lophams' Village Hall* on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

On 5th March we held our AGM which was followed by an amusing and informative presentation by Alan Briggs entitled 'From Suburbs to Smallholding'. Alan showed us how he and his wife, Kate, went from gardening in the suburbs of London to running their own smallholding, complete with animals, in South Lopham with all their trials, tribulations as well as triumphs along the way.

Our next meeting will be on 2nd April when John Foster will give a talk on 'Early Perennials', and looking further forward, we shall visit Blacksmiths Nursery in Dickleburgh on 7th May.

Please telephone 01379 687833 for any further information.

Pat Young

Holy Bingo

In the Village Hall, usually on the first Monday each month at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. As there are five Mondays in March, and 6th April is Easter Monday, the 'April' meeting will be on 30th March. We will meet on the May Bank Holiday, however, which is the 4th. Anyone enjoying a day off school is very welcome to come! Telephone 01379 687679 for help with transport.



Lophams' Village Hall

It is good to have new regular bookings for the Spring months: Sure Start activity sessions on the second Monday in the afternoon, and training for Home Start volunteers on Thursdays each week.

The trustees are currently in discussions regarding moving the access gates to make a larger area available for car parking for those wishing to use the field when the gates are locked.

The Lottery As mentioned recently, the principal purpose is to maintain the fabric of the hall as an attractive venue for the use and benefit of local people and that the proceeds from the Village Hall Lottery are designated entirely for this. In February, we reached the elusive 100 members target, so the first prize was £200. Please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a vacancy occurs. Please ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are

three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw in December for those who have been 'in' for at least three months. The Lottery winners for January were: first prize £194, J Vere; second prizes of £48.50, S Blyth and B Thorndyke. In February the winners were: first prize £200 K & S Southwood and second prizes of £50 each T Davies and B Inglis

Farmers' Markets are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next are on 25th April and 23rd May (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

In addition to the Lottery draw, there is a monthly raffle with one superb prize, which includes an item from every stall – a wonderful array of goodies for the larder – In January, this was won by Mr & Mrs Ramm of Bressingham and in February by Mr & Mrs Leeder from Thetford. February was the 14th Birthday of the Market; a free draw for a bottle of champagne was won by Debbie Cox of North Lopham.

Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays, details from Howard on 01379 688258

Dog Training is held most Tuesday evenings, trainer Elaine (07845 776 110) will provide information.

Lopham Art Group: meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £15 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687 679. To find out more, visit the website at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk.

BRIMBO (British Motor Bike Owners) plan a Classic Bike Meet & Auto Jumble on Sunday 10th May from 10am to 4pm at Lophams' Village Hall. Pitches are £10 or £8 if pre booked. Admission is just £2. Parking is free; refreshments are available.

There will be a trophy for the Best Classic Motor Bike!

For further information, contact Rodney on 01379 688297 or Mick on 01986 788708

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council

Meeting 11/03/2015, 5 councillors, Parish Clerk, 4 members of the public attended.

Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Makovsky-Heaton will attend an information meeting at Dereham on 27th March. Decided to wait until after May 7th election before deciding whether to proceed. Villagers would have to be involved to share workload.

Would anyone who would like to help with preparing a village plan please contact the Parish Council.

Community Hub: It was confirmed that, contrary to recent press coverage, the playing field is not 'lost'. Fields in Trust have been in possession of fully updated contact details for some months. Access to the playing field is still an issue. A footpath will not be granted by the landowner in isolation, only as part of a future, larger planning application some years hence. Examples of possible uses for the field were given. A meeting with the Village Hall Committee on 23rd January and subsequent exchanges of letters were discussed. It transpired that the VHC is currently investigating repositioning the gates to improve parking without compromising the security of the field. The PC offered to install a dog excrement bin and notices when the alterations are complete.

Transparency code: New and more complex rules regulating the actions of PCs were noted.

Parish Council Website: The new website is not completed yet but material can now be posted on it.

20mph signs: £250 partnership funding has been applied for, the other £250 falls to the PC.

7th May Election: All existing councillors must stand down. All prospective councillors must submit their nomination papers, in person, by 9th April. Full details of the procedure are available from the Parish Clerk. If more than 7 nominations are received, an election will be held.

Telephone Box/defibrillator: Further funding is required to buy and install a defibrillator in the old telephone box. Grants are available to top up George and Angie Estcourt's donation, a little more still needed.

Resignation: Councillor Bird has resigned; gratitude for her service and that of her husband, Eric, was expressed.

Village Clean: 16th May; volunteers to help will be welcome. Notices will be posted.

Meeting frequency: will remain bimonthly for now.

Speeding: A reminder letter to DPD will be sent.

Events at Lopham & Redgrave Fen



Garden birds – a talk by Clare Simm of the BTO, followed by the AGM. **Tuesday 28 April, 7.30pm**. Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments). All welcome, no need to book

Messing about by the water family afternoon **Tuesday 26 May, 2pm–4pm**, £2.50 per person. Watery activities, games and crafts. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential 01379 688333

Botanical Illustration

Saturday 30 May, 10am–3pm. Join professional botanical artist, Christine Grey-Wilson, on this relaxing and supportive workshop looking at a range of illustration techniques. £25/£21.50 Booking essential 01473 890089

Regular events

Guided fen walks

Saturdays 4 April, 2 May, 10.30am–1pm. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Wildlife Watch Group

Saturdays 11 April, 9 May, 10.30am–12.30pm. A club for 6–12yr olds, £2. Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Primrose Lane: has been cleared, N Lopham's cost share is £300.

Kings Head Lane: installation of dog excrement bin (Cost £150 + VAT) deferred to next financial year.

Burial Ground hedge: needs cutting, possible work party in October.

From the Floor:

A traffic survey before the Kenninghall bio digester opens was requested. One has already been done another is planned.

Glass recycling: please remember to put your glass bottles in the bin at the King's Head, proceeds keep the precept down!

St Nicholas' Church

The Plough Sunday service, led by the Revd Chris Davidson, ended with the blessing of a plough and very modern tractor just outside the church graveyard, which proved to be the perfect position. The children thoroughly enjoyed sprinkling the implements, having sprinkled the rest of the congregation earlier, when we renewed our Baptism vows!

We are now in the season of Lent. Extra services and courses are held in Diss, but we maintain the North Lopham tradition of

Lent Lunches, mostly on Tuesdays, between 12 noon and 2pm, are held in homes around the village. All the funds raised by these informal bread, cheese and pickle events will go to the diocesan Lent Appeal to support the Suffering church in the Holy Land. The final lunch was at Southlands on 31st March.

MPW came to St Nicholas' Church on the first Sunday in Lent and featured a memorable talk by the Rector, who also sang the first verse of How Great Thou art as a solo. The team will be at South Lopham at 4pm on 29th March.

Mothering Sunday, on 15th March will be reported next time.

The Good Friday Last Hour at the Cross will be observed at 2pm in St Nicholas Church, and will be led by Richard Hewitt, from Fersfield.

Following this service, the church will be open for Easter decorating. Any gifts of flowers and foliage, or help with the arranging will be warmly

welcomed, so that the church looks its best for the Easter Day Communion service for all ages, at 11am, which will be led by Bishop David Gillett. We do hope lots of people will come along; the younger ones can share in an Easter Egg hunt afterwards! Spot the giant egg; find lots of little ones!

Annual Meetings: the Vestry Meeting on 22nd March will be reported next time. The APCM, at which there are reports on church activities and the election of PCC members, will be on Wednesday 22nd April, in St Andrew's School Hall, at 7pm. All residents are warmly invited.

Social Scene

There will be a Spring Starters and Sweets evening at the Village Hall on Saturday 25th April, starting at 7.30pm. Do come along and join us for this popular event – lots of Starters to sample, and a delicious array of Sweets too, with items for those on special diets!! Tickets are available from PCC members, or by phoning 01379 687679.

Friday Night is SNYSB Night is always a highlight of the early Summer. This year, the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band will be with us on Friday 22nd May at 7.30pm to share their repertoire of music from Stage and Screen, plus items composed specially for wind bands. Do get your tickets in good time and come along for an enjoyable evening, with a chance to meet the youngsters and see their instruments during the refreshments interval.

Can you help?

The Brass cleaning team at North Lopham which has given such wonderful service for many, many years has dwindled gradually as people have moved away, or even passed away. We would be very grateful if anyone who has a couple of hours to spare twice in one month would get in touch (01379 687679) with a view to joining the team, so that we can fill the vacant slots. Thank you!

North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends now hold an informal service and coffee morning in Church on the fourth Wednesday each month - and would welcome anyone from the villages to join them at 10.30 am. Forthcoming services are on April 22nd and May 27th.

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church

Easter Service: This year the Easter Service at St Andrew's Church is Holy Communion on Easter Day, Sunday 5th April at 9.30am all welcome.



Coffee Morning: There will be a Coffee Morning in the Church on Saturday 16th May 10am to 12 noon Cake Stall, Raffle, Tombola and bring and buy, please come along and enjoy a coffee and a scone we look forward to welcoming you.

The PCC and Church Wardens were saddened to hear of the passing of Ian Murdoch. Ian had been an active member of the village and St Andrew's Church and had served as a Church Warden. Our condolences go to Brenda and her family.

Parish Council

Meeting 5th March at Valley Farm

Attendance: six councillors, one apology and the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman opened the meeting by reading a letter from the Chairman of North Lopham Parish Council, concerning improved access to the Lophams Playing Field and the establishment of a community hub for use by both villages. The matter was discussed and it was agreed to support the idea in principle.

The Clerk gave a financial report and a statement of current balances, the meeting approved routine expenses and the parish share (with North Lopham) of trimming back overgrown sections of Primrose Lane.



This morning (14th March) at 6.30 we surprised an ostrich/rhea type bird in rape field along Common Road, Shelfanger. No, it's not April Fools Day and neither have we been on the wacky stuff! Not our normal owl/pheasant sighting!!

We only went into the field to investigate what looked like a heap of rags and when we got nearer it stood up and got taller and taller. Luckily, it had a good turn of speed and I am built for comfort, not speed. It left Bressingham-way very quickly. My human felt a right idiot phoning police to say if anyone has lost an ostrich/rhea/emu then it was in Shelfanger. You could hear them thinking – good night was it last night Madam?!!

Good news!!! Sighting was confirmed from a source at Banham Zoo as a Rhea that has been seen in the area before but has not come from them. I can't tell you how relieved we are as we began to doubt what our eyes had seen.

Well must go now folks and remember, as the days warm up, that the toads will soon be out and they have no road sense, so please don't squash them!

Neighbourhood Plan: The Chairman reported that he had attended the January meeting of North Lopham Parish Council. A speaker had outlined the different steps to be taken leading to the Neighbourhood plan forming part of the development plan for the area. It was felt that South Lopham did not have the resources to do this. An alternative would be considered, such as joining with neighbouring parishes or a parish plan.

Parish Council Election: The Clerk reminded the meeting that completed signed electoral forms must be with her as soon as possible in March.

Transparency Code for smaller authorities: The Clerk briefly outlined the effect so far as Council meetings are concerned. Compliance is required by end of March.

Planning: The Council was critical of the way Breckland Council had allowed the construction of the two new buildings in Pooley Street and were unanimously against the retrospective application for permission to enlarge. Mrs Martin explained the application to discharge a planning condition at Noddle Farm.

Highways: Flashing sign on A1066 are now working. Still no response from NCC concerning moving the village road signs at each end of the village on A1066. Some potholes repaired on Blo Norton road and fresh ones developed on Church Road have been notified. Bridge parapet at Low Common has been repaired.

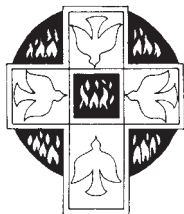
Works: Thanks to Tim Frizzell for work carried out on Primrose Lane. Litter pick to be organised soon, possibly a Sunday morning.

The next meeting and AGM will be on 14th May, 7.30pm at Valley Farm.

Friends of South Lopham Church

Family Games Evening and Supper on Friday 8th May at Lophams Village Hall, 7pm. There will be a Beetle Drive followed by supper and a family quiz. Tickets will be £7 per person, £13 per couple and £20 for a family ticket.

Any enquiries please ring Evelyn Logsdaile on 01379 687281



COCK CROW IS THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF THE WINFARTHING GROUPS OF CHURCHES AND THE UPPER WAVENEY BENEFICE

BURSTON
GISSING
SHELFANGER
TIVETSHALL
WINFARTHING

The Rector of the Winfarthing Group
The Revd David F Mills
Winfarthing Rectory
Church Lane, Winfarthing, Norfolk IP22 2EA
Tel: 01379 643646
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	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
April 3 (GF)	2.00 M			12.00 M	
April 5 (ES)	At Chapel	9.00 HC	8.00 HC	10.00 HC	11.00 HC
April 12	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
April 19	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
April 26	6.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
May 3	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
May 10	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
May 14		7.00 EP			
May 17	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
May 24	6.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
May 31					10.30 5/P HC
June 7	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

Holy Week: March 30/31/April 1, 7pm Compline HC at Shelfanger. Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm HC at Gissing
FS/Chp Family Service at Chapel | MW Morning Worship | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer | 5/P HC 5 Parish Service | VC Village Church | 4SS Fourth Sunday Service | MS Morning Service | M Meditation

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WINFARTHING CORRESPONDENT NEEDED: please
apply via Winfarthing PCC

Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

The four parishes and Roydon are now considered members of the Diss Team Ministry of all SIX parishes, led by **The Rev'd Canon Tony Billett**, Rector of Diss and also Rural Dean with Revd Wendy Evans as Team Vicar. To arrange Weddings or Baptisms, contact **Diss Parish Office 01379 643783**. For other pastoral matters requiring a priest, contact one of the churchwardens, who will put you in touch with the appropriate individual.



Date	Bressingham St John the Baptist (BCP)	Fersfield St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)	N Lopham St Nicholas (BCP &) (C/W Order 1)	S Lopham St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)
Sun 5th April Easter Sunday	9.30am Easter HC	9.30am Easter HC	9.30am Easter HC for all ages	9.30am Easter HC
Sun 12th April Easter 2	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sun 19th April Easter 3	9.30am MP	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 26th April Easter 4	10.30am with Methodists	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 3rd May Easter 5	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sun 10th May Easter 6	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sun 17th May Ascension Sunday	9.30am MS	9.30am MS	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 24th May Pentecost	10.30am with Methodists	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 31st May	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
	10.30am – HC in St Mary's Diss, for 5th Sunday			
Sunday 6th June Trinity Sunday	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service

MP Morning Prayers | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | FHC Family Communion | ES Evensong | EP Evening Prayer with hymns | H&R Service of Healing & Reconciliation | MPW Non Denominational All Age Music Praise & Worship

Morning Prayer: At present is at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday at North Lopham and on Thursday at South Lopham in addition to the service held each weekday in St Mary's, Diss at 8.30am.

Wednesday Communion: is at 10.45am in St Mary's Church Diss.

Fellowship/Country Connect Group: Meets on some Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm; contact Jennie (01379 687679) for location.

Holy Bingo: Meets on the first Monday of each month in Lophams' Village Hall at 2pm. It's a fun event, not for serious bingo enthusiasts. Do come, for happy socialising.

Churchwardens Bressingham D Burroughes 01379 688291

Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711 R Hewitt 01379 687355

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679

S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 D Huggins 01379 687201 J Brundell

Every vote matters



In 1800, Thomas Jefferson was elected President by one vote in the House of Representatives, after a tie in the Electoral College.

On the 4th March 1845, President James Polk's request for a Declaration of War against Mexico was passed by one vote.

In the General Election of 1910, in Exeter, Henry Duke (Conservative), the incumbent at the time re-gained the Exeter seat from Harold St Maur (Liberal) by one vote, on an Election Petition in 1911. The Court changed the original result, under which the Liberals won by four votes.

I found all the above information on Wikipedia, when I typed in 'by one vote'. I was hoping to find out some information regarding the rise to power of Adolf Hitler. What I did find out about Adolf Hitler was that as a corporal in WW1, he was recommended for his Iron Cross, 1st Class, by a Jewish Officer.

I firmly believe in voting during an election. It is the only 'right' (I actually believe 'duty') a citizen has over politicians. If your vote is not cast, what right do you have in complaining about any matter that Parliament enacts. If you do not like what a political Party does, you have the power to hold that party to account at the next election.

I also believe that what a political party says in their Manifesto should be what they do if and when they get into power, and not do a complete 'u' turn, when they get into power. Like saying we will abolish student tuition fees, then doing nothing about it. What can the voters do about it? Words are cheap.

For me the greatest manifesto is Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' (Matthew chs 5–6 & 7) Not only did Jesus set out His manifesto, he then daily lived it out; even accepting the Cross.

Rev David F Mills

BURSTON NEWS

Rose Ellen Whymark 1927–2015

Rosie was born in Eye on 30th November 1927, the middle child of three, later moving to Burston to be a pupil at Burston School. She lived with her mother, Agnes, in Chapel Cottages and had two brothers. The eldest, whom they called Sailor, was in the Royal Navy and younger brother John served in the Army. Rosie's first employment was with Curzons where she worked for many years on a milk round.

She met and married Ernest, the love of her life, and they moved to Back Lane; their family became complete with the arrival of Jennifer and Jacqueline.

In 1958 they moved to 11, Station Road where they spent many a happy year. The girls grew up and gave Rose and Ernie four wonderful grandchildren, Mark, Lisa, Simon and Jamie, who all in turn enjoyed time spent with their grandparents.

Sadly, Rosie developed rheumatoid arthritis at an early age and was prevented from doing the things that she loved such as gardening and decorating. She spent many weeks in either Aylsham or Mundesley, where she received pain therapy.

In 1984 Ernie suddenly died of a brain hemorrhage at the age of sixty. With her mother in Denbyholme after suffering a massive stroke she had no option but to battle on.

Rosie moved to her bungalow at 1, Audley Close and lived there for thirty years. By then she had spent many years with the onset of scoliosis and although she had to give up driving she was a very determined lady despite all her ailments, including partial blindness.

Rosie loved all sport. She and Ernie played bowls for Burston and indoor bowls at Diss. She supported Norwich City and followed them through all competitions except for a brief spell in the 1970s when her nephew, Trevor Whymark, played for Ipswich Town.

Rosie loved all her family and all they loved her. She will be very sadly missed.

Community Action Team

We are busy organising events for you to attend over the coming months.

A new craft group will be meeting for the first time on 21st April. Have you a craft that you would like to do, or like to learn, while having a cup of tea or coffee and a friendly chat?

The first meeting is from 10-12 at 'The Retreat', Diss Road, Burston, IP22 5TP. Call Elaine Norman on 01379 740106.

We have some advance dates for your diaries. Saturday 5th September: our village barbecue. 17th December, Shimpling Candlelit Carol Service.

Nigel Frankland 01379 644788

Burston St Mary's Luncheon Club

This club is for retired folk from Burston and the surrounding villages. Members meet in the Church on the fourth Thursday of every month.

Contact Sybil Peck on 01379 741410

Youth Café

Every Thursday during term time the Youth Café is in full swing. If you are aged 11–14 come and join us for games, free pizza and milkshake from 3.45–5.15 in the Church.

Church Hire

If you are interested in hiring St Mary's Church for a special event please contact Anne Hyde on 07733 182525 or Norma Ajdukiewicz on 01379 740595. Tables, chairs and tableware are available for hire. A buffet can also be provided.

Burston Chapel

Services Sunday 11am and 6.30pm

On Easter Sunday (5th April) there will be a special service including a puppet show at 11am

Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays 8pm (call 741816 for details)

Jamie's Gang (school age club): Wednesdays 5pm–6.30pm, in term time only.

To inform the village of a special event or celebration, please contact Liz McEniff on 01379 742583.

St Mary's Church

We recently had a churchyard clearance – thank you to all who came and helped – between us we managed to accomplish a lot, and the churchyard is now ready for the growing season!



The 'Friends of Burston Church' next event is our 'Spring Fling'. This will be on Saturday 25th April at 7.30 pm – tickets are £12 and the evening starts with a two-course meal followed by entertainment. There will be prizes for the best spring-themed hats! Do book your tickets soon – from either Anne Hyde (07733 182525) or Len Hobson (01379 741033).

The major fund-raising event this year is 'Open Village' on Sunday 12th July.

This is a chance to get to know your village and your neighbours better and it is always a delight to wander round enjoying the many lovely gardens. We are always very grateful to those villagers who open their garden for visitors to enjoy, and there are some very interesting attractions at different points in the village. We serve refreshments in the church.

Details of the day will be published nearer the time, but in the meantime if you are happy to open your garden or are interested in having a garage sale, then please get in touch with Norma (01379 740595) or ajduk@btinternet.com. We raise money for the church by charging a small amount for programmes which show the locations of all the gardens which are open, and by asking those who have a garage sale to pay a small charge in order to be

included in the publicity.

If you have any questions about the events outlined or about services at St Mary's, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

I wish you a very happy Easter.

Rachel Hobson (01379 7410333)

Parish Council News

Challenging ...enjoyable and rewarding!

While I have publicised the need for people to put themselves forward to become a Parish Councillor in several recent editions of this publication, the end of the current term of office in May this year and the shortfall in our existing Membership, has prompted me to make a further appeal.

For the last few months there have only been 5 councillors instead of 7, so new nominees would be very welcome. Nomination documents can be filed during the period of 24 March to 9 April, and all of the necessary information, and the documents you need to complete, can be found by visiting the South Norfolk Council website on www.south-norfolk.gov.uk and then searching for 'Parish Council Elections'. Alternatively, I would be happy to provide the forms for you.

The main purpose of the Parish Council is to represent the views of the residents in our parish. There are a number of secondary purposes which include:

- taking care of the playing field, sports facilities and play area.
- deciding on how much to raise through the council tax in order to deliver council's services.
- influencing and shaping the long term development policy for the Parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the Parish.
- improving the quality of life and the environment in the local area.
- working to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents we represent.
- working to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies.

Do you think that you could help your community by becoming a Parish Councillor? The work can be challenging but above all it can be enjoyable

...and importantly, it is rewarding. We meet 9 to 10 times a year.

If you want any more information about becoming a Councillor, and would value an informal chat then do please contact the Clerk to the Council, Ann Baker, me or any of the other Members.

...and finally!

After more years than I can remember, I have decided not to stand for re-election to Council in May this year. It's been a difficult decision to make but one which I feel sure will be good for Council.

While Council has a coordinating and leading role in 'building' a community, I am mindful of all those kind folk who support our community by doing good work directly with their neighbours and friends or via Burston Chapel, St Mary's Church, the Community Action Team, the Friends of Burston Church or as village caretaker. I have been conscious of how much our Parish is enriched by what you do and I thank you.

The Parish has also benefited from the generous and professional support from other individuals and agencies. These include Sir Rupert Mann, ForFarmers (formerly BOCM PAULS), South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council. I am grateful for this support which I am sure will continue.

It has been a privilege to have served as a Member of Council over these years and, as its Chairman, to have worked with so many great people both past and present. I am grateful to them all for their friendship, support and guidance, but above all for enabling us as a team to make a difference.

...and so, to quote The Two Ronnies, 'it's good bye from him and good bye from me!'

Len Hobson, Chairman

Burston School

Class 1 – We will be studying Percy the Park Keeper by Nick Butterworth and we will then look at stories linked to our theme 'In the dark, dark house'. Phonics will continue to take place daily and year 1 pupils will have weekly spellings. We will be continuing our work on learning cursive letter formation using a variety of medium including sand, paint, foam, rainbow writing and pencil work. In maths we will continue to work on using maths in real-life situa-

tions and developing problem solving skills. We will continue with our outdoor learning on Monday afternoons.

Class 2 – We will be looking at fantasy stories, particularly those containing dragons. In maths we will be looking at shape and angles and also looking at interpreting data in bar graphs and pictograms. Fractions, in relation to shapes and quantities will be explored and we will look at measurement of weight, length and time.



We are going to have a walk around the village to look at special buildings around us. In science we are looking at nocturnal animals and will be using the information that we gather to write about them. For our art and design we will be designing, making and evaluating a piece of clothing for a teddy bear to wear, in order to keep him safe when walking alongside the road at night. For our PE we will be visiting Tivetshall school to take part in a gymnastics lesson.

Class 3 – We will be looking at fiction and poetry. This will enable the children to work on their descriptive writing, incorporating adverbs, similes and metaphors to help them bring their writing alive. In maths we will be focusing on written methods for completing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division sums. Big Maths will continue on Friday mornings, where they have a challenge against the clock as well as themselves. Our topic this half term will be 'Earning a Living'. This will help children understand how the people in the UK and the rest of the world earn a living in a variety of ways. In RE the children will be focussing on how Muslims show they belong to their religious community through looking at Zakat, Hajj and prayer. We will be continuing our swimming lessons on a Wednesday afternoon.

GISSING NEWS

Farewell to Joan

On February 26, a packed congregation at St Mary's gathered to say farewell to Joan Fisk and to celebrate her long and very full life. The service, which affirmed Joan's Christian faith, was led by the Rector and the address was given by Pastor Sam Brinkley. Joan was at the centre of life in Gissing for many years and after she moved to Diss often returned to take part in our Service of Remembrance each November. She was a busy lady with many interests. Singing was a great love and Joan was a member of both the Waveney Choir and our five parishes choir right to the end of her very active life. I think she would have been pleased with the quality of singing as we gave thanks for her long life. During the war Joan was an ambulance driver in London. In Norfolk she was a valued and hard working member of the Royal British Legion and a familiar figure on the streets of Diss each year with her Poppy Appeal tin in hand. Joan had been a member of the congregation at Burston Chapel for the last 20 years where she arranged flowers, passing on her skills to Wendy who brought along some beautiful floral arrangements for the service at St Mary's. It is perhaps difficult to think of Joan 'resting' but resting she is, in Gissing churchyard, alongside her husband, Ray. She will be missed by her family and many friends.

Let's Get Quizzical

A big 'thank you' to everyone who came along to our sell-out Valentine's quiz in February; to the quizzers, helpers and teams from Gissing and lands as far off as Harleston. We all had great fun and raised £230 for St Mary's.

Pancake Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday, the 17th of February, saw Gissing's first annual 'Pancake Breakfast' at the Village Hall. A full house of villagers and visitors enjoyed pancakes, sweets, beverages and conversation on the last day before Lent, and £126 was raised for the Church. This was an experimental event, designed to see if people would like a mid-week breakfast

for the community. They clearly did, and it's now planned to make 'Shrove Tuesday Pancakes' an annual Gissing event. Thanks are due to David Miller and Dave Smith, for setting up, washing up and cooking, and special thanks go to Judith Miller for organising, cooking and making the whole event possible.

Gissing Singers

This is a small choir that meets in the village hall at Gissing, but whose members come not only from Gissing itself, but also from towns and villages within a range of ten or twelve miles.

In 2015 Gissing Singers will be in their eighth year. We sing in harmony, without any keyboard backing, a varied repertoire ranging from sacred music and carols to folk songs of many countries, American spirituals, some modern pieces and some 'classics'.

The choir has sung regularly at Christmas and other occasions (including a couple of weddings) at Gissing Church, and also at concerts and other events not only in Gissing itself, but also at Thetford, Wacton and at Dickleburgh's '50 Christmas Trees' event.

This year the choir has already sung – informally – for patients at the Walcott Hall Nursing Home at Diss; and is scheduled to give a concert (in aid of The Friends of Gissing Church) on 13th June. We hope also to sing at one or two other venues in late June or early July – if invited!

New members are always welcome. Previous experience of singing in a choir is of course helpful, but not essential. More important is a good memory for music, and a willingness to take part regularly in our Monday evening rehearsals at 7.30pm at Gissing Village Hall. We would be particularly glad to recruit one or two more men.

Anyone may come and listen to one of our rehearsals, to see how we work. Either ring Andrew at 01379 674518, or just turn up at the Village Hall at 7.30 on a Monday (except Bank Holidays, when we usually meet on the Tuesday).

Friends of Gissing Church

At last, after many months of research, advice from a Diocesan Ambassador and other local churches,

an inspection by the church architect, leading to an updated Quinquennial Report which sets out the renewed urgency of repairs required, the Parochial Church Council (PCC), supported by the Friends of Gissing Church (FoGC), has now submitted a new grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The updated report on the church structure shows that the vestry wall at the east end of the building has deteriorated quite considerably in the year since the last submission – so much so that you will now see a section of the wall fenced off to prevent visitors to the churchyard from going near it. This is on the advice of the architect, as there is a far greater risk of collapse of the wall, which makes this bid all the more urgent. We hope that the inclusion of St Mary's on the English Heritage 'At Risk' register will also help to emphasise the seriousness of the case to the HLF. We have to wait until June to hear the result of Gissing's application. We will keep people informed as we go through the process.

We also thank all those who joined, or renewed their membership of the Friends following the successful Christmas membership campaign. Your subscription not only contributes towards the routine maintenance of the building but also to developing the contingency fund we are required to have, as any HLF grant never provides 100% funding. If you have not yet completed your renewal form or you would like to join the Friends, then please contact Denise Scoggins.

Looking to the coming months, the FoGC has organised a village 'Gorgeous Gissing Litter Pick' on Saturday, April 18th from 2–5.30pm – this is part of the South Norfolk DC campaign against littering and fly-tipping and all are welcome. If you would like to volunteer then please contact Fiona. Refreshments will be provided in the church for the intrepid litter pickers. Last year we collected ¾ ton of rubbish!! It really is a very satisfying afternoon's work!



Looking ahead to the summer, the Friends are organising a Flower Festival with Music in Church over the weekend June 12/13/14.

The theme of the Flower Festival will be 'Summer Weddings'. We already have volunteers willing to lend their wedding dresses for display in the church, which is much appreciated. If anyone else would like to lend a dress or wedding photo then we would love to hear from you.

FOGC is also looking for volunteers to help us to fill the church with flower arrangements which could range from pew ends, posies, and table decorations, to bouquets, window displays, and altar flowers. If you are interested in taking part then please contact Fiona or Ed. We really want this to be a floral celebration of an English summer.

For further information on anything contact Fiona Turton, Chair, at fionaturton@btinternet.com or Ed Scoggins, Secretary at eddie.scoggins@live.co.uk or Denise Scoggins, PCC/FOGC Treasurer, at denisescoggins123@btinternet.com

Gissing Children's Centre

Any families wishing to bring their children and come and have a look, contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9–3pm during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or to send enquiries to preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange a visit at a time of your choice.

Visit our website: www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk and our facebook page to see the sort of things we do. During the Spring Term we have been doing a project on birds, weaving this into all areas of the early years curriculum, both indoors and outdoors, and producing some stunning work, which is displayed at the pre-school.

This year's Easter Playscheme for primary school age children will run on Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April. We will offer a long day from 9–3 at £15 per child and we will now also offer a short day from 9–1 at £12 per child. Places are bookable and payable in advance, by emailing: playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk or by ringing 07531 810704 or Children will need to bring a packed lunch and some money for tuck. A wide range of Easter themed activities will be on offer.

An Evening
of mardling and music
with a bit of ole squit thrown in

**Keith Skipper
&
Ian Prettyman**

**Saturday 30th May 7.30pm
Tivetshall Village Hall**



Bar open at 7pm
£10 per ticket
includes light refreshments,
tea and coffee.

Dunt Miss Owt!
call Kelly on 01379 674511



Heart of Gissing

We have been successful in getting through to Stage 3 of their Big Lottery Reaching Communities Bid to provide new-build and improved facilities at the Old School. Preparatory work is currently in progress for the Stage 3 bid submission in June. For up to date information about groups, events and what is happening in Gissing, you can google 'Gissing Village Life' and find us, and 'like' us on Facebook.

Forthcoming fundraising events include:

Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Good Friday – 3rd April 2015 from 10.30–1.30 pm. £3 per child.

Start and finish at the Old School (Children's Centre). The trail is designed as a family experience. Craft activities, small children's play area and lovely refreshments, including hot dogs. There will also be a 'produce to take home' stall. Come and enjoy a lovely walk 'with frills' this Good Friday.

Groups running at present

For contact details of groups running in Gissing at present, please see the last issue. A lack of space prevents the inclusion of detail in this copy.

SHELFANGER NEWS

All Saints' Church

As usual, the week between Palm Sunday and Good Friday will be a busy and thoughtful one at your church. On Palm Sunday this year, a five parish service takes place at Tivetshall at 10.30am. Here at Shelfanger on Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April there will be a short service of quiet and meditation based on the Order of Compline at 7pm. On Good Friday there will be our 30 minute service for all ages at 10am.

On Easter Sunday to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection there is an early service of Holy Communion at 8am. Do come and join in, celebrating over this period – the most important Christian Festival of the year.

Shelfanger Church's Annual Meeting was held on 3rd March. As a result of elections, Mr Peter Harries and Mr Roger Challoner will serve a further year as churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council was re-elected en bloc.

The Church Building

As many have already heard, the structure of All Saints' has been placed on the English Heritage 'At Risk' Register. This is because of problems with the chancel arch and roof, high level rendering and stonework on the tower and the state of the porch.

Your PCC is now plotting a course toward a solution by meeting architects and Norwich Diocesan representatives. To this end, the very first stage of a possible grant application to Heritage Lottery Fund has been submitted.

We know the building is not 'the church', that is the faith and the community, but your church building is in itself an act of witness containing many visual treasures and housing the village War Memorial. Hopefully, we can prevent our problems getting worse.

Unexpected Visitors

Our Shelfanger correspondent writes about a lovely surprise when your church of All Saints' was visited by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall re-



turning from a visit to Prince William at Wattisham on 7th February. The Prince and Duchess graciously expressed their delight at your little parish church, its wall painting and the obvious care in cleaning and maintenance.

Sadly, the church was not able to provide loo facilities but Warden Peter, who was polishing brass at the time, was able to direct the couple to Old Post Office Cottage.

Village Hall

This continues to pulse with life! The latest activity is Rugby Tots Training for 4–7 year olds on Saturday mornings. This specially designed non-contact training is much fun and well supported.

Monday 27th April sees the first meeting of the Shelfanger Fete Committee to plan this year's event.

Social Club

The club has some good nights with darts, pool and dominoes providing fun and entertainment. An especially happy evening was enjoyed around the viewing of England's rugby victory over Wales seen on the new flat screen TV. Mr Derek Lord has begun the Thrift Club collections for Xmas 2015. The thrift book is open from 8–9.45pm on Friday evenings.

The Parish Council

In order to keep your parish 'up to standard' the Parish Council again asks dog walkers to kindly clear up after their pets. They also ask horse riders please not to use footpaths as this cuts them up for walkers. Sadly, Shelfanger has only one proper bridleway and that runs from High London Lane to Winfarthing.

Have you been caught by the 30 mph flashing lights? These are now in place on the northern and southern entries to the village. Are they helping to cut traffic speed? Contact your correspondent.

Shelfanger Stitchers

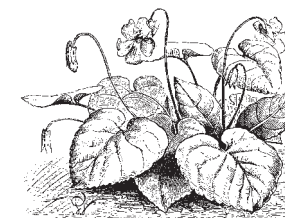
This group works steadily away with much fun and fellowship, presently producing hats and gloves for the homeless and small items for the James Paget Neo-Natal Unit. Contact Helen on 652199.

Personalia

We send best wishes to all those who are not very well. As you read this, we hope Pam Harries will have had her knee operation. David Lond continues his treatment at the Depperhaugh, Hoxne and always welcomes visitors.

Julie Goodwin

On 10th February, the parish, friends and colleagues said farewell to Julie Goodwin at a massive gathering at Colney Wood. Julie, a loving wife and mother, lived vibrantly, positively and courageously. Among her achievements in this parish were the re-establishment of a youth group, the funding of play equipment at the playing field, the organisation of Rectory Road street parties and the representation of this parish on All Saints' Board of School Governors. Julie rode her horses, flew her hawk, played her piano, cultivated her allotment and carried out countless acts of kindness for friends and neighbours. All our best wishes go to Pip, Ollie and Josh and all her family who supported her magnificently.



TIVETSHALL NEWS

St Margaret and St Mary

The PCC held their AGM on Sunday 9th March in the church. Maurice Websdell and Eleanor Henson were re-elected as church wardens. There are 9 parishioners on the church electoral roll. The congregation has maintained an average of 10 at normal Sunday services.

Flower Festival

Several of our usual flower arrangers are unable to help this year. We need arrangers of any age and any experience. It is to be held on the weekend of 6th/7th June so arrangements would need to be completed on Friday 5th. The church will be locked on this evening. The theme is Nursery Rhymes which should provide lots of ideas.

We shall also need helpers over the weekend to serve refreshments. Any tombola prizes, fresh cakes and produce to sell would also be warmly accepted.

Please ring Maggie Rowan on 01379 674116 or Maureen Drury on 01379 677541 if you have any queries or are able to help with any of the above.



'Dunt miss ow!'

An evening of 'mardling and music' with a bit of 'ole squit' thrown in. Keith Skipper and Ian Prettyman, Saturday 30th May 7.30pm-10pm at Tivetshall Village Hall. £10 per ticket. Bar open at 7pm. Ticket includes light refreshments, tea and coffee. 'Dunt miss ow!' Call Kelly on 01379 674511.

Tivetshall Primary School

We began the New Year focusing on the value of Honesty and thinking about Diversity and accepting that people may be different but are all equal.

At the end of January all of Key Stage 2 travelled to Thetford Forest to take part in a cross country competition on an extremely cold and snowy day. We are very proud to report that ten of the children qualified for the area finals and two of our girls (Jess and Lola) won the Year 6 and Year 5 girls' races. All the training in PE lessons obviously paid off!

Class 1 greatly enjoyed their café which had a Stone Age theme. Parents, children and visitors made axes and spears, created cave paintings using mud and brushes made from natural materials, modelled Stone Age sandals, and used salt dough and clay to make jewellery and pots, as well as cutting out and colouring in. Parents also had an opportunity to learn a little more about keeping children safe on the internet.

The following day was Road and Rail Safety Day. Literacy and maths work in the morning had a Road Safety theme with older children watching a powerful film about the dangers of trespassing on railway lines. In the afternoon we were visited by our Road Safety Officer who talked especially about seatbelts and being seen when it is dark. She reminded everyone that the most dangerous journeys for children are those closest to home.

The week before half-term was very full. On Tuesday morning Reception, Year 1 and 2 went to Diss High School for the annual dance festival. On Wednesday the same group were off to the church to look at the work of local craftsmen. They were able to list a great many crafts and consider the fact that they would not have modern tools available to them. The whole school went to Norwich Buddhist Centre on Thursday as part of a whole school topic on the faith. Staff and children found it a fascinating experience and were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn so much and take part in a variety of activities. Friday afternoon was spent caring for the outdoor environment of the school, getting ready for spring. Learning certainly doesn't just come from books or the internet, or even listening to your teacher!

WINFARTHING NEWS

Diss Community Farm

Our farm has its site in Winfarthing producing vegetables and soft fruit, grown in the open and in poly tunnels. Our aim is to produce fresh food for our members who can come from anywhere within a 10 mile or so radius of Diss.

We all work together on the site sharing tasks and our experience in growing using organic principles. This is ideal for anyone who would like to learn more about growing their own food or may be too busy to take on an allotment of their own.

Our site has plenty of room for expansion and we would welcome new members. If you would like more information please contact the web site www.disscommunityfarm.wordpress.co.uk

Emma's Mission

I am planning a trip to Uganda this year with 'Mission Direct' (Volunteers helping the world's poor) www.missiondirect.org

I will be working with a team building accessible classrooms for children with special needs.

I would very much appreciate any donations.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/emmahamilton2>



Need help with transport?

Borderhoppa is a local Community Transport charity operating in this area.

We can pick you up from your home and take you shopping, to work, to your local job, club, job centre or to visit a friend or relative, for appointments at doctors, dentists, hairdressers, vets etc, and take you home again. Maybe you would like to join in with a local community group or go to an event but can't get there and back. Borderhoppa is here to help you make all of your journeys with ease.

Membership costs £6 for 6 months or £10 for 12 months

Emma Hamilton, The Clerks Cottage, Church Lane, Winfarthing, IP22 2EA, 01379 643964

Cake Stall Dates

Winfarthing Church
10.15 to 11.30am
every 3rd Saturday

April 18th
May 16th
June 21st
July 18th



Cake Stall

Please come along to your village church for a tea or coffee and help to keep this ancient building alive! We are raising monies to replace the worn floor coverings so your support would be much appreciated.

In addition to our cake stall, refreshments and tombola, on Saturday 18th April, Emma Hamilton will have a jumble and book stall to help raise funds for her trip with Mission Direct to Uganda to assist building a special unit for children.

Homemade cakes and tombola prizes are always appreciated.

Contact Vicky on 01379 642830

Journeys are priced by distance travelled. (Unfortunately we can no longer accept concessionary bus passes.)

Miles	Single	Return
0-5	£2	£3.50
5-10	£2.50	£4.50
10-15+	£3	£5.50

May Members Outings:

Thurs 7th Lunch at the Chip Inn, Long Stratton: £5 (chips extra)
Mon 11th Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Fritton & Gorleston for shopping: £16
Thurs 21st Waveney Stardust, Stalham: £25 (includes boat trip) Spaces limited
Thurs 28th Highway Nurseries: £14
If you would like to make a booking please call 01379 854800

E-Mail: adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com
Website: www.borderhoppa.org

All Saints' Primary School

It has been another busy half term since the Christmas break. The last half term finished with a very successful Christmas performance in our amazing new school sports hall. This half term began with a visit to the pantomime in Norwich to see 'Peter Pan.' The school very much enjoyed their time with lots of laughter – 'oh yes there was!'

All Saints' has seen several new families move into the area and we all wish them every success at our school. The topic that we have been studying across the school is about transport over time with Dolphin Class spending a terrific day at Duxford learning how to build an aeroplane, together with recognising different types of planes from WW2 and experiencing the delights of Concorde. Chimps Class had an exciting ride around the villages in an old bus – they all thoroughly enjoyed sitting in the driver's seat and pushing the horn.

There have been many successes, including several pupils reaching the local finals of cross Country and Lea Briggs going one step further as she is to represent the school in the Norfolk County finals in the new term.

From the Registers

Bressingham Group

FUNERALS

Gerald Worby 17th December, 2014
Bressingham

Ian Murdoch 18th February, South
Lopham

Iris Speer 3rd March, [Cremation at St
Faiths] North Lopham

Robert Oxley 6th March, South Lopham

Lilian Crook 12th March, North Lopham

Winfarthing Group

FUNERALS

Rose Whymark 4th February, Burston

Joan Fisk 26th February, Gissing

Flory Sell 19th March, Gissing

Peggy Copeman 24th February,
Winfarthing

One for the team

Two Gissing residents very kindly sent in a card containing the following message;
'Thank you to the Cock Crow team of copywriters, printer, the setters (not the dogs!), 'folders'
and all concerned with the preparation of the magazine.

I should have written and delivered this in time for the Dec/Jan issue but the memory bell in my head didn't ring. Perhaps you can keep this card aside to share with the team when you prepare the spring issue, in order to wish them all a Happy Easter ...as the memory bell in my head will probably not be working then either!

Everyone in our village much appreciates their excellent parish magazine.'

Thank you very much for that kind thought ~ the Cock Crow Team