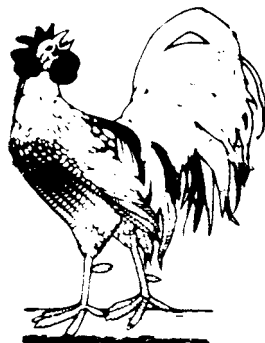


# Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &  
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

**APRIL/MAY 2016**

Issue No: 2



Primroses, pigeons and pheasants Heath Road North Lopham

# Editors' Notice Board

## Murphy's Rambles

### Hello friends

Well, what can we say about the weather, apart from that we seem to be having lots thrown at us. Human hates the strong winds but I love them, they make me as loopy as a puppy. We could do with less rain though as all the footpaths have gone from single track to 3 or 4 people wide as the poor humans search for grass to walk on instead of the slippery-slidy mud. You wonder if they will ever recover but I'm sure they will.

We have had some lovely mornings; we love the crispy frosty ones when everything is crystal clear and looks like a Christmas card. Sunrises have been amazing, one when a reef of cloud was lit from below so the whole cloud-bank turned to gold, but the best was the 'flat rainbow' – the only way human could describe it. Red in the centre with the rainbow colours spread out on either side. Turns out it was a 'nacreous cloud'! Luckily, we were near some lovely scents so I didn't mind how long we stood looking.

We couldn't believe how early we found wild primroses – 27th January, now there are lots but they looked so sad when we had the snow. Some brave hawthorn bushes have leaves on them and the horse chestnuts won't be too long behind. The pussy willows that were showing white have decided it's too cold as yet, but we love the cherry trees obviously in competition to see who is looking best.

We have been seeing quite a few deer in the mornings, usually 2 or 3 for a few days running then nothing for a while, then there they are back again. We see the owl hunting most mornings. He must be so hungry to be out so late and the hares are starting to appear as well. Just as we were wondering where all the rabbits had gone they are putting in appearances too. But our most welcome sighting was the kingfisher, just so wonderful to see.

Watch out folks – the toads are about with the same road sense as always, please don't squash them! Have fun out there!

Other items  
the Editors think  
you might like  
to know about



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GISLINGHAM VARIETY CLUB

presents

### Book, Music and Lyrics

by **Lionel Bart**

Wednesday to Saturday 6th–9th April,  
7.30pm Gislingham Village Hall

Tickets £9 (under 16s £6)

Box office **01379 788411**

### EXHIBITION AT DISS MUSEUM

#### Tristram Cary: Music Under The Radar

A multi-media exhibition documenting  
Tristram Cary's pioneering electronic music and  
soundtrack scores for Doctor Who,  
Quatermass and The Pit and Ladykillers.  
Featuring a prototype VCS3 synth, graphic  
scores, photographs and memorabilia.

Until 9th April (Wednesday to Saturday)

[www.dissmuseum.co.uk](http://www.dissmuseum.co.uk)

### ON STAGE

#### Tristram Cary: Trios + Narcissus

A live performance of two Tristram Cary  
chance music compositions.

**Trios** (Turntables and VCS3 Synth) performed by  
Ian Helliwell, Simon James and

**Narcissus** (Flute and electronics) performed by  
Lawrence Casserley and Simon Desorgher.

**April 9th 7.30pm St Mary's Hall, Diss**

Free (donations welcome)

[www.dissmuseum.co.uk](http://www.dissmuseum.co.uk)

## Diss Library News

We've got two fabulous reading initiatives running this spring. In April we have Norfolk's Own Great Big Read with books inspired by Shakespeare's plays.

In May we join Norwich Writers Centre's Brave New Reads; six exciting books to challenge your reading habits, chosen by local readers for you to enjoy. We will be launching Brave New Reads at a free event on Thursday 5th May at 6pm, come along to find out more!

Do you need help with using your computer, laptop or tablet? All libraries run a range of basic courses for people new to IT or trying to get the best out of their computers. To find out more about what's on offer locally please contact the library.

### Regular Events

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time every Friday in term time at 10.30am.

Our 'Wordsworth' junior reading group will meet at 3.30pm on Monday 5th May.

Library book group meets at 6.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month. New faces are assured of a welcome at all our regular groups.

For more information on all our events and services visit: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries), or call Diss library on 01379 642609. For mobile library dates and details call 01603 222267 or follow the links to mobile libraries on our website.

### Opening Hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 9–5

Tuesday, Saturday: 9–1

Wednesday: 9–1; 2–7.30



## BOX ADVERTS AVAILABLE

This size: £150 for 5 issues

[can be portrait or landscape]

or half this size 60mm square £75 for 5 issues

Contact advertising co-ordinator Lynda

[copyforcrow@keme.co.uk](mailto:copyforcrow@keme.co.uk)

**01379 676713**



## The birds can teach us something

Easter Day will be just behind us as you read this. Easter is the most important festival in the Christian year and usually our services are full of happy people – some of whom will have enjoyed hunting for eggs.

The Easter season, just like Christmas, doesn't finish on Easter Day – it begins. In fact it doesn't end until Pentecost on the 15th May. That gives us 7 weeks to celebrate and give thanks that Jesus was willing to die on the cross so that we can have a full relationship with God.

At the same time along with us, creation also celebrates! Spring will be in full flow – even if nature seems in a bit of a muddle at the moment. The birds will be rejoicing – even if we forget to do so – not worried or concerned about where the next meal will come from, what they wear is of no concern.

Jesus talks of the birds in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 6 saying: 'Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

We are very precious to God and whilst I'm not recommending that we all 'go native' and give up our jobs and ignore our responsibilities, I am suggesting that if we spend some time celebrating life, (using the birds as an example), rejoicing in all that is good in the world and in our lives, then our spirits will lift and we'll all feel closer to God.

Every Blessing

Rev Wendy Evans  
Diss Team Ministry

## Team Ministry Page

Revd Wendy's email [revwendydisstm@gmail.com](mailto:revwendydisstm@gmail.com)

### Annual Meetings

Each parish has a Vestry Meeting to elect churchwardens for the coming year; this is usually on a Sunday, linked to a service; most will be before April – do check!

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is a chance to hear about activities of the past year, receive annual accounts and other reports and elect the church council members (PCC). A joint meeting for Bressingham, Fersfield, North and South Lopham and Roydon will take place at Bressingham Primary School on 13th April at 7pm. The first part is shared – items relevant to all the parishes – then we split into our parish groups. All church members are welcome and may ask questions; those on the church Electoral Roll can vote for the new PCC. It's not as dull as you might think – come along and find out!

### 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!



### Concert

Carol Moss, on piano, and Ellen Dryden, reading. In St Mary's Church, Diss, on Saturday 23rd April at 7.30pm in aid of Adams Olivers Syndrome Research at Great Ormond Street Hospital

### Recycling

Further to previous items, we can now report that ALL churches in the Team now have collection boxes for used postage stamps, in aid of the Leprosy Mission. (Please ensure they have a 5mm border round the outside)

## BRESSINGHAM NEWS

### Church News

I am extremely pleased to report that the first amount of monies have arrived which will pay for consultants and what is called the 'opening up works' to find out what is really needed in the first phase of the repairs to the church. We have already started to appoint various people in conjunction with our architect. This work will concentrate on the roof of the nave which is in drastic need of being made water tight.

Plans for the Open Gardens on 25th and 26th June are going well. We do hope that as many people as possible will place a decorated and planted wheelbarrow outside their home even if they have not opened their garden. More information on this weekend can be found in a special section of this magazine which follows Fersfield's.

Have you ever considered giving a monthly donation to our church to help keep it open? It costs about £1,000 a MONTH to do this and we really would appreciate more people giving a little each month. Even £5 a month would help, especially if you are a tax payer and allow us to gift aid your donation. It is not just the church building that we are responsible for. The PCC has to see that the burial ground etc is kept tidy and pay things like insurance which alone costs almost £150 a month. Do give it a thought. I would be very pleased to hear from you on 01379 688291 or email [dianajb@btconnect.com](mailto:dianajb@btconnect.com) Thank you for reading this.

A packed church welcomed the family of the late Mrs Norma Pretty at her funeral on 15th February. Norma was carried into church by some of her family to the sound of Daniel O'Donnell singing 'Danny Boy', a very moving tribute for everyone. She had lived in Bressingham and raised her family here for as long as I can remember and is now re-united with her husband John. We all send our sincere condolences to her family.



## Other matters

We are very pleased to welcome Alan Lunn as the new proprietor of Bressingham Village Shop. Alan will be known to many as the former head chef of The White Hart pub at Roydon. In the near future he will be making his own pies, lasagne, puddings etc to sell in the shop. We all wish him well in his new venture and thank him for agreeing to carry on selling tickets for village events.

I cannot welcome Alan without thanking Charlie and Stephanie Tunstall for all they did to keep our shop going for over two years. Without them we would not have a shop for Alan to take on. Coupled with this goes our thanks to Allan and Jackie Byrne.

Finally what a wonderful pantomime we had the pleasure of enjoying in February. Many congratulations to all concerned.

*Diana*

## Village Hall

### Future Events

*April:* 'Murder Mystery Supper' Saturday 23rd

*May:* The Queen's 90th Birthday party Saturday 21st (stc)

*June:* Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th Bressingham and Fersfield 'Open Gardens' weekend. Saturday 25th 7pm for 7.30 'Gardeners Question Time'

*September:* Sunday 11th 'Flower and Produce Show.'

## SPOTTED

Spotted in Fersfield and Spotted in Bressingham are Facebook pages set up (by Paul Davey and Mervyn Porter respectively - thank you!) to let villagers know what's going on in their village. They can also be used as an easy way of communicating with each other about anything that's happening in the area and on the web-site. You can join one or both of the groups and you can post items on the pages such as:

You're organising an event and want to advertise it

You need a lift somewhere

There's been a crime that you know of, or you've seen suspicious characters hanging around

You've just arrived in the village

Join the groups and access the information by signing in with your own Facebook account login - if you don't already have a Facebook account then sign up for one - they are Free!

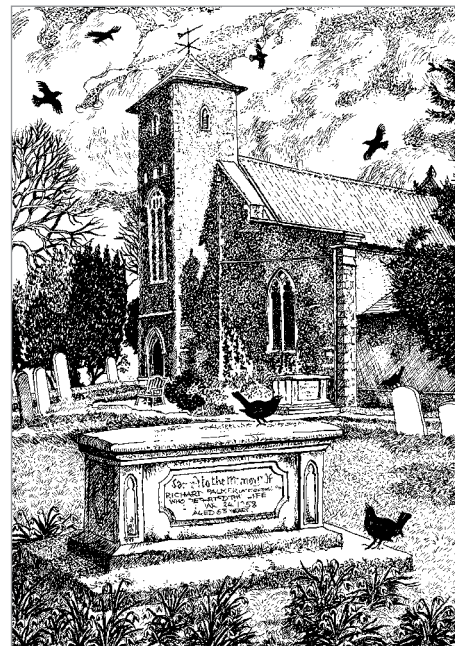
Remember to check the Bressingham and Fersfield Community website for the latest information

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

## FERSFIELD NEWS

By the time this reaches you, let's hope it really is Spring, judged by the weather and not just the calendar. At the time of writing (early March) I've just come in from my morning walk: a lovely bright morning with much bird song, but after a few hundred yards the cold really made itself felt. Easter will have been with us - we hope it will have been happy and peaceful for you all - and St Andrew's will have had its Easter Morning Family Communion Service, with Easter biscuits and an egg hunt. This is a good time to re-emphasise to you all that you will be welcome at our 'ordinary' Sunday services at 09.30 on the second (Morning Prayer) and fourth (Communion) Sundays of the month. Our church is friendly and the services concise, all in that wonderful St Andrew's peaceful atmosphere. Details of any additional service information are on posters around the village.

February and March are not the brightest of months, but they have been busy. The need to restore the chancel is still a dominant issue, and we have completed two grant application forms. One of them is a repeat of the 'Listed Places of Worship' form: particular thanks are due to Paul for his patience and completion of the financial details. The chancel's infamous 'hole' is the site of a large memorial which has had to be taken down. By law we have



to replace this as it was, having had it cleaned and given new fittings. The cost of this alone will exceed £4,000. Looking after ancient listed buildings (St Andrews is Grade 1) really is a complex business - we are so grateful for all the help we receive from our community and beyond.

Quite obviously fund-raising has to continue: at the moment three events are in the planning stage: On Saturday, 9 April, from 10am to noon, there will be a Spring Event Morning in the church, with refreshments, raffle, cake stall, 'jar tombola', books and other attractions - to say nothing of the opportunity for a good chat. Please come and join in! A huge event taking place over the weekend of 25-26th June will be the open gardens - 'Blooming Bressingham and Fragrant Fersfield' - event. This is a major happening, set to raise funds for the restorations of our Bressingham and Fersfield parish churches and to raise some funds for the villages' hall. Please see Diana's Bressingham Church News and the joint Bressingham and Fersfield item which follows. Later, in early September, we are planning a real musical treat in the shape of a concert in St Andrew's, with refreshments and items for a late summer evening.

Very big thanks are due to Karl, who is doing much work for us around the church, to Pam and John for the excellent hedge-cutting (there is so much of it) and to those people who check the church and do many a small task that would otherwise slip past untended. God Bless you all!

*Richard*

### Blooming Bressingham & Fragrant Fersfield

We hope you will all have put into your calendars and diaries the weekend of 25-26th June: the Bressingham and Fersfield open gardens event, 'Blooming Bressingham and Fragrant Fersfield'. A really excellent weekend is in prospect: open gardens, plants for sale, refreshments, an outstanding Gardeners' Question Time chaired by Adrian Bloom on Saturday, photographic and craft displays in the churches, a decorated/planted wheelbarrow competition (which also forms part of the two villages' 'Anglia in Bloom' entry for July) - all in aid of the restorations of our two beautiful churches and the Village Hall. We do hope everyone with domestic or business premises will exhibit a decorated barrow! For further details 'phone 01379 687729 or go to [www.bressinghamandfersfield.org](http://www.bressinghamandfersfield.org)



Make Bressingham and Fersfield look beautiful

Why not PLANT UP A  
WHEELBARROW  
to go outside your home for

OPEN GARDENS  
WEEKEND 25-26 JUNE and  
ANGLIA IN BLOOM in July

Check [www.bressinghamandfersfield.org](http://www.bressinghamandfersfield.org)  
or call 687729 for further details

# LOPHAMS NEWS

## St Andrew's School

After a restful half term break, pupils and staff returned to a very busy week!

The children and staff worked hard to share all of the fantastic learning opportunities we offer during our Church School inspection. The inspector watched RE lessons, looked at Christian Distinctiveness, and talked to school council about the ethos of our school. The result of the inspection will be shared soon.

Discovery class joined the pre-school when handlers and animals from Banham Zoo visited them for the morning. They had a great time finding out about and handling millipedes, bearded dragons, African land snails and a guinea-pig. They also compared the skins of lizards, elephants and kangaroos.

The valentines Disco hosted by FOSTA was a great success on the 25th February. Most of the pupils attended and danced the evening away with only a short break to enjoy hot dogs and jelly and ice-cream.

It might be a short half term but it is jam packed! With a trip to Norwich cathedral for our year five and six class, a trip to see The Lion King and science week activities planned as well as all our lessons, we will continue to be very active!

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

## St Andrews Pre-School

Greetings from all of us at St Andrews Pre-School. We have had a very packed term looking at animals and their habitats. The children were very excited to have a visit from Banham Zoo who brought along Margaret and Martin the millipedes, a guinea pig, a bearded dragon and some giant African land snails. It was lovely to invite Discovery class at St Andrews Primary School to join us for the event which was very much enjoyed by all.

The last week of term will be taken up with an Easter bonnet parade, egg hunt and lots of Easter

craft activities, the children will also make an Easter afternoon tea and invite their families along.

After Easter we will be having fun with nursery rhymes.

The Pre-School is situated in the grounds of St Andrews Primary School and was rated good by Ofsted at the last inspection. We take funded 3 and 4 year olds and eligible funded 2 year olds.

For further details or to arrange a visit please call Jan on 07854 091257.

*Jan Feaver Pre school manager*

## Lophams' Ladies

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

We welcomed Roy Tricker to the February meeting, and thoroughly enjoyed his tales of some eccentric clergymen of East Anglia (and further afield). Some of their names were amazing, as were their actions and pronouncements. Oh for the days of one parish with one clergyman, who then had the freedom to pursue his own interests alongside his church work, thereby often indirectly benefitting the community too!!

On 1st March, members enjoyed a delicious meal out, at the White Hart at Roydon. The AGM takes place on April 5th at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors or potential new members are very welcome to come along and meet us in the Village Hall, then share in an informal Quiz session. We hope to learn more about the EACH NOOK project at the meeting on the 3rd. For more information, please contact Sarah on 01379 687337.



## Lophams Garden Club

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Lophams' Village Hall and visitors and new members are always very welcome. Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

On 3rd March we held a short AGM which was followed by 'Gardeners Question Time'. Our panel of experts, John Tate from Swallow Aquatics, Andy Bailey from Diss Garden Centre, Andrew Daniels

from Howards Nursery and Gary Olderton answered many diverse questions from the best way to look after an Amaryllis to why there is not a country-wide way of recycling plastic flower pots. (It's not cost-effective, apparently).

Our next meeting is on 7th April when Joan Garham will give a presentation entitled 'Small Garden Trees'.

We shall not have our usual meeting in May but are instead looking forward to a visit to Stody Lodge Gardens to see the wonderful Rhododendron and Azalea Gardens. This will be on Sunday 1st May, cost £16 per person which includes coach travel and entry to the gardens. We will meet at 11.30am at Simonds Coaches Offices in Oak Drive Diss where we can leave our cars in their car park. Please telephone 01953 681989 for tickets and further details.

## The Lophams' Society

Time to dust off the thinking caps as the Lophams' Spring Quiz will take place in the Village Hall on Friday 15th April at 7.30pm. Entrance is £6 per person which will include a cheese ploughman's supper served in the interval. The bar will be open for those wishing to lubricate their little grey cells. Teams of six players per table maximum and single players

## THE LOPHAMS' SOCIETY Events for 2016



Friday 15th April 2016  
Spring Quiz

Saturday 9th July 2016  
Musical Summer Evening  
(details to follow)

Friday 14th October 2016  
Autumn Quiz

Friday 16th December 2016  
Christmas Drop-In

All events take place at the  
Lophams' Village Hall

Telephone **01379 688408** for details

and couples are especially welcome to join us on what always proves to be a most enjoyable evening. For further information or to book a table please telephone 01379 688408.

## Holy Bingo

Continues in the Village Hall, on the first Monday most months at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. Please note: the next sessions are on 11th April (not 4th) and 2nd May.

(Please telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport.)

## Lophams Village Hall

The Village Hall Annual Meeting: has been booked for Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm – hoping that this will be a more popular day than a Friday! We really do want to see lots more residents coming along to hear about the hall and to get involved with its running. The Management team wants fresh ideas and new, enthusiastic members to take them forward. Alternatively, join our band of regular helpers. The hall is YOURS – all residents of the Lophams; this is YOUR chance to make a difference!

It's hard to believe that Farmers' Markets are now 15 years old and still going strong! The Birthday Market was a bumper one, with a free raffle for a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion (won by P Woodcraft from Kenninghall).

The Lottery had one vacancy last month, which has already been filled, so the first prize was £198, won by P Packer; second prizes of £49.50 were won by M Baker and P Sturman. In January, winners were: first prize of £200, P Sturman, second prizes of £50 each, D Derrick and J & G Brown.

We do want to keep up 100 members, so please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new 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. Additionally there is a monthly raffle with a superb prize which includes an item from every stall – a wonderful array of goodies for the larder; in February this was won by Yew Tree Farm Foods.

*Farmers Markets* are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next are on 23rd April and 28th May. (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

*Judo* is on Mondays & Wednesdays (Details from Howard on 1379 688 258)

*Dog Training:* is on most Thursdays (details from Rob on 01379 873144)

*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 about the hall generally, visit the web-site at [www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk).

### **BRIMBO: Sunday 8th May**

British Motor Bike Owners: Classic Bike Meet & Auto-Jumble will be held from 10am to 4pm on Sunday 8th May at Lophams Village Hall. Pitches are £10 or £8 if pre-booked; admission is just £2, with free parking. Refreshments will be available.

All information from Rodney 01379 688297 or Mick 01986 788708.



## **NORTH LOPHAM NEWS**

### **Parish Council**

Meeting 9th March 2016

*Present:* David Hammond (Chair) Julie Crossley (Clerk), Mick McManus, Dawn Eagle, Robert Carley, Jan Tate, Mike Tipple; 5 members of the public.

*Apologies:* W Nunn.

*Defibrillator Training:* Tuesday 26th April 7pm at The King's Head for all those who have already signed up. A few more may possibly be accommodated but they must speak to Angie or Parish Clerk first!

*Visitor Information Board:* First proof expected on Friday. DH thanked Jennie Vere and Tony Osler for their input. Final cost tbc but board will be aluminium, eye catching and hopefully fitted before next PC meeting. MMCM recommended using anti-tamper fittings. This completes the telephone box project.

*Footpath:* £6.5K from NCC has been approved stc. £1.6K has been pledged by residents and BDC has been approached for 'Match funding'. Total cost is £12.8K, BDC considering request for £4K leaving shortfall of £704. BDC has asked what NLPC's contribution is, DH proposed £704 to the meeting, unanimously agreed.

*Speedwatch:* Going well, thanks expressed to volunteers. DPD vans seem consistent offenders, Crown lorries consistently operate within the rules, their drivers should be applauded. Discussion followed, re the number of lorries, the situation re access, the measures already taken to limit effects and the limits to further action.

*Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan:* Too important and complex for adequate coverage here; please refer to full council minutes on Parish Website or from Parish Clerk.

*Village Open Meeting:* DH reported that J Crisp (SLPC), R Clark (Lop Soc) had asked if, after poor attendance last year, should VOM be repeated? Discussion about level of publicity, levels of support, incentives. No decision.

*DPD Vans:* Complaints about speeding: DH will contact Snetterton depot manager.

*Dog Mess:* More complaints received especially about area around dog bin near Cherry Tree Close. Control your dog and clean up!!

*Overhanging hedges and muddy footpaths:* More complaints, one contributes to the other. NCC is aware and will be contacting owners direct.

*Village Clean up:* Saturday 15th May 2016 at 09.30 at the Mere (pond) gloves and bags and grabbers provided.

*Next meeting* AGM 11th May 2016

### **Defibrillator Training**

Tuesday 26th April 7pm at The King's Head for all those who have already signed up. A few more may possibly be accommodated but they must speak to Angie or Parish Clerk first!

### **North Lopham Methodist Church**

Methodist friends hold an informal service and coffee morning in St Nicholas Church on the fourth Wednesday each month and would welcome anyone from the villages to join them at 10.30am. The March service will be a Methodist Communion Service. Forthcoming dates are 27th April and 25th May.

### **St Nicholas Church, North Lopham**

*Starters and Sweets* A very happy gathering on 5th February enjoyed sampling a wide range of Starters, including soup and various pates, then were spoiled for choice over the Sweets selection. A Raffle with lots of prizes helped to boost the funds raised to just over £265, so grateful thanks go to everyone who helped in any way, either cooking or setting up, and to those who came along on the night.

*Lent Lunches* mostly on Tuesdays in Lent, from 12 noon to 2pm, in homes around North Lopham, have raised funds for the diocesan Lent Appeal, helping the church deliver education projects in Papua New Guinea, our link diocese on the other side of the world. Many thanks to all those who have taken part.

We will announce the amount raised next time.

*Mothering Sunday* A Eucharist, led by the Rector, Canon Tony Billett, was followed by the Vestry

Meeting, at which Alan Briggs and Richard Vere were elected to serve a further year – thank you both – then a very Special Family Service which focused on Families, especially Mothers, and our Church family. Daffodil posies were presented to all, for their mothers, and those who have taken on that role. Posies were taken to other local ladies over the following days.

Good Friday and Easter Day, 27th March, will be reported next time.

### **Events for April and May**

April 13th is the date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Bressingham School, see Team News page for details.

*On April 21st* HM The Queen celebrates her 90th birthday. Coincidentally, the eight bells in North Lopham Tower were re-hung in 1926, and dedicated, before a first full peal on 21st April!! For several decades now, a full peal has been rung to celebrate both Big O anniversaries. The tradition will be maintained this year - thank you to all the ringers involved.

*St Georges Day* falls just two days later, so we plan to continue celebrating with a special sung Book of Common Prayer Evensong at St Nicholas Church at 4pm on Saturday 23rd, including traditional English hymns, followed by a tea with birthday cake etc. Please come and join us!

And so to May

*Ascension Day* is on Thursday 5th: special services will be at Diss.

*Pentecost*, the Birthday of the Christian Church is on 15th. The Family Service will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, and be followed by cake, fun, and balloons. Do come along and join in!

*An Art Exhibition* in St Nicholas Church will take place from 6th to 8th May.

The launch, for friends and Lophams residents, is 7–9pm on the Friday evening, when wine and nib-

bles will be served. The exhibition continues from 11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday, with refreshments available throughout, and a grand Raffle. All who have been to a previous exhibition will know just what a treat is in store; it's a great opportunity to buy that 'special' present for a 'special' person. For more details, contact T Osler (01379 688121) or Alan Briggs (01953 681989)

### Knitting The Bible

The project to knit figures for scenes from the bible for a display at the end of October is getting well under way. All knitters are warmly invited to join in the project, either knitting a figure (patterns are available) or the figures for a whole scene...! (If you have given up on knitting and have small balls of any fawn or brown wool to dispose of, we would be very grateful to know, and can collect, just phone 01379 687679 or e-mail jennyvere@btinternet.com We would love to hear from you!!



### Borderhoppa Dial-a-Ride service

Borderhoppa buses are available to people of all ages who are unable to use ordinary bus services either because of mobility difficulties or because there isn't a bus service for them to use.

You can use a Borderhoppa bus to take you shopping, for doctors or other appointments, visit a friend or relative or to attend your local community group/club. Borderhoppa can also connect you with bus/train services to Norwich, Ipswich and beyond.

All drivers are fully trained. Borderhoppa buses pick users up from their door and will take them back again. Most vehicles are fitted with wheelchair lifts to make them fully accessible.

To use the dial-a-ride service all passengers need to become members. This costs £6 for 6 months or £10 for 12 months. Fares are priced according to distance travelled.

Membership forms are available to download from our website borderhoppa.org or you can request one by calling our office on 01379 854800.

## SOUTH LOPHAM

### St Andrew's Church News

On Saturday 4th June there will be a coffee morning at St Andrew's with the usual stalls, including tombola. Everyone is very welcome, so please make a note in your diary. If you haven't been before or are new to the area do come along.

### South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 4th March 2016 was held at Valley Farm Low Common. Six members present and the Clerk Mrs C Phillips, with an apology from Mrs Chapman Allen, District Councillor. The responsible Financial Officer Mr G Phillips was present to report on financial and budget matters.

In his opening remarks the Chairman informed the meeting that the Lophams' Society had decided to discontinue the annual village meeting in view of the poor attendance during recent years. This decision had been taken on the understanding that the meeting would be reinstated should there be sufficient interest in future.

Financial: Mr Phillips presented a report including the current balances. The 2016/17 budget was finalised to take into account the increase in cost of the Lophams' News and the refurbishment of the village sign. The Clerk reported on the present position regarding a Breckland Pride grant for the work on the village sign this year. The usual monthly accounts were approved and a donation of £50 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance was agreed.



Planning: Boundary screening and planting at Pooley Street was approved. The Enforcement Officer has still not visited the site at the corner of

Brick Kiln Lane and Low Common and has again been reminded. A new application for permission for the erection of three houses in the Street has been received; plans were viewed at the meeting and will be circulated. Considerable concern was expressed about the access and proximity of the proposed dwellings to neighbouring houses.

Highways: Members agreed that reduction of speed on the A1066 was still a priority matter and contact with the NCC and our Councillor will be maintained in an effort to improve the speed reduction signs. On the same road there is still a problem with water on the highway and drainage. Church Road drainage repairs are complete. Large pothole repairs are required on Brick Kiln Lane and Blo Norton road.

Works: Village sign grant application is awaited. More suitable weather is needed before necessary work may be carried out on the bus shelter. Litter Pick 10th April meet at White Horse car park 10 am, all volunteers very welcome.

Parish Website: Now updated.

Other Business: The Queen's birthday 21/04/16 was discussed by members and it was decided that there would be no official event organised by the Council on behalf of the Parish.

Date of next meeting: 5th May 2016, 7.30pm at Valley Farm.

### South Lopham Estates Charity

South Lopham Estates Charity is a local charity to help those in need in the Parish of South Lopham. It owns a number of parcels of lands in the Parish, and uses the rent to support St Andrew's School, North Lopham as well as parishioners who have a particular need for modest financial assistance.

The Trustees are all local people from a range of backgrounds who meet three times a year to discuss management of the charity's property and applications for financial assistance.

If you would like more information about this long-established charity, or wish to make an application for confidential financial assistance, please contact the Secretary, Keeley Chapman on 01379 687985 or via email keeleychapman@hotmail.co.uk.

## Redgrave and Lopham Fen

### Hunting & hiding activity day for 6-10 year olds

Tuesday 5 April, 10am-2pm

£6 per child, booking essential. Unaccompanied children only. Book online at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

### Spring safari family morning

Wednesday 6 April, 10am-12noon

£2.50 per person, booking essential. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Book online at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

### Young naturalists

Thursday 7 April, 10am-2pm.

For unaccompanied 11-15 year olds. Wildlife detecting & practical conservation work. £6 each, booking essential. Book online at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

### Plant Sale

Sunday 17 April, 10am-3pm

Annual event with a wide variety of plants from over 20 specialist nurseries. £1.50 adults, children free. Hot & cold refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome.

### Save our swifts project - a talk by Edward Jackson

Tuesday 26 April, 7.30pm

Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments). All welcome, no need to book

### Earthworks & tumuli

Friday 29 April, 10am-3pm

Norfolk Historic Environment Service at the Fen & Knettishall Heath. £30. Full details/ booking at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org) or 01473 890089

### Botanical Illustration

Saturday 21 May, 10am-3pm

With professional botanical artist Christine Grey-Wilson. £25/£21.50 Full course details & booking at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org) or 01473 890089

### Pond dipping family afternoon

Tuesday 31 May, 2pm-4pm

£4 child, £2 adult, Children must be accompanied by an adult. Book online at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

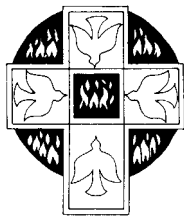
### Regular events

Guided fen walks, Saturdays, 2 April, 7 May 10.30am-1pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with naturalist John Hill. £3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Wildlife Watch Group, Saturdays, 9 April, 14 May

10.30am-12.30pm, A club for 6-12 year olds, £2 Contact [marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com) or call 01379 688333



## 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  
E-mail: revdfmills1812@gmail.com

Diss Team Ministry [www.dissteamministry.org.uk](http://www.dissteamministry.org.uk)

The four parishes, and Roydon, are all parishes of the Diss Team Ministry, led by **The Revd Canon Tony Billett**, Rector of Diss, and part time Team Vicar, the Revd Wendy Evans. 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.



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
April 3	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
April 10	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
April 17	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
April 24	6.00pm Taize	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
May 1	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
May 8	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
May 15	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
May 22	6.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
May 29				10.30 5/P	
June 5	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

### Ascension Day: Gissing 7.00pm EP

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 | MS Morning Service

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**WINFARTHING** Chloe Frost, 10 Diamond Close, Winfarthing, IP22 2EW. 01379 644589  
[chloe.rudge84@gmail.com](mailto:chloe.rudge84@gmail.com)

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 3rd April Easter 2	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sun 10th April Easter 3	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sun 17th April Easter 4	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Saturday 23rd April Saint George's Day			4pm BCP Evensong & tea	
Sun 24th April Easter 5	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 1st May Easter 6 (Rogation)	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Thursday 5th May Ascension Day Service at Diss at 7.30pm				
Sun 8th May Ascension Sunday	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sun 15th May Pentecost	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 22nd May Trinity Sunday	No Service	9.30am HC	11.30am FS	9.30 MS
Sun 29th May Trinity 2	Holy Communion for 5th Sunday 10.30am Diss			
Sun 5th June Trinity 3	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service

MP Morning Prayers | MS Morning Service | 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.

**Connect Group:** Meets on some Wednesday afternoons at 2pm in St Mary's Hall, Diss; contact Jennie (01379 687679) for precise dates.

**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  
N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989  
S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273

R Hewitt 01379 687355  
R Vere 01379 687679  
J Brundell 01379 687216; D Huggins (emeritus)



## It is all happening in the Parishes!



W H Vanstone in one of his books describes in part the work of a Parish Priest as being involved with the 'Cats, Colic, & Chrysanthemum' of ministry. It needs an interest in every aspect of human life from the mundane Cats, Colic & Chrysanthemums, to the sharing in the awe, wonder and majesty of public worship. There are occasions when I find that words alone are not enough, to express one's gratitude!

For me, whilst attempting to lead a Christ-like life every day, only provides examples of personal failure. Chapter 7, verse 19 of Paul's letter to the Roman's 'For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing'. I may be completely useless but, thankfully, Paul also wrote in Chapter 8, verse 35 'who shall separate us from the love of Christ?' There are many occasions in life when we need to lift up our heads, away from our sinful nature, away from all the events that are dragging us down; to pause and wait upon Christ, to take our problems to the foot of the cross and leave them there.

On the Church Building scene, Burston has had a major crack repaired, the entire East Window has been taken out, cleaned, strengthened and repaired; and the building has also benefitted from improved drainage and guttering. Gissing is in the process of receiving all the inspections and reports required for substantial work to be carried out next year; to the structure and improved heating and lighting. Gissing had a visit from the Diocesan Advisory Committee with a view at some point in the future having a kitchenette and a Loo inside the Church, and also to having a stage area for concerts. Shelfanger has had a major engineering cum structural report, showing that the stresses and strains on the Chancel are of an historic nature. Winfarthing has benefitted from new carpets and is exploring the possibility of an outside Loo.

Revd D F Mills

## BURSTON NEWS

### St Mary's Church, Burston

We are all very pleased that our church is now nearly restored to us for worship and wider community use after such extensive renovation. Do come and join us for a service or simply pop in to admire the east window – clean and almost sparking! Many thanks to the extensive team that helped to spruce the church up at the end of January.

As part of our commitment to the community (and required as part of our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund) we are working on a heritage trail and sign, which we hope will be of interest to children and adults alike. If you have any suggestions for this project do please get in touch with me – but please do so soon as we need to make swift progress in order to have everything complete by the end of the year.

We also need to raise some more funds in order to complete our restoration project, so are going all out to do this with our usual fund-raising events put on by The Friends of Burston Church (St George's Day supper with entertainment 23rd April, safari supper 16th July, fish and chips quiz supper in October). In addition there will be other exciting events which we do hope you will support. Watch this space! Do let me know if you would like more details or reserve tickets for any of the events.

*Rachel Hobson 07712 670 928*

### Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

Even without a meeting in February there has been a lot going on.

A large pile of clay has been dumped by the bottle bank, and this seems to have given everyone the idea that this area is a dump. It is not, and leaving anything there that does not go into the bottle banks or charity banks is fly tipping, which is illegal. We are trying to find where the clay came from, together with the fridge-freezer, the microwave, and all the other rubbish. If you have information please let us know.

Representatives of the Parish Council attended a formal Planning meeting at South Norfolk Council

in connection with a proposed development on land to the East of Green Lane. The Planning Committee, having heard representations from local residents and the Parish Council, has decided to allow the application.

The asset register has been up-dated, and we now know what needs to be done to bring all of the items owned by the Parish 'up to scratch'.

Members of the council have attended one of their regular meetings with a representative of Norfolk County Council Highways Department. These meetings are very useful in ensuring that Highways are aware of many local issues regarding our roads.

Plans are now in hand for a celebration of the Queen's Birthday on Sunday 12th June.

*Nigel Frankland*

### Community Action Team

St George's Day Service at St George's Church, Shimpling will be a Book of Common Prayer Communion at 9.30 on Saturday 23rd April. The church is no longer used regularly for worship, but come and join us to maintain a centuries-old tradition.

There will be a barbecue with entertainment on Church Green on the evening of Strike Saturday, 3rd September.

### St Mary's Luncheon Club

This club is for retired folk from Burston and the surrounding villages and meets in the Church on the fourth Thursday of every month. Any enquiries to Sybil Peck on 01379 741410

### Jack Parker

His friends in the Luncheon Club would like to pay tribute to Jack Parker, a much loved member and a gentleman in every sense of the word. He will be greatly missed. Jack died in hospital after a short illness on Saturday 27th February aged 96. We extend our love and sympathy to Chris Maclean and all the family who are feeling his loss so keenly.

### 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 Rachel Hobson on 07712 670928. Tables, chairs and tableware are available for hire. A buffet can also be provided.

## Burston Chapel

Services: Sunday 11am and 6.30pm

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

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

## Burston Craft Group

We will be meeting at The Pavilion in Mill Road on 19th April for Origami and on 17th May we will meet at The Retreat, Diss Road, for an insight into Beekeeping. All meetings are from 10-12 and all are welcome.

Elaine Norman, 01379 740106

## Burston School

Class 1: Year 1 pupils completed their 'Step on It' road safety training last week. We also took part in the dance festival at Diss High school, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. In Science the children are looking at how materials change state. This involves experiments with chocolate and some fun cooking. We have also been experimenting with sugar and salt, watching it dissolve and waiting to see what we get back. We are looking at the Christian faith in our Religious Studies and also the road to Easter. In literacy we have been enjoying Rudyard Kipling's 'Just So' stories and 'Tinga Tales'. We have started our Japanese lessons which have been fun with the children learning how to count in Japanese. In maths we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and then used this knowledge to multiply and divide, write and read arrays and complete word problems.

Class 3: We are looking at non-chronological reports. We have found different features and begun to look at a range of conjunctions to help improve our writing. In Maths we have focused on statistics and analysing the information. Years 3 and 4 have been finding the perimeter of shapes and years 5 and 6 have been working on volume. In our Roman topic

children have continued to use their archaeological skills and put a vase back together, in addition to trying some of the Roman delicacies including goats cheese, radishes, olives, pomegranate and fig! In Science we have introduced a new topic of 'animals including humans'. We have been learning about the digestive system and writing a story about the journey a piece of food goes through. We have been enjoying our PE lessons which we get to learn tag rugby one week and learn a dance routine the next. Year 1 to 5 are also enjoying their swimming sessions every week. Year 4 has just successfully completed the Level 1 cycling course.

As a school we will be raising money for Sport Relief by walking around the candlestick in Burston twice. This should be 10,000 steps which is what some children have to walk every day to fetch water.

THE FRIENDS OF GISSING CHURCH

## *The Angel Roof of Gissing Church*

a talk by Michael Rimmer

Come and see this 'Faberge egg of a church' as described by Michael in his book *the Angel Roofs of East Anglia* and hear about the history and craftsmanship of Gissing's angel roof

**Saturday, 14th May 5pm  
St Mary the Virgin, Gissing**

Admission by ticket only  
Tickets cost £4 and include a glass of wine and cheese & biscuits, following the talk.

For further details and to reserve your ticket, please contact Fiona Turton 01379 677811 or email: [fionaturton@btinternet.com](mailto:fionaturton@btinternet.com)

*To help raise funds for St Mary's urgent structural repairs*

## GISSING NEWS

### Friends of Gissing Church

The main focus recently has had to be the urgent structural repairs to the church building. The Friends/PCC partnership has been working hard, getting all the plans and specifications together for the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Second Stage bid due in early June.

Members of the HLF Project Team are covering a range of aspects of the bid including: Architectural and Structural Repairs working in association with the church architect – the main part of the bid is utilities which covers the upgrade of the electricity supply, installation of an effective and efficient heating system, and upgrading of the lighting system to make the most of the wonderful angel roof, and sympathetically light the building.

Additional funding applications are being made to a range of charities, to plug the grant shortfall currently standing at £18064.

Heritage related activities encourage greater understanding of the building's heritage and contents, as well as encouraging more community use and thereby attracting increased numbers of visitors.

As you see there is plenty to do!

Apart from the urgent repairs, much of the improvement in the church relies on an upgraded electricity supply, to support new heating and lighting. Given that Heart of Gissing also needs a better electricity supply for its new building, members of both groups and the Parish Council have worked together to agree a joint plan to bring in the upgrade, making sense logistically, rather than having two separate installations at different times. By the Friends giving Heart a donation to help towards the joint cost, this saved the partnership quite a bit of money in the short term that will go towards improving the lighting in the church. The only additional work will be to bring in the electricity supply from the corner of the churchyard to the church building, which will be covered by the HLF grant. Thanks go to all who have been involved in various ways in sorting out the upgrade work, especially Alan King, Paul Wright, George Hammond, Ed Scoggins and Stephen Sell.

Representatives of the Diocese visited the church to look at what was planned and we got the sense (although they will still need to assess the plans formally) that we were on the right track, which is a great comfort.

We are planning the annual Litter Pick on April 3rd with refreshments afterwards in the Kemp Chapel. Keep your fingers crossed that we win the grand draw prize this year – a welcome addition to the contingency fund!!

The Friends AGM will be held in the church on April 19 at 7.30pm.

Our thanks go to Avril Pierssene for creating a set of small note cards showing scenes of the church outside which complements the note cards already on sale depicting the heritage of the building, and the black and white views of Gissing in yesteryear. These are now available in the church. Thanks also to Sue Wright who has developed a Gissing Geo-Cache which encourages people to visit the church to find the clues which then leads them to the cache.

For further information or if you would like to be involved in anything set out above then now is your chance. Contact Fiona [fiona.turton@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.turton@btinternet.com) or 677811 to offer your help – thank you very much.

### Gissing Children's Centre

Our Pre-School, with its very special family ethos, runs Monday to Friday during term time in two, 3 hour sessions per day where children can attend from 9-12 and/or from 12-3 with an option to collect at 1pm. Children can attend, unaccompanied, from 2yrs up to 5yrs old/starting school. Early years funding for 2-4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions. Any families wishing to have a look, are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9-3 during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or to send enquiries to [preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](mailto:preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) to arrange to call in. Do visit our website ([www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](http://www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk)) and our facebook page to see the sort of things we do.

We are running an Easter Playscheme for primary school children on Monday 4th and Wednesday 6th April. The cost will be £15 per child and the sessions will run from 9-3.30 with the option of a shorter session from 9-1 for £12. Places should be booked

and paid for in advance by ringing 07531 810704 or by emailing: [playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](mailto:playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) Children will need to bring a packed lunch and some money for tuck. A wide range of activities, both indoors and outside, will be delivered under the themes of a Dragon Day and a Music and Musical Instruments Day. In addition, Ian Constance Coaching will be running multi-skills sessions outdoors until lunchtime.

We are currently collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. These vouchers can be exchanged for a whole range of outdoor and indoor equipment from skipping ropes to wooden spoons so if you, or someone you know, get any Active Kids vouchers over the next few months they would be very gratefully received by the Pre-School. Please put vouchers into a sealed envelope marked FAO Sam Johnson and just pop into our post box - thank you!

The 76 Club is a monthly fundraising draw run by the Pre-School. It costs just £1 per month and we still have numbers available for March - August '16 inclusive. The draws take place on the last day of each month with a first prize of £20, second prize of £10 and third prize of £5. All profits go to the Pre-School at Gissing Children's Centre. For more information please call Sam Johnson on 01379 741975 or e-mail her at: [sam70j@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sam70j@yahoo.co.uk). A list of winning numbers so far can be seen on the events page on our website: [gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](http://gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk)

## Heart of Gissing

(Charity No 1161599)

The excitement surrounding the plans for the new community space next to the Old School, scheduled to be ready this time next year, continues. Thank you to everyone who attended the first AGM of the newly constituted Heart of Gissing CIO (charitable incorporated organisation) at the beginning of March; it was lovely to see some new faces; clearly, some considerable interest exists for this marvellous £711,365 project at the centre of the village. The new community building will be an attractive, accessible and versatile space, suitable for gatherings including parties, weddings and other family events. It will comprise a bespoke performance space, be ideal for meetings, training sessions, other events and as an important base for existing and new groups that run

in the village. There will be a kitchen, bar/servery area with lovely views over the water meadow as well as a Claylands exhibition space. Ample car parking will be provided close to the site with access from Rectory Road. We would welcome new groups starting up, in readiness for the new space being available, so if you have ideas on what might work in Gissing, or would like to initiate a new group, do let us know by emailing [admin@heartofgissing.org.uk](mailto:admin@heartofgissing.org.uk) and we will do our best to support it.

We are lucky, in Gissing, to already have a number of popular groups running; in this issue of Cock Crow, we focus on the following:

## Gissing Craft Café

This has been going from strength to strength, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month from 10–11 in the Village Hall, Rectory Road. It is a relaxed group, enjoying a chat, coffee and a lovely piece of cake while working on a variety of projects. So far this year we have made decorative scarf rings and had a book page folding class, where a number of lovely decorations were produced. Members with a particular interest take turns to share their knowledge of a wide variety of crafts.

We are looking forward in the coming months to trying needle-felted animals, appliqué techniques, simple weaving and are hoping to organise a 'crafty' day out in the summer.

Do feel free to come along. You will be assured a warm welcome. For further details contact either Kate on 01379 677504 or Anne on 01379 674272

## The Crafty Sew and Sews

This was formed last year by a small group of crafters who produce attractive gifts and decorative items for sale, in order to raise funds for the Heart of Gissing. With fund raising needed to provide equipment for the lottery-funded annexe, we have been working hard. We will be taking our goods to Pennoyers craft fair in March and will have a stall at the Easter Eggstravaganza in Gissing. We are booked to attend a number of large craft fairs this summer. We hope to shortly open a facebook page with details of our products and how they can be purchased. Keep a look out on the Gissing village facebook page for its

launch. We hope that you will consider buying items from us when you are looking for a gift to purchase. We cater for all price ranges and have some unique items that are not available in the shops. All profits after materials costs are donated to The Heart of Gissing. If you have any offcuts of fabric, zips, buttons or trimmings that you no longer need we would welcome donations to use in our projects. Contact Anne on 01379 674272.



## New Evening Pilates Classes

Do you fancy joining a fun, friendly and local class? Are you looking to get stronger, leaner and to reduce stress and tension? Well how about joining Pilates instructor Heather Ormerod on Monday evenings at The Old School Gissing.

6pm–7pm Beginners/Gentle Pilates Matwork class: designed for those new to Pilates, or for those returning to exercises after a break. You will be guided through the fundamentals of Pilates helping you to improve your Alignment, Breathing and Core Stability. The class will focus on building confidence and understanding of the technique.

8pm–9pm Improvers Matwork Class: for those who have Pilates experience or who are currently partaking regularly in other forms of exercise such as running, gym etc. During your improvers class you will develop a deeper understanding of your technique and physical skills by means of a balanced, effective, total body workout with particular focus on your core

Bookings: [heatherormerodpilates@gmail.com](mailto:heatherormerodpilates@gmail.com)

Heather has gained Level 4 Low Back Pain and GP Referral qualifications in addition to her Level 3 Pilates Diploma. Heather trained in London under renowned Pilates teacher Anoushka Boone ensuring an in depth understanding of the technique. Heather has over thirteen years of teaching experience ensuring is she able to work sensitively and appropriate with individual clients, offering support, guidance and bespoke classes.

## Toddler Group

Gissing Village Hall every Monday during term time 10–11.30am. Recently we have been busy potato-printing, making use of our new play tray and planting sweet peas for Mother's Day. We have regular visits by Debby Kilkenny from Diss Sure Start, who provides either a short story or singing session. An Easter trip is also planned to Monsters on the 21st of March. We are really looking forward to moving the group early next year to the new community space at The Old School and all the benefits that will provide.

## Gissing Singers

This small choir is already busy rehearsing for events in the summer. Now is a good time to join, with ten or so rehearsals to learn a fresh programme of songs before mid June! It's useful – but not essential – if new members can read music a little, or have sung in a choir before.

The choir meets from 7.30 to 9.30pm every Monday (Tuesdays after Bank Holiday weekends) at Gissing Village Hall in Rectory Road.

Enquiries about membership or performances can be made to Andrew by phone on 01379-674510.

## Local Rambling

On a bright sunny morning in February, 31 members of Winfarthing Walkers and five dogs set off from Gissing village car park to walk the paths and quiet roads around Gissing, Burston and The Heywood. Primroses and snowdrops a-plenty, though a flock of fieldfares that were in evidence the previous week alongside the green lane at the top of Malthouse Lane, had moved on. We chose the footpaths in the best condition we could find, though even they made for difficult walking at times. After a very wet winter some of the paths and bridleways were so churned up with the mud and tractor/vehicle imprints that they were not a viable proposition. We are lucky to have a good network of footpaths in this area and it is such a joy to move off the roads and head out across green rides and field edges. Thanks are due to anyone who is involved in maintaining our footpaths – in particular cutting down the thistles and nettles that can make things difficult for walkers.

## SHELFANGER NEWS

### All Saints' Church

Firstly, a very happy Eastertide to all readers. By the time you read this, Easter Day will have come and gone and British Summer Time will have begun!

The quiet services during the evenings of Holy Week and the Easter Communion were reverently observed and well attended. The wardens and Parochial Church Council sincerely thank Pam, Marian, Jean, Anne, Sheila, Lorna and Marilyn for the beautiful Easter flowers making the church look and smell wonderful. We welcome two new additions to the Flower Team, Mrs Lorna Trudgill and Mrs Brenda Bailey. We thank them for coming forward and strengthening this important group.

We now look forward to Ascension Day and Whitsun; but let us enjoy some (hopefully) Spring weather before then.

### Church Organisation

At the Annual General Church Meeting on March 8th, Churchwarden Mr Peter Harries was elected to serve for another year, Mr Roger Challoner agreed to continue serving as warden until the special Parish Meeting on 9th April and Mrs Sheila Churchyard and Mrs Pam Harries again agreed to serve on the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Church Treasurer, Mrs Jean Challoner, presented the Annual Review and Financial Report and this was formally accepted.

### Special Village Meeting

You will have received an invitation to an informal meeting at the church on Saturday 9th April at 10.30am. This meeting (which will be kept as brief and efficient as possible) is to explain the present situation at the church, the possible way things may develop and how the parish may help in keeping its church healthy. Please come if at all possible.

### Church Building Update

In structural matters, Shelfanger church continues to be inspected and examined. At the beginning of March a structural engineer, assisted by David



Leeder, ascended a 40ft ladder to the apex point above the chancel arch. Checks by plumb-line revealed a 9inch lean to the east from apex tip to floor. The engineer has yet to complete his report but feels that the lean has been developing gradually over many years and is supported by roof forces of the nave and chancel. We await his detailed conclusions.

### Village Hall News

At the last meeting (February 4th) Malcolm and Jan Barnard announced that because of health and other difficulties they would reluctantly have to stand down from their posts of chairman and secretary respectively. The meeting regretfully acquiesced to their decision and they were both thanked sincerely for their services. Malcolm has been chairman for some eight years and Jan, secretary for three years. Both have also been strong supporters of the Shelfanger Flower Vegetable and Craft Show.

### Shelfanger Social Club

The club continues to jolly along with some good Friday evenings, the Darts Evening (last Friday of the month) being very active. Derek Lord has opened up his 2016 Thrift Club book and savers are already stepping up! Due to illness, the club has had to close on recent Saturday evenings as key personnel have been unable to attend. We wish a speedy recovery to Joyce Blake and Elsie Cotton. Hopefully, we shall soon be back to normal.

### Shelfanger Parish Council

Parishioners will be pleased and relieved to note that the new drainage installation in Rectory Road has worked well and the long-lasting flood has receded. The only drawback now is the very large wooden boat left high and dry nearby, full of bellowing, growling and howling animals. Police have traced the owner, a Mr Noah, and he has promised to deal with the situation as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, don't forget the village website [www.shelfanger.com](http://www.shelfanger.com)

It now has a growing number of enthusiastic village volunteers constantly adding new content and keeping the rest up to date. It has sections for 'newbies' (people who have lived here for less than 10 years!), details of groups and organisations and upcoming regular and one off events.

There is also an ever expanding list of trades provided by or recommended by villagers. So if you need to get wood in a hurry, if your heating is on the blink or even want new windows or a whole staircase made by a villager please go to [www.shelfanger.com](http://www.shelfanger.com).

The History section is one of the most popular areas of the site, with details of a crashed bomber, famous artist, medieval murals and something in the water – Shelfanger has many surprises.

If you have information that should be on there or would like to help keep it current we can be contacted at [team@shelfanger.com](mailto:team@shelfanger.com)

### Shelfanger Stitchers

The group continues to meet fortnightly and recently enjoyed a particularly interesting afternoon of needle felting with Becky Whatley, demonstrating how this technique could be used creatively, both in two and three dimensional forms. Her larger panels reflecting natural landscapes and made using wool from her own sheep were particularly striking. Members had the opportunity to start small projects of their own with mixed success! Our thanks to Becky for a fascinating afternoon.

In the meantime, knitting continues to be the group's most popular occupation and some lively pieces of work are being created. New members of all abilities are always welcome. (Telephone Helen for more information on 652199)

## TIVETSHALL NEWS

### Village Hall News

There are important dates for events taking place this year; some political, some arranged for your involvement and pleasure while others are potentially for benefit to our health. None compulsory, some have a minor cost (although it is raising money for a local charity) and one just might help save a person's life.

On Thursday 5th May the hall is open for voting in the local PCC elections. Some might see this as a waste of time and money, but I urge you to find out a little more about it and, if you have a view as to how your money is spent tackling crime (especially as we no longer have a PCSO contact for our village), then go along and vote.

On the 23rd June the hall is open for voting in the EU referendum. Whatever your view, it is the first time in 40 years that the country has had a chance to have its say. I wasn't old enough to vote last time but will make sure I have my say this time, as it is an important issue.

On the pleasure side there will be another fun quiz night on 23rd April (all welcome and I can personally recommend it as a well organised fun night, win or lose!) for tickets and details please call Kelly 01379 676442.

Last, but by no means least, there will be a gathering at the hall at 7.30pm on the 26th April to explain what to do in the event of a possible heart attack, what the defibrillator attached to the side of the hall is and how it can be used to save a life. Everyone is welcome to attend; it is free and could help you, a friend or a member of your family buy precious extra minutes whilst you wait for an ambulance.

So you see the hall is not just for Pilates, Short-mat bowls or children's parties but a space for all to hire for a variety of events or clubs.

Please visit [www.tivetshallvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.tivetshallvillagehall.org.uk) for more info regarding events, availability and hire charges.

David Evans



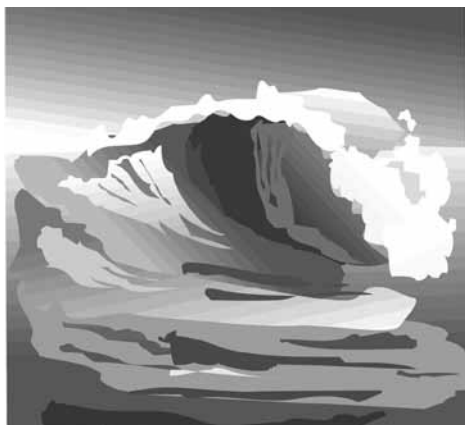


## Tivetshall Primary School

We had a quiet start to the year, enjoying concentrating on our value for this term: Compassion, and thinking about Diversity during Diversity Week.

The week before half-term was very busy. Reception, Year 1 and 2 went to a Dance Festival at Diss High School which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the pupils who danced to Uptown Funk!

On the following day Class 1 held a 'Weather Café' which one child described as 'The most exciting day since we came back from the Christmas holidays'. The children listened to the story of The Sun and The Wind and then parents learned a little about where weather studies fit in the Early Years curriculum and the National Curriculum. Everybody then had lots of fun taking part in weather related activities – including a very messy cloud activity involving shaving foam and making cloud and rainbow cakes.



The last day of half-term was E-safety day. Internet safety precautions were reinforced as part of an on-going programme. The particular emphasis this year was on telling truth from lies on the internet; and safe commenting – including never talking to strangers on-line.

After half-term we were involved in Road Safety when Year 1 learnt about staying safe in car parks and on the road and all earned a certificate. We all enjoyed a Road Safety Show with Olly Day when an unfortunate egg learnt what happens when you don't wear a cycle helmet!

*Sandra Potter, Head of School*

## WINFARTHING NEWS

### All Saints' Primary School

The Spring term at All Saints' started with a visit to The Theatre Royal in Norwich to see the pantomime. All cheered, booed and hissed very loudly and learnt lots about special effects and staging. The focus this term has been 'passport around the world' with pupils using their enquiry skills to learn about different countries, traditions and beliefs. There have already been many successes including a good grading in the recent church inspection and recognition of outstanding Christian Distinctiveness.

Last half term, Rhino class looked at the topic of 'Superheroes'. They had great fun looking at many different superheroes and got really involved in the topic by bringing in everything related to superheroes including costumes, books, comics, films, t-shirts and even an alarm clock!

Chimps class have enjoyed creating a role play area to learn about the work of travel agents and passport control. They researched and made flags from around the world using different materials. As part of the topic, they focussed on China and learnt about different customs.



This term Pandas have been investigating natural disasters around the world. They were able to start their research close to home with the terrible flooding many places in the UK experienced at the beginning of the year. The class produced reports on the topic and wrote some exciting weather poetry.

Last month finally saw the publication of a book containing several poems about emotions that had been written by the children in Panda class last term. Parents were able to order their own copies and the school was fortunate enough to receive its own free copy of the book.

This half-term Dolphin class has been looking at the film/book 'Skellig' and using an app called Morfo to animate the main character. They have

also been produced some artwork based on the book which shows how the characters see each other in the first scene.

Expected before the end of term: the recent arrival of Maths Truggs has created an extra buzz to our lessons and pupils are busily creating Easter gardens to remind us the hope that this festival brings. We also have science week to look forward to as well!

*Louise Norgate, Head Teacher*

## 1st Dickleburgh Sea Scouts

Older Scouts have been to Derbyshire this half-term staying at Edale in a National Trust Camping Barn where youngsters walked the Goyt Valley and Explorer Scouts hiked over Kinder Scout for a practice of the Junior Four Inns which they completed in March, hiking 35 kilometres in one day. The weather at half-term was very kind to the party who enjoyed being in the hills of Derbyshire.

Cubs shown on the footbridge in the Waveney Valley enjoyed a mornings hike, in early March, ending back at the Scout HQ for a sausage and mash lunch.

1st Dickleburgh Sea Scouts encourages it's Scouts and Explorer Scouts to do some hiking in the winter. Most of the Scout Group's programme is sailing and kayaking which takes place in Spring and Summer to late Autumn. The Scout Group, although having many assistants and skilled instructors needs a Cub Leader, Scout Leader and Explorer Leader. If interested please contact the Group Scout Leader on 01379 608596/email: paul.playford@btconnect.com





## Open Studios 2016

Twenty-four professional artists' studios open for two weekends, *entry is free*

Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd May,  
11–6pm

Saturday 28th to Monday 30th May,  
(Bank Holiday) 11–6pm

Studios stretch along the Waveney Valley between Harleston, Brockdish and Bungay.

Artists will be showing drawings, paintings, prints, textiles and mosaics giving visitors a very friendly welcome.

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

## From the Registers

### Bressingham Group

#### FUNERALS

**Olive May Emms** (North Lopham) 25th January, Bury Crematorium

**Patrick McManus** 8th February, North Lopham (burial)

**Timothy Allen O'Dowd** 10th February, North Lopham (then Cremation)

**Norma Christine Pretty** 15th February, Bressingham

### Winfarthing Group

#### CHRISTENING

**Oliver Smith** 7th February, Winfarthing

#### THANKSGIVING

**Betty Rout** 23rd March, Winfarthing, and interment of ashes