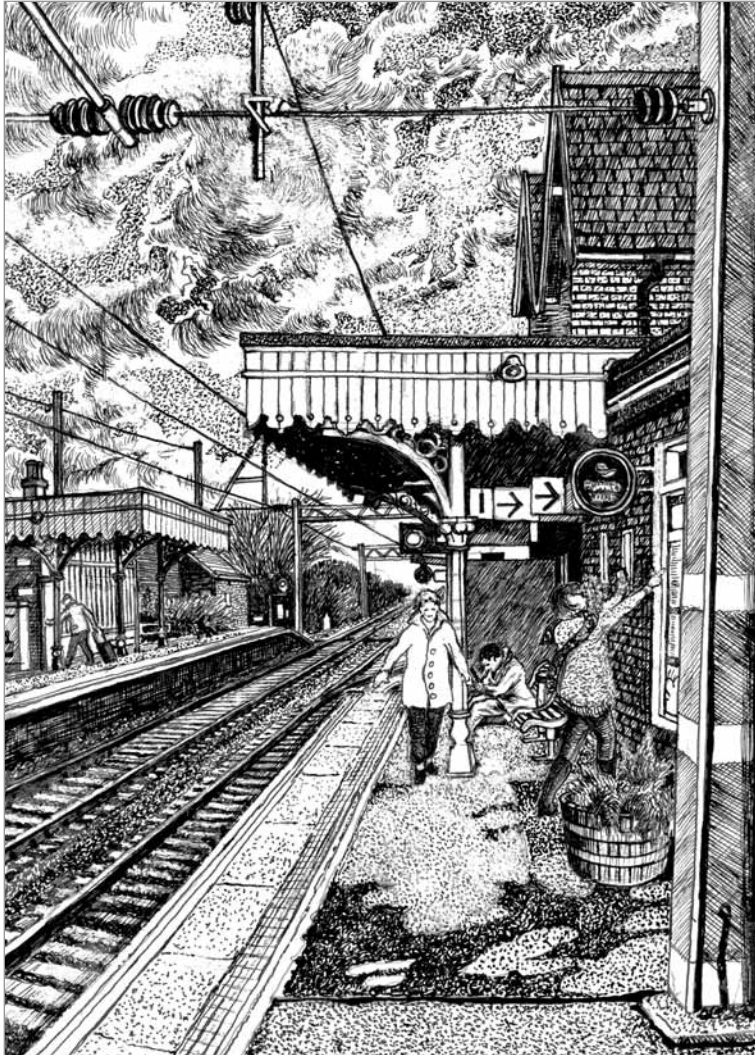
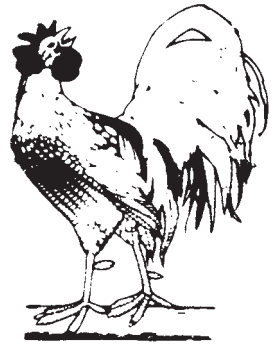


# Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &  
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016**

Issue No: 1



Travellers at Diss Railway Station

# Editors' Notice Board

## Andrew Jackman: 70

Many of you will remember Andrew Jackman, who played an active part in the musical life of the churches in these parishes from the moment he moved to Norfolk in 1980 to his death in 2003. The Rectors always had good ideas which Andrew embraced with enthusiasm. Joe Lister instigated the choir which led the worship at Christmas and Easter for five years. Brian Short suggested he compose a setting for the Five Parish Communion Service. Des Whale started a quarterly evening Praise service, and the unforgettable Messiah's Band was born, and in David Mills' tenure, the Millennium Canticles for Winfarthing were commissioned. All this apart from the fellowship music group in the early years, regular playing at Tivetshall Sunday services, Sunday School and Wasps, and weddings, funerals and musical evenings in other parishes. In the meantime he pursued his career as a professional musician – arranger, conductor and composer – working with everyone from the Sex Pistols to Barbra Streisand.



2016 is the year in which Andrew would have been 70. He left behind many compositions for choir, brass band, wind band, chamber groups and soloists. To celebrate his memory his family is approaching musicians from all parts of the world, professional and amateur, to play one of Andrew's compositions during this year – whether in a concert venue, church or sitting room.

Many of the pieces were written for particular performers, but have not been published. A copy score and parts of the unpublished work is available from the address below for you to reproduce for this occasion only. If you would like to receive one of the booklets, please contact me 01379 642372, email [dianejackman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dianejackman@tiscali.co.uk). [www.andrewjackman.co.uk](http://www.andrewjackman.co.uk).



*Music in a drawer is dead.*

*When the notes float on the air,  
the music lives.*

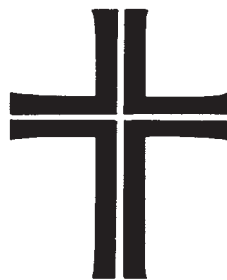
Diane Lee

Other items  
the Editors think  
you might like  
to know about



Bressingham & Fersfield Open Gardens	24
Diss Library News	33

Forget Me Not Grants (SNDC)	10
Friends of Tivetshall School: Quiz nights	15
Get ready for winter (SNDC)	5
Hoxne Hundred come dancing afternoons	16
Murphy's Rambles	34



## Want to learn more?

An opportunity will arise later on this year to hold a Basic Christianity Course within the Benefice. The intention is to set forth the Christian faith in a clear and meaning manner, probably using Church of England material. In very loose short-hand it will lead to something like Admit, Believe, Consider and Do. I have often used this expression to explain my Christian faith; to **A**dmit that I am a sinner, to **B**elieve that Jesus Christ has died for my sins, to **C**onsider the impact that this has on my life, and **D**o something about it – tell others.

Confirmation in the Church of England, is where a candidate renews the vows and promises made on their behalf at their Christening. This affirmation of vows takes place in front of the Bishop. It is an open declaration, which is made as a visible sign to a gathered congregation which usually includes family and friends. It is a statement of intent that one intends to follow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Confirmation has been described 'as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace'. It does not mean one is perfect. I still am wearing my 'L' plates, a work in progress.

As you may already be aware the root meaning of the word Baptism is 'to be rooted, grafted, and immersed in Christ'. You may like to look at Romans 6: 3 & 4.

If you would like to explore further a Basic Christianity Course, or would like to be confirmed please let me know, on (01379) 643646 or e mail revdfmills1812@gmail.com

Rev'd D F Mills

## BURSTON NEWS

### St Mary's Luncheon Club

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

### 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.

### 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.

### Chapel

Services: Sunday 11am and 6.30pm

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

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

Craft Group 16th February: Beading – make a bangle. 15th March: Twisted Easel card

We meet at the Pavilion in Mill Road from 10–12. We are hoping to start an evening meeting. If you are interested please let me know so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Elaine Norman 01379 740106

### Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

Progress is being made in several different areas during and between Parish Council Meetings.

A working group has completed its review of Standing Orders and Policies, and the revised versions have now been adopted.

Many members of the public attended the Council meeting in November to comment on a planning application for an apple store on land off Green Lane. District Councillor Stone was present to hear these comments and has 'called in' the planning

application to be considered at a Planning Meeting of South Norfolk Council, and the protesters and the Parish Council will each be able to make a presentation to the committee before the matter is decided.

Councillor Tom Grieve is looking for nominations for the Don Swanton Award. Anyone can nominate a resident of Burston or Shimpling (other than Parish Councillors) who have contributed to the community in any way. Do you know of any 'unsung heroes' who just get on with doing something that needs to be done? The award will be presented at the Annual parish meeting in May. *Nigel Frankland*

### Community Action Team

The Team put a lot of effort in the annual Carols by Candlelight service held in St George's Shimpling. The church was lit with over 500 candles, and rang with the sound of carols sung by a full congregation. Over £200 was collected for the Churches Conservation Trust who maintains the church. We are grateful to Mr Gowing for allowing car-parking on his farmyard, as the track was particularly slippery this year.

Our next event will be 'An audience with Keith Skipper'. This promises to be great fun, with lots of mardle and squit ...as well as supper. Keith will be visiting us at St Mary's Burston on the evening of Saturday 19th March. To reserve your tickets contact me on 01379 644788 or at nigel frankland@btinternet.com.

We will be helping with the St George's Day service that will be held in Shimpling on 23rd April, maintaining a tradition that extends back over several centuries.

### St Mary's Church

St Mary's PCC is very pleased to welcome two new members – Anthony Brice who has taken over as our Treasurer, and Beverley Blake – both bring a wealth of experience (and common sense) to our meetings! You may like to put the date of the PCC AGM in your diaries: it will be on Friday 15th April at 7.30pm in the church. This is an open meeting and anybody is welcome to attend.

We continue to be involved in the major building repairs to the church, which are nearly complete – the main remaining major issue is to put back the

east window, which on investigation had proved to be dangerously wonky. However, the scaffolding is all down now and we are planning a working party to clean up the inside of the church at the end of January. We also hope that the churchyard will be made good soon, after being used for so long to store building materials, machinery etc.

The Friends of Burston Church is organising its annual St George's Day Supper on Saturday 23rd April. As always this will be a two course meal followed by entertainment. Details are still to be finalised but if you would like to reserve tickets in advance please contact Len Hobson on 07712 670 926.

*Rachel Hobson*

### Burston School

Class 1: This week we have begun our new topic in earnest. In Geography pupils have enjoyed learning about the Arctic, its climate, weather and the animals that live there. This term pupils will study fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our topic theme 'Our Wonderful World'. In design and technology pupils are going to use a range of materials to help

create and construct houses, a castle, shields and dragons amongst other things. In music we will be learning songs about the weather and will use instruments to create mood and types of weather.

Class 3: We have had a really enjoyable first week back. In English we have been looking at suspense and mystery texts with the focus being on The BFG. In maths we will be focusing on how to use a formal method for both multiplying and dividing. Compassion is our value for this term and on Tuesday afternoon the children began thinking about what compassion means and creating a poem, piece of drama or a song to convey their understanding. We started our new topic in science, Forces, and looked at the importance of gravity and what life would be like if we didn't have it. In our Romans topic we have begun by learning how to be archaeologists before we then excavate an area of the school grounds to see what we can find. In art and design the children will be working with a range of materials to help create mosaics and collages. The children will be learning Japanese this term, engaging in fun activities which will help them with pronunciation.

## Get Ready For Winter!

With winter upon us we all need to be prepared to help ourselves and our local friends and neighbours. This is particularly so in a rural community where the professional emergency services may be overwhelmed and unable to render assistance quickly. For this reason we have a community emergency plan which is aimed at helping us to make a local first response.

Incidents may be due to for example extreme weather conditions, the loss of water or power supplies or a major accident. May I ask you to let me know if you feel that you would be at risk, or someone you know would be at risk, for example, someone who lives alone, is housebound or perhaps has a disability?

Do please let me know your thoughts, and how you could help, for example, via your professional training, perhaps as a doctor or nurse, an engineer or builder. Or you may have equipment such as chainsaws, a generator, four-wheel drive vehicle or would be prepared to offer shelter or accommodation.

I am the local Emergency Coordinator and can be reached on 01379 741033, mobile 0771 267 0926 or lenhobson@bmn-management.com. My deputy is Andrew Grimley on 01379 741301, mob 07563 700 672 or andrew.grimley@hotmail.co.uk

Please remember that in an emergency your first call must go to the professional emergency services via 999 in the usual way.

I would be very happy to chat about the community emergency plan and to answer your questions and I look forward to hearing from you.

**Len Hobson, Parish Emergency Coordinator**

## GISSING NEWS

### Two Farewells

As the year neared its end, Gissing said good-bye to two of its long time residents.

Rachel Tarry died in November after a long and debilitating illness. Rachel had lived in Gissing for nearly half a century and had been a major figure in the community, playing a part in most village activities, and a leading role in many of them. She was particularly active in the Church, where her flower arrangements for the great festivals and occasions of the church year were always admired and will be remembered. She also initiated an on-going project to produce a complete and accurate record of the location of every burial in the churchyard, a work to which she gave countless hours, and which will, when complete, be an important addition to the archive of St Mary's. Villages depend on people like Rachel ...modest, self effacing, but always willing and ready to lead when necessary. We will miss her.

Alfie Kaschner also left us before Christmas. Another long time resident of the parish, Alf was born in Saxony, in what later became East Germany, and came to England as a prisoner of war, after having been ordered to surrender during the desert war in North Africa. Having married an English girl, he elected to stay in England, settling eventually in Gissing, where he and his wife raised their family. Alf was another villager who could always be relied on ...a friend to all, who could turn his hand to most things, and who was always ready to help anyone out anyway he could. Late in life, after the end of the Cold War, he was re-united with his family in Germany, re-establishing contact with sisters he hadn't seen since the war, and getting to know their children and grandchildren. Alf was one of the great Gissing characters of his generation, and we'll remember him fondly.

### Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

George and Daralyn thank everyone who contributed to November's collection, which amounted to a grand total of £237.88, a fantastic result. The collection taken at the Remembrance Sunday service in

church amounted to £113.21 and this also was sent to the Royal British Legion.

### Carol Service

The church was looking its festive best at our carol service in December. Thank you to Anne and others who decorated the pews and windows. We enjoyed a wonderful feast of singing from the Gissing Singers who were in great voice and treated us to a selection of solo carols that were very attractive but little known. One of their pieces – 'Go, go, go to Bethlehem' had a catchy rhythm that bounced along rather like the 'Calypso Carol' that the congregation sang a little later in the service. Both went down well and folk enjoyed hearing some 'new lively tunes' to complement the old favourites. In addition to the Bible readings on the Nativity, Fiona read, most beautifully, a moving and reflective poem called 'Comes the Light' written by Roger McGough. We also thank the Rector, who led the service, all our readers and, of course, the splendid refreshments team who provided us with a feast of seasonal goodies, including mulled wine. The congregational singing – which was very good – might have been even better if the wine had been served before the service! As usual a very enjoyable morning – and welcome to Richard and Pauline who are new to Gissing.

### Village Walks

Gissing will begin its annual circuit of the village footpaths earlier this year. The first walk will take place on Monday, 4th April, and will start from the old village phone box in Wash Lane. The walk will begin at 6.30, and anyone interested should be at the phone box a few minutes ahead of time. These walks are to check the condition of the paths, noting any repairs or clearances necessary, as well as to provide an enjoyable stroll for all who'd like to participate.

### Friends of Gissing Church

2015 proved to be a very busy year, both in terms of our Heritage Lottery (HLF) bid and for fund raising. Following our initial unsuccessful bid to HLF, we re-submitted our application and we made it through to the second round. This news was announced by Richard Bacon MP during our festival of flowers and music held in June.

This was one of a number of well attended events that raised much of the money that we need to keep the church going and also to start to build a contingency fund for the structural repairs (we are obliged by HLF to find 5% of the cost locally).

Other fund raising events raised a combined total of £784.

Work on the Lottery bid has included the process of 'opening up' where our builders and experts run a series of investigations to determine exactly what work is needed. We have also spent time preparing an activity plan, setting out some of our ideas to increase and enhance the use of the church and how we intend to introduce more people to the fascinating history of the building.

Work to improve the electrical supply is continuing and talks with Heart of Gissing are at an advanced stage over a shared supply.

2016 is likely to be equally busy; the completed application must be submitted by June and then we begin the anxious wait to see whether funds can finally be allocated. Alongside this, fund raising must continue apace to ensure we have the contingency we need and little things like the insurance and the grass mowing get paid for!

One event that is already pencilled in is a talk by Michael Rimmer, to be held on 14th May. Michael is an expert on angel roofs and has recently published a book on the subject.

We have been delighted with the level of support that we have received from the village and the surrounding community. However, if you haven't been involved to date, now is your chance.

Make Gissing Church one of your New Year's resolutions; contact our Chairperson, Fiona Turton [fiona.turton@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.turton@btinternet.com) to offer your help – thank you.

### Gissing Children's Centre

Our Pre-School runs in two, 3 hour sessions for children aged 2–5 years old/starting school. Early years funding for 2–4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions. Contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9–3 during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or send enquiries to [preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](mailto:preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) to arrange to call in.

Visit [www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](http://www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) and our Facebook page to see what we do.

The pre-school had many highlights leading up to Christmas and the children particularly enjoyed making individual Christmas cakes for their family. The Spring term will see us exploring space travel, rockets and planets. As a setting, we are really looking forward to the Heart of Gissing building works scheduled to start later in the Spring and we know this is going to bring lots of learning opportunities and excitement for the children.

We plan to run a one day Playscheme for primary school children during the February half-term (15th–19th February). This will be publicised nearer the time on Facebook and via leaflets delivered to local schools before the end of January. The cost will be £15 per child for a session to run from 9–3.30 with the option of a shorter session from 9–1 for £12. Please book and pay 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 will be on offer.

### Heart of Gissing

**Lottery bid** There can't be many people in Gissing or the surrounding villages who don't now know about the success of the bid for lottery funding by the Heart of Gissing. The exhilarating news of the £711,365 award was announced nationally by the Big Lottery in early December and was quickly picked up by the local press and radio stations. For everyone involved in the preparation of the bid, it was a great Christmas present and there were some well-earned celebrations.

As the New Year gets going it's back to work, putting in place the steps which will see the bid's proposals come to life. With the basic building plans for the new annexe to The Old School already agreed, the next step is to work out how to make the new areas as practical and versatile as possible.

Sound, lighting and staging specialists are being consulted to ensure that the largest of the new areas will work as an up-to-the-minute performance space as well as a conventional function room. Advice on potential layouts is also being taken for the area which will be used as a kitchen, bar or servery.

**Dance, Drama and Exercise Classes** As the detailed planning of the new facilities gets under way, the usual wide range of activities run under the Heart of Gissing umbrella continues, with a few new additions. Two new weekly Pilates sessions and an adult drama group join the ballet, tap and contemporary dance classes currently offered by Performing Arts East, a weekly Musical Theatre Class and Show Stars, a musical, theatrical and craft group for young adults with learning difficulties.

And it wouldn't be the New Year without a pantomime. This year it's 'King Arthur', brought to us by the hugely enthusiastic cast and crew of the Stage HOGers. It goes without saying that all of these activities will benefit enormously from the new areas and equipment being planned.

For details of dance and drama classes, contact Sam, 07825 3255100 or [samiwatt@rocketmail.com](mailto:samiwatt@rocketmail.com)

For details of Pilates classes, contact Heather on 07769 973219 or via [admin@heartofgissing.org.uk](mailto:admin@heartofgissing.org.uk)

**Youth Group** The series of winter Adventure Sundays for children aged 8–13 years continues into the New Year with the last taking place on 7th February. Outdoor activities can include archery, air rifles, camp cooking, pioneering and tracking while miniature pioneering, roller coaster challenges and blind tests are staged indoors.

For more information contact Sarah Willett on 07917 645867 or email at [swillett\\_ip22@yahoo.com](mailto:swillett_ip22@yahoo.com)

**St Nicholas Fayre** This event provided the usual magical start to the festive season, raising nearly £1,000. Plans are already being laid for a similarly successful event next year.

**Egg Hunt** Our next event will be the A-Maze-ing Egg Hunt on Sunday 20th March from 1–4pm. Costing £5 per child, it will include a treasure hunt, maze, some interesting characters from Alice in Wonderland, plus crafts and eggs for decorating. To avoid disappointment, book via email at [admin@heartofgissing.org.uk](mailto:admin@heartofgissing.org.uk) or text on 07789 776680.

**Crafter's Cafe** Meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 10–1pm at the village hall. Anyone interested in developing their skills, or would just

like to see what it's all about, is invited to join this popular get-together. The session costs £3 and includes materials and tea and cake. Phone Anne Reynolds on 01379 674272 or Kate Heath on 01379 677504. Programme for 2016 includes: February, Book folding with Maxine; March, Needlefelt animals with Sue.

### Gissing Village Hall

**Fun Quiz Night** Saturday 19th March 7pm for 7.30 start. Four people per team, to raise funds for the village hall. £6 per person, to include supper. Tickets available from Steve Sell on 01379 674410 or Adele Littlewood on 07789 67725.

**Toddler Group** Come and join us for a chat and a cuppa whilst the children play, every Monday during term time from 10–11.30 for children from 0–5yrs; £1.50 (includes a drink, a snack, and a different craft activity each week). Check our Facebook page for what's on 'The Toddler Group at Gissing Village Hall'. Or contact Vicky at [vhcullum@hotmail.com](mailto:vhcullum@hotmail.com) or 01379 674729.

Keep up-to-date with all things Gissing on Gissing Village Life Facebook page.



### Forget me Not Grants

Making your home dementia friendly

If you or someone you know is living with dementia then these grants will help.

Call us today to find out what we can do to make a home more dementia friendly.

For more information call the South Norfolk Council Independent Living Team on 01508 533705 or visit [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/dementiafriendlyhomes](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/dementiafriendlyhomes)

**These grants are scheduled to end on the 31st March**

## SHELFANGER NEWS

### The Friends Boyland Common Owl Box

The Friends have, for some time, been planning to erect an Owl box on the Common. We sought the help and advice of Mike Smith, well known for his experience and expertise in the siting, making, erecting and monitoring of Owl boxes.

We made a plea for donations to help to fund this project, and are very grateful to those who contributed: one anonymous donor generously covered half the cost of the box.



On 30th December, Mike and his team met on the Common to erect the box. We were very grateful to all who helped to get the pole and box in place. We are especially indebted to Colin Webster and his machine, without whom the project would have been very much more difficult.

If the box is adopted by a Barn Owl, Mike is licensed to ring any chicks, the information being added to the growing statistical information on Barn Owls in the area.

Pictures taken on the day can be viewed on the Shelfanger website.

### All Saints' Church

As this is the first Cock Crow of 2016, very best wishes for the coming year to all readers, from the rector and congregation of your church of All Saints'. The run-up to Christmas and the festive period itself was, as the Norfolk expression puts it 'highly busy'.

On Saturday 5th December we saw the wedding of Andrew Corbyn and Emma Skilton. This happy ceremony took place in the teeth of a westerly gale of wind. Indeed, a gust of wind just as the bride approached the church caught her lovely veil which was briefly tangled in the tree branches. However this was quickly sorted and all was well. We wish the couple all the very best for the future.

The flower arrangers excelled themselves and the little church looked magnificent for Emma and Andrew's wedding and for the Christmas services. This year the larger than usual Christmas tree looked really lovely with the new 'all gold' decorations provided by warden, Peter.

The Candlelit Carol Service was well attended. The large congregation enjoyed hearing the traditional Christmas story, singing some their favourite carols and listening to some alternative stories and views of Christmas. The organist was Francis Coomber and the readers were Sheila, Pam, Helen, Marian, Roger, Pat, Jean and Marion. The service was introduced and conducted by the rector, David Mills. After the service the congregation enjoyed mulled wine, refreshments and a good muddle.

On Christmas Eve, Shelfanger was host to the five parish Midnight Communion. On a chilly and breezy night, the candles and tree lights sparkled on the well-wrapped congregation who truly celebrated the first communion of Christmas. Very grateful thanks to organist Joe Cromley and the teams of readers, decorators, tree erectors and cleaners who made this and all the Christmas services possible.

The coming weeks see a series of rapidly changing seasons in the church's year: Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent and Easter. We shall have to keep on the look-out because Easter Day this year is on Sunday 27th March (incidentally the start of British Summer Time). The church will again, God willing, specially mark Palm Sunday (20th March) and hold short services of readings and meditation based upon the form of Compline on Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd



and Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm. These services preparing the way during that Holy Week, lead up to the Easter Communion at 8am on Easter Day.

### Keeping things ticking over!

Particular appreciation and thanks go to Dave Masters, Des Doherty and Peter Lough who took stints at climbing the church tower and winding the memorial clock over the Christmas period following warden Roger's slippage and leg injury. Theirs was a case of not stepping in but more of climbing up!

### Gift Morning Success

We are very pleased to say that the final amount received as part of the church's patronal festival weekend totalled just over £1,800 – a fantastic response and truly appreciated. This enables both the Christian work of the church and the maintenance of its fabric to be continued. Thank you again.

### Village Hall News

The Village Hall & Social Club was busy over the Christmas period, decorated for the festive period by Ivan, Derek, Ray, Helen and Tig, assisted by members of the LEAF group.

Friday 11th December was the Thrift Club pay-out night! A big crowd attended to share the excitement

of opening their brown envelopes in order to discover what their weekly savings over the year had yielded. A proportion of the savings was spent over the bar and much fun was had. Well done yet again Derek and Anne for running the thrift book and providing a succulent range of snacks on the evening. Their efforts over the year were marked by a presentation to the acclaim of all.

A further active club evening took place on New Year's Eve when some thirty members gathered to see the old year out and the new in. The timing of the linking of arms to sing Auld Lang Syne was spot on, thanks to Ash, and the fusillade of party poppers nearly equalled a World War I artillery barrage. Those attending brought a massive variety of eats so 'a good time was had by all.'

### Parish Council

We continue to monitor the many issues in the village. Any information regarding a 4 x 4 rally held on Sunday 27th December on Druids Lane would be welcome. This is private land and not for the use of this type of vehicle.

High water levels in the village are a cause for concern, showing how important it is that all riparian owners keep their sections of the waterways clear. Information regarding proposed works in this matter, in particular the flooding on Rectory Road, will be posted on the village website [www.shelfanger.com](http://www.shelfanger.com) Please use the website regularly to check for updates on all village activities.

### Shelfanger Stitches

The group continues to meet fortnightly with several projects in hand. One of the latest is to make single bed blankets for the St Martin's Trust in Norwich and we have some imaginative ideas to meet this brief. New members of all abilities are always welcome. Telephone Helen for more information on 01379 652199)

### Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Result

The valiant and faithful collectors, Peter Harries and Tig Ross, thank all those who donated to the fund in November 2015. We are pleased to announce that the final figure raised was £455, a fantastic response from Shelfanger. Thank you all.

## TIVETSHALL NEWS

### St Margaret's Church

The collection at the Remembrance Day service was £40; this was sent to The Royal British Legion.

£58.80 was collected at The Carols by Candlelight service and was given to St Martin's House in Norwich for their work with the homeless.

Thank you to all that decorated the church for the Christmas period; it looked wonderful.

There are tentative arrangements to hold a Village Fete at the Village Hall on Saturday June 18th with proceeds to the church, the school and the village hall (plus any others that wish to be part of this). If anybody has any ideas, offers of help or donations of prizes please contact Maggie Rowan on 01379 674116 or Maureen Huckle on 07531 419778

### Tivetshall Primary School

On the first day back of the new half term we were all very excited to begin our Japanese lessons. This has proved to be a wonderful opportunity for all of the children who are keen to try out their new vocabulary whenever they can.

The children in Reception, Year One and Year Two were excellent representatives for the school at the annual multiskills sports festival at Diss High School. Further sporting events in November have included Years Four, Five and Six attending a tag rugby tournament and Elizabeth, Isla and Milly representing the school in the cross country finals. Well done to all of you.

The whole school attended the Remembrance Service at the ruined church in Tivetshall which was very moving as always. This is a good opportunity for the children to meet with older members of the community and many people made a point of remarking on the excellent behaviour of the children throughout.

Anti-Bullying Week 2015 prompted much thought and discussion with the children keen to be ever-vigilant should they ever see any signs of bullying of any kind. Class 1 wrote anti-bullying poetry and Class 2 tackled it from a Personal and Social Education perspective.

Class 2 welcomed parents and families to their maths café which had a chess theme. Everyone was very engaged in the problem solving activities and some parents requested extra copies so that they could carry on at home!

Shortly before our Christmas tree was taken down to Dickleburgh Church we had a very busy day dedicated to sewing decorations. Everyone sewed three decorations and nearly all of the children said how much they enjoyed the off-timetable day. Many thanks to Kelly Sturgeon for putting the tree up and then taking it down again!

The church in Tivetshall was full for the Christingle service. The children sang very well and read confidently. Very few, if any, Christingle oranges made it home complete with sultanas and sweets intact! Many thanks for the support and use of the church.

The last week of term was, of course, very busy with the Christmas party, the evening concert, Christmas lunch for the Monday club and parents, and the afternoon concert. The children performed very well at the concerts and greatly enjoyed both the party and the lunch. Many thanks to all of the staff who worked so hard for all of these events and served the Christmas lunch, and also to The Friends who ran the party. *Sandra Potter, Head of School*

FRIENDS OF TIVETSHALL SCHOOL

# Quiz Nights

20th February  
23rd April  
25th June

7pm start at Tivetshall Village Hall  
Admission: £7 includes Jacket potato  
Licensed bar, raffle, tea/coffee etc  
For detail/tickets, contact the school office or  
Ian Henson 07739 049214  
**To raise funds for the school**

## WINFARTHING NEWS

Welcome to Chloe, our new Cock Crow correspondent. Anyone in Winfarthing, with copy for Cock Crow, please send it to Chloe by email; chloe.rudge84@gmail.com.

Thank you, Chloe, from Winfarthing PCC.

Coffee Mornings in Winfarthing Church during 2015 have been a great success, our coffee morning in December raised £250 towards our Church fabric fund. Thanks to Vicky, all helpers and cake makers and a special thanks to Janet, for her excellent craft stall. The total raised during the year was £1245.

Very many thanks to all who supported us. Coffee mornings are held every third Saturday from 10.15am. *Winfarthing PCC*

### Rifle club success

Congratulations to Winfarthing Rifle Club who, for the second year running, have won the Norfolk Rifle Shooting Championships. Great job, boys and girls; well done.

Anyone interested in joining, please contact Jonah on 01379 642830.

### Whist Drive News

Tom and Joyce Blake send their thanks to all supporters of the Whist Drives. Last year, the proceeds were in excess of £500! The gifts of prizes are much appreciated. *Tom Blake 01379 642644*

### All Saints' Primary School

Last term flew by with many exciting learning opportunities along the way.

Rhino Class transformed their classroom into a dinosaur den and enjoyed making eggs and watching them hatch. They mastered writing their names and taking part in craft experiences. The children are very excited by their new topic: superheroes in their own lives and in the locality of Winfarthing.

Chimps Class continue to learn about the different dinosaurs which once roamed the earth. They explored clay to mould their own dinosaur bodies. One of the greatest achievements was in Dance

with the children combining sequences of moves to music. They also learnt about 3D shape nets when designing and making their own Christmas decorations. Chimps are very much looking forward to setting up their classroom as a travel agents and passport control over the next few weeks.

Panda Class have flourished with their swimming, developing stamina and overcoming any initial fears of being in the water. They have worked in teams to solve mathematical problems and have written imaginative stories. The class thoroughly enjoyed investigating different electrical components in order to make a variety of circuits. The also explored the significance of the Bible to Christians.

There were many notable experiences in Dolphin Class with the children learning about Japanese culture and history—they were particularly hooked with writing their names in Japanese. The class also thoroughly enjoyed making dioramas in art based on their interpretation on Beowulf. This term they are already getting their teeth into their new text with a mystery and drama theme.

The term ended with a most enjoyable Christmas Fayre and performance, with brilliant singing and confident acting.

*Feeling cold, and unfit,  
and maybe a bit bored with  
the long dark cold days?*



**Hoxon Hundred** invites you to come along with, or without a partner, to join in a social afternoon of traditional dancing, Saturday 30th January, 2pm till 4pm on, in the Diss Youth Centre, 30 Shelfanger Road, Diss IP22 4LN.

In the break you have the opportunity to chat and learn more about the history of the traditions and the Club whilst enjoying tea, or coffee and biscuits, and all free. (Due to insurance regs people aged under 18 must be accompanied by an adult).

We look forward to meeting you. If you can't make the 30th, come along to one of our Wednesday practice sessions in Hoxne. Our Squire, Bunny will be happy to give you details; 01379 650551.



## 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

	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
February 7	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
February 14	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
February 21	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
February 28	3.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
March 6	10.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
March 13	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
March 20 PS	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
March 25 GF	2.00 M			12.00 noon M	
March 27 ES	11.00 Chp	11.00 HC	9.00 HC	8.00 HC	10.00 HC
April 3	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

February 2: Candlemas; Winfarthing 7.00 EP February 10: Ash Wednesday; Gissing 7.00 EP  
March 21/22/23: Compline; Shelfanger 7.00pm March 24: Maundy Thursday; Gissing 7.30pm HC

GF Good Friday | Chp Family Service at Chapel | ES Easter Sunday | MW Morning Worship | PS Palm Sunday | FS Family Service | M Meditation | HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer | 5/P HC 5 Parish Service | VC Village Church | MS Morning Service

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Diss Team Ministry 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.



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 7th Feb 1 before Lent	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sun 14th Feb Lent 1	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sun 21st Feb Lent 2	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 28th Feb Lent 3	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 6th March Mothering Sun	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sun 13th March Passion Sunday	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sun 20th March Palm Sunday	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Holy Week services at 10.30am and 7.30pm in Diss until Wednesday; Thursday 7.30pm at Diss				
Good Friday: 12 to 3pm Service at Diss; 2 to 3pm Last Hour at the Cross in N Lopham				
Sun 27th March Easter Sunday	9am HC	9.30am HC	11am FHC	9.30am HC
Sun 3rd April Easter 2	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11.30am 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 R Hewitt 01379 687355

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679

S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 J Brundell 01379 687216; D Huggins (emeritus)

## A Time to Look Forward



Hello Everyone,

January is possibly not the most popular month. The back to work/school experience is a flat time for many; the anticipation and excitement of Christmas and the New Year give way to a season of putting a brave face on coping with weather, ailments, muddy roads and outstanding bills. Thankfully we have positive things to encourage us: snowdrops, birdsong, early buds on our trees, planning the garden for the summer, watching as, gradually, the evenings become lighter: there really is plenty to be thankful for.

As I write this, we are in the season of the Epiphany. This 'showing' of the baby Jesus, be it at the temple or to the Magi, is a vitally important concept – it is the revelation of the infant Jesus, and all He stands for, to the world. When you think about it, in order to be revealed in this way, it is essential to be certain that you know what you stand for, what your standards are and how you will lead others to follow your example. You need to be clear about present intentions and strategic moves for the future. Jesus was – consider His teaching and commissioning of Peter and the disciples. I suppose nowadays some would term this 'transparency'!

Currently, some bishops of the Anglican Communion are meeting in Canterbury to discuss the future of the Church of England, particularly in relation to 'gender' issues. These things are important, and we have an example to set, but I do hope there is not a continued wrangle connected with the confusion between 'standards' and 'traditional' behaviour. We need to look outwards at the condition of the world community, not be forever chasing remedies for insoluble internal conflicts. We can take a lead here, modest as our context may seem at times. If there was ever a time when our communities need an understanding, strongly beating heart, it's now, and experienced human families, like our parishes, with all their shades of opinion and culture, are well placed to take a lead. We can make a difference: a new year is a good place to start!

God Bless you all,

Richard

## Team Ministry Page

Rev'd Wendy's e-address is: [revwendydisstm@gmail.com](mailto:revwendydisstm@gmail.com)

### Lent and Easter 2016

In just three short months we move from the excitement of Christmas to the solemnity of Holy Week and the next great celebration – Easter.

Ash Wednesday is on March 9th. There will be special services to mark the day in Diss Church at 10.30am and 7.30pm, to which all churches are invited.

During Lent a special course will take place every week, in the slots usually occupied by Connect Groups, and using programmes from the TV series 'Rev' as the starting point. The course is open to everyone – not just people who regularly come to Connect. Details of sessions are: Tuesdays at 7.30pm at 89 Victoria Road; Wednesdays at 2pm in St Mary's Hall; Thursdays at 2.30pm at 2, Cobbold Street.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, with services at the usual times. During the days that follow a programme of services will take place in Diss Church – see Team News for details. The one exception is the Hour at the Cross at 2pm on Good Friday in North Lopham Church.

Every church will have an Easter Holy Communion service, grateful thanks to the availability of our retired clergy, details are on the Services page.

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

A convivial evening was spent by Friends of St John the Baptist at their annual meeting in November. Members were happy to hear that the church has received a 'first round pass' towards a large Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Discussions revolved around forming a History Society as the foundation for heritage activities associated with the grant. Members also decided to host a 'Winter Wildflower Walk' which was held on Saturday, 16th January, and a Strawberry Tea to be held on Saturday, 16th July. I am sure those of you who came in 2015 will want to make a note of this date in your diary!

On 12th December, local families and groups (Bressingham & District Ladies Group; the Village Hall; Drama Group, the Allotments Association) kindly came laden with decorations and evergreen foliage and decorated the church most beautifully. Their hard work truly reflected and encapsulated our Heritage Lottery Fund application title theme and desire to 'breathe new life' into the building.

Christmas Day saw a congregation of 40 for the service taken by Rev'd Canon Tony Billett. We have to share this service with other churches in the benefice and therefore don't often get one on the day. It was lovely to see so many people come to worship with us many of whom were staying with people in the village. It really was a family affair and much enjoyed by all ages.

Sadly at the service Tony announced the sudden death of Pam Bowgett. Pam and her husband Richard settled in Common Road several years ago. Everyone connected with Bressingham Church send their deepest sympathy to Richard and the family in Australia.

The Annual Church Cleaning will take place on Saturday 12th March at 10am. As usual, refreshments will be served. This is usually a fun occasion and we would be extremely pleased if you could come and help us. Everyone will be most welcome as there is a variety of jobs. Please do come!

On Saturday 19th March there will be a Ceilidh in Bressingham Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Dancing is to the Deneside Ramblers. This is, at the request of Keith Rackham who runs the band, a joint fundraiser for the church and the village hall. Do come and have an evening dancing, or just listening to live music and enjoying refreshments and a bar.

Lastly may I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and thank everyone in the village who decorated their houses for Christmas. My thanks also go to all those who distribute Cock Crow throughout the year and to you for reading it.

*Diana*

### Bressingham Church '49/59' Club

Many thanks to all our supporters for this year and we are pleased to announce, we have raised £1014 for church funds – well done!!

In October the Lottery increased its numbers from 49 to 59 and it was decided we would pay out 2 prizes at week (£10 on a Wednesday and £25 on a Saturday). We have 8 numbers spare at present so if anyone would like to support the church and have a chance of winning as well please get in touch with Reg or Kay Brock on 01379 688331 and we will send you the relevant information.



## Village Hall

### Events

#### February

Afternoon Club Tuesday 9th; 2pm–4pm. This is a new club. More details below!

Quiz Night Saturday 13th; £2.50 per person including nibbles. Bar opens 7.30pm. Starts 8pm. Details 01379 688375.

Pantomime. Thursday 18th/19th/20th 'Robin Hood

and his Band of Merry Persons' Tickets at Village Shop or call 688375 for further details prices etc.

#### March

Saturday 19th Ceilidh 'The Deanside Ramblers' 7.30. Bar opens at 7pm £7.50 per person including hot supper. Tickets from shop or call 688375. Very popular book early.

#### April

'Murder Mystery Supper' Date to be advised.

### The New 'Afternoon Club'

Do you fancy getting out in the afternoon to a café style setting with gentle background music where you can relax, enjoy a cuppa and meet new people and old friends. If so, why not give the newly formed 'Afternoon Club' a try.

You can also enjoy a range of activities, if you wish, bring along your own interests such as knitting or crafting, learn new skills, or just sit and chat. Board and other games will be available to start the ball rolling, but it is hoped that ideas and suggestions from you will create something to suit everyone. The ideas are endless but the emphasis will be based on making your own choices although some elements will be included where all can participate, if desired.

An 'Open Meeting' has been arranged on Tuesday 9th February in the Village Hall from 2–4 pm where all, with time on their hands in the afternoon, are invited to come along and get an idea of what is on offer. Right now we would like to hear from anyone who can donate good quality indoor games or to assist with running the club by getting in touch with Reg or Kay Brock 01379 688331 (answer machine) or at regkaybrock@btinternet.com.

### Music, Praise and Worship

This happy, multi-denominational service is now held monthly at the Methodist Chapel, High Road, Bressingham.

No upper or lower age limit and everyone, committed Christian or non churchgoer, is welcome. Come and hear, and join in with, the fabulous band and singers. The service starts at 4pm, but come a little bit earlier for refreshments. Dates of future services: February 7th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 15th. Further information from Tony 01379 688121

## FERSFIELD NEWS

If there's one word to describe the last few weeks, it has to be 'wet' – perhaps 'saturated' would be more accurate. Surface water seems to have lain about everywhere, ditches have been full to overflowing, and fields and gardens have become marshy lakes. As I write, we are being promised a cold snap is on the way: let's just hope the water drains away before we are surrounded by ice and frozen roads. Compared with other parts of the country, we have been fortunate: we even have snowdrops and the first daffodils to brighten our days.

Christmas 2015 is now a fond memory, but December around St Andrew's was a time that kept us all busy. Following a very enjoyable coffee morning on December's first Saturday, when plenty of people came together for a good morning's chat, the preparations for the two festival Christmas services really took a hold. The result of all the hard work was a really beautifully decorated church, with breath-taking arrangements to capture the spirit of Christmas and to delight everyone from the moment of entering the porch.

Our traditional Annual Carol Service took place on Monday, 21 December. A packed congregation enjoyed well-loved carols and a range of readings, including the Gospel story of Jesus' birth and a selection of seasonal poems and stories, including Carol Ann Duffy's beautiful 'Bethlehem'. We were delighted to welcome again Michael Dann and members of Discord, who performed two items of their own and led the service's impressive singing. Later, following the Rector's Blessing and everyone singing the lovely 'When A Child Is Born', we enjoyed a good chat with plenty of mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine. The collection was a very generous one, which enabled us to give Discord a cheque for £150 towards their East Anglian Air Ambulance appeal, and to take another step (or stone) towards filling the hole in the south chancel wall!

Christmas morning itself was celebrated as usual with the Family Service, which included a visit from three babies – the children of parents themselves brought up around here. The Rector gave us all the

Christmas Day Blessing. Another full congregation enjoyed the happy occasion, and went off to 'put the sprouts on'.

A very big 'thank-you' is due to the many people who have supported the parish church at this time and right through the year. Their work and dedication with flowers, decoration, music, event organisation, catering, maintenance, hedge-cutting and attendance support and all the many things that go towards ensuring this lovely old building and community 'togetherness' are maintained provide a treasured gift to us all.

We go in to the New Year with a significant wish list of things to achieve. There are the 'hole in the wall', the verges (a universal nightmare), especially those at our churchyard gates, the Fersfield cockerel weather-vane, to name a few. We look forward to a late Spring Concert, and the Summer's Open Gardens weekend. Plenty to do, and we hope to see you all!

*Richard*

### Blooming Bressingham & Fragrant Fersfield

# Open Gardens

June 25th and 26th

Visit beautiful and interesting local gardens

Wheelbarrow or similar planted display competition for you to join in

Refreshments • Music • Plant sale  
Photograph exhibition • Craft sale

Everyone welcome to take part

Gardeners' Question Time  
Saturday 25th

Chaired by Adrian Bloom  
Panel: Jaime Blake; Ben Potterton;  
Guy Barker; Chris Grey-Wilson

Contact Linda 01379 687729 for details  
Proceeds to Bressingham and Fersfield Churches and Village Hall

# THE LOPHAMS

## St Andrew's School

The end of last term was very busy at Saint Andrew's; children, staff and parents enjoyed the fund raising activities organised by FOSTA and the school. We had a visit from Father Christmas and two of his reindeer as well as two donkeys that provided rides for the children. The Christmas production 'Christmas Around the World' was a great success with reception children providing a wonderful nativity tableau and children from each class sharing traditions from around the globe. We enjoyed celebrating Jesus' birth, meeting Reverend Sheppard and seeing Reverend Evans at end of term service at Saint Andrew's Church Blo Norton.

It has been great to welcome the children back with a special treat going to Norwich Theatre Royal to see the pantomime 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. All the children enjoyed it and some classes have produced excellent work about the story.

This term we will start the topic 'Passport Around the world'. In Discovery class a travel agent shop and hot air balloon has arrived to help them plan their own imaginary holidays and adventures. Victory class will be investigating natural disasters around the world and Endeavour class will study the European Union and the countries within it. During the topic the children will taste food from around the world and explore festivals and traditions.

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

## St Andrew's Pre School

A happy new year from everyone at St Andrew's Pre School, North Lopham. Our theme for this term is animals, what they look like and where they live. We'll be turning pre school into a rain forest, jungle, farm, ocean bed and more as we learn and explore. We will also celebrate Chinese New Year on 8th February, finding out about Chinese culture and customs, and Valentine's Day on 14th, not forgetting Shrove Tuesday, when we will have pancakes at snack time.

We are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.45 a.m. - 3.15 p.m. during term time. We were given a good rating by Ofsted at our last inspection and currently have some spaces available on all days. We are situated in the grounds of St Andrew's Primary School in North Lopham.

For further information please contact 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, but February is 1.45pm for 2pm.

In December Mrs Rosemarie Jacob gave us a most entertaining afternoon by sharing with us some of her experiences during her days as a News-agent. On a bright winter's day, some seasonal refreshments gave the afternoon a festive touch.

In January, Malcolm Crowe brought along his handcrafted games: The traditional variations of the game of Solitaire were enjoyed by all and may be helped get our brains into gear to start the new year off!!

On February 2nd Roy Tricker will be our speaker; the 'Eccentric EA Clergyman'. This meeting will again be an afternoon meeting and there will be a Bring and Buy table. In March we plan a meal out, details will be given at the February meeting.

Visitors and new members always welcome, phone 01379 687337 for details.

## Lophams' Society

The Lophams' Christmas Drop-in was very well attended and many people commented what a great evening it was. Although this year was a slightly different format to the previous years, being a more adult event, the cheese and wine and festive nibbles went down very well. It was very encouraging to see the people who only dropped in for a quick drink stayed a lot longer to talk to friends and neighbours.

## Lophams' Garden Club

On 3rd December we enjoyed our Christmas Dinner at the restaurant at the Wyvale Garden Centre in Bressingham. We were made very welcome by the restaurant staff who served us a delicious meal and

worked hard to ensure that we all enjoyed a very festive evening.

We did not meet in January, so our first meeting in 2016 will be on 4th February when David Bolton will give a presentation entitled 'Scenes of Norfolk', while looking further ahead, we shall have our AGM at our meeting on 3rd March.

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.

*Holy Bingo* continues in the Village Hall, 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. The next sessions are on February 1st and March 7th.

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

## Lophams' Village Hall

*Dog Training:* Some good news for all those who bring their pets for training at the Village Hall – we have a new trainer, Robert Jessop, who already knows some of the dogs in this area, and who is a very experienced trainer. Sessions will be most Thursdays in 2016 (but not usually in the first week of the month) Rob's telephone number is 01379 873144, if you wish for more information.

*The Lottery* The December draw at the wonderful Christmas Market on Sunday 20th had the usual three prizes, plus the Bonanza draw of £298.50, for those who had been 'in' for at least three months. David Beales was the lucky winner of the Bonanza draw. Recent winners of the monthly draw were: November: first prize £200 S Blyth; and second prizes of £50 each Jackie Brown and J Farren Bradley; December: first prize £200 S Savereux; and second prizes of £50 each K. Wood and S. Dilloway.

It is great to have a full complement of 100 members, with a corresponding monthly first prize of £200. We do want to maintain this situation, 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.



*Farmers' Markets* are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next are on February 27th and March 26th. In addition to the many stalls and VH 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. (Market details from Mike on 01379687235)

*Judo* is on Mondays and Wednesdays, details from Howard on 01379 688258.



*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 a tutor once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

*To book the hall* for private functions, please contact 01379 687679.

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

# NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

## Kings Head Carol and Auction event

The Kings Head was absolutely packed for this popular annual event, the Sunday before Christmas.

The whole village had been saddened by the deaths of Neil Walker and of Dick Knight during the previous week, so the regulars were unanimous in wanting to support the Norfolk & Norwich Big C fund this year, as well as EACH, which plays a big part in helping children with life threatening illnesses. There will also be a donation to the Pre School, when the money is allocated.

The programme followed the familiar pattern: singing carols, interspersed with the auction of a huge array of goods and the ongoing sale of raffle tickets for a beautiful cake, made and iced by Chris-sie Callow. During a lull in the proceedings glasses were refilled and slices of yummy cakes made by Teresa Sturman were consumed. By the end of the afternoon, almost £1,500 had been raised, so grateful thanks go to auctioneer Richard, his helpful elf Emma, to everyone who provided the goods for sale, then made successful bids to buy them, and to our hosts George and Angela who made us so welcome. Total raised has since passed £1,700 – fantastic!

## Parish Council

*Present:* All council members including new member William Nunn, Parish Clerk, L Farren-Bradley in advisory capacity, BD Councillor Marian Chapman-Allen, and three members of the public.

*Broadband:* there is to be a new communications cabinet installed at the water tower to provide fibre optic connectivity to North Lopham. Time scale, 6–12 months. Subsidised satellite connection may be available to properties where fibre optic is not practicable.

*Defibrillator:* is ready for use. 'Phone 999 to get the unlock code, there is no telephone in the telephone box. The PC will perform the regular checks and cleaning and has signed up to 'Managed Solutions' scheme for insurance etc. Funding for maintenance (£100pa) will come from the Kings Head auction proceeds while the current landlord remains.

*First Aid Course:* If there is sufficient public interest, a 2 hour first aid course, which will include instruction on use of the defibrillator, will be organised. Contact any member of the Parish Council to register.



*Footpath:* the process for the proposed footpath at the North end of the village is ongoing.

*Speedwatch:* some new volunteers and a new co-ordinator have come forward. Speedwatch will resume shortly.

*Neighbourhood Plan:* Councillor Nunn and Mr L Farren-Bradley will investigate and evaluate whether N Lopham should proceed with this or not. To report at next meeting.

*Surface water in Tanns Lane:* Some ditch clearing is scheduled when the weather allows, thanks to Peter Wright.

*Overhanging trees and hedges:* there are still problems in places on The Street.

*Finance:* A proposal to increase the precept by £300 to £3,600 was approved. Don't forget – put your bottles in the KH bottle bank, proceeds reduce the precept.

*'Back Lane'* During the Spring/Summer it is proposed to clear the overgrown bushes and trees to restore the path to its proper position. Volunteers for a weekend working party are requested. Contact any member of the Parish Council for details.

*Burial Ground:* No objection to proposed headstone incorporating a small picture of the deceased. Hedge needs trimming.

*The Queen's 90th Birthday: 21st April* The Royal Pageant Master has proposed Parishes celebrate with a bonfire/beacon etc. Initially referred to Lophams' Society to gauge interest.

*Next Meeting:* March 9th 2016 at 'The Mess'.

## 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. It was good to welcome new Minister the Revd David Ely in November. Forthcoming dates are 24th February and 23rd March.

## St Nicholas' Church

*North Lopham Crib Festival:* Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this such a successful event, and to all who came along to enjoy the cribs. We had visitors from a wide area, and enjoyed meeting them all.

Having put on five such events, we are making a change for 2016, and are starting to knit scenes from the bible, for a display at the end of October. All knitters are warmly invited to join in the project, either knitting a figure (patterns are available) or the figures for a whole scene. Letters will go out to PCCs and groups; individuals are invited too. If you are interested, but want to learn more before deciding, just 'phone 01379 687679 or e-mail jennyvere@btinternet.com We would love to hear from you!!

Seasonal special services have provided some very memorable moments:

*Toy Service* the response was amazing: a big car load of gifts for desperately deprived families in the Thetford area, and £140 for Action for Children, the umbrella organisation that helps them.

*The Advent Carol Service* was much enjoyed by all who shared in it. The Home Team led a programme of special readings, with hymns from the new Advent booklet which has been produced for our six parishes.

*The Family Carol Service* was a very happy occasion, very well supported by folk of all ages. The children 'allowed' one of our senior members to light the candles, but then took a big part in the service – reading all of the lessons, forming an impromptu choir to sing 'Little Donkey', and taking the collection. After the service, they needed no encouragement to consume some delicious cake and biscuits!

*The Crib Service* was well attended by many families, with children eager to share in placing the figures in the stable as the Nativity Story unfolded. After the Star light over the stable was switched on, the Wise Men were positioned for their journey to Bethlehem.

*An All age Christmas Communion* on 27th

December, led by Team Vicar the Revd Wendy Evans, included the baptism, of Angela Perry, and so was a very special occasion for St Nicholas' Church.

*The Epiphany Carol Service* ended the main season, on 10th January – more wonderful readings and hymns/carols to enjoy – including solo performances by 'We three kings'!

Everyone at St Nicholas' Church sends sincere thanks to everyone who has helped and supported us, and warm greetings for 2016 to all readers.

*Starters and Sweets* Something to brighten the long evenings of late winter. We are planning a Starters and Sweets for Friday 5th February in the Village Hall from 7.30pm.

There will be a range of Starters to try: hot and cold, suitable for all kinds of diets, followed by a host of delicious Sweets, plus a cheese board. Tickets are just £6 from PCC members, so book yours early and come along for a happy evening among friends. Fruit juice and tea or coffee will be provided, but please bring your own alcohol, if desired, and glasses.

As the decorations come down, our thoughts have already turned to Lent and Easter. Easter Sunday is very early, on 27th March. Please look at the Team News section for details of special Services and Courses for the season.

*Lent Lunches* will be held from 12 noon to 2pm, in homes around North Lopham, to raise 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. See local posters and the weekly Team News in the churches for full details of venues, then come along and join us. If you need help with transport, just 'phone 01379 687679.

*Mothering Sunday* is on 6th March. A very Special Family Service at 11am will focus on Families, especially mothers, so do join us.

*On Good Friday,* 25th March, there will be quiet 'Last Hour at the Cross' in St Nicholas' Church, from 2 to 3pm. After this, we would be very grateful for gifts of flowers and foliage, or help with arranging everything, so that the church looks its best for the Easter Sunday Family Celebration service at 11am.

## Diss Library News

We're hosting a soup tasting at Diss library on Thursday 5th February 11am–1pm; This is part of our Healthy Libraries promotion so drop in to try some homemade soup, pick up the recipe cards to make your own and find lots of help and advice on keeping warm and well this winter.

Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day; primary school age children will get a £1 voucher which can be exchanged at most bookshops for one of a list of children's books specially written for the day.

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

**Knit & Natter** for all crafters is every Wednesday 2pm – 4pm

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

Our 'Wordsworth' junior reading group will meet at 3.30pm on Monday 1st February.

**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 library opening times and 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



## SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

### St Andrew's Church News

Carol singing on Tuesday 22nd December: The White Horse, South Lopham, played host to our annual Carol singing accompanied by Rona on the Accordion and Keith on the Guitar. Our thanks go to Nigel and Tracy Martin for their excellent refreshments and hospitality and to all who came to support this event.

The Church Wardens and PCC wish to express their thanks to those who have worked tirelessly to tidy the Churchyard over the past year and our team of Cleaners and Flower Arrangers. We would like to wish all our parishioners a peaceful New Year.

**Coffee Morning** We look forward to a Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th March in the Church with a cake stall, bring and buy and a Raffle, please come and join us for a Coffee and a Scone.

### South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 7th January 2016 at Valley Farm, Low Common: six council members present, one apology. The clerk, Mrs C Phillips, was absent due to illness.

Mr G Phillips, the responsible financial officer, was present to deliver a financial report and for budget matters. Mrs Chapman Allen, District Councillor, was also in attendance.

Financial: Mr Phillips reported the current balances and the meeting approved payments for the Lophams News and the clerk's salary October to December. The 2016/17 budget was discussed, including payment for various projects (see later) and the Parish precept was agreed at £2850.

Planning Applications at Weavers, Lansdowne House, and the White Horse approved. Appeal in respect of field shelter at Low Common dismissed. Application received in respect of conditions attached to boundary screening and planting at Pooley Street.

Highways: The council continues to press NCC regarding speed reduction at the east end of the village on the main A1066 road. NCC has work scheduled to carry out repairs to the drainage system on

Church Road to prevent the flow of water on this road and onto the main road.

Works Village sign: Estimates obtained and Mrs Chapman Allen advised the Council to apply to the District Council under the 'Breckland Pride' scheme for assistance in funding this project.

War Memorial: Estimate for renovation obtained. Mrs Chapman Allen advised members that application could be made to the War Memorial Trust for a possible grant.

Bus Shelter: This has been inspected. The structure is sound. Councillors agreed that any wood treatment could be undertaken by them later in the year.

Village Litter Pick: Provisional date, 10th April 2016 10am

District local plan: Mrs Chapman Allen gave the council a brief presentation on the plan. Consultation runs until 16th February and Public Information Events take place in Thetford 25th January 2016 and Shropham 2nd February. The plan is to be the basis for development of the District until 2036.

Next meeting 3rd March 2016 7.30pm Valley Farm

### Friends of South Lopham Church

EDP Community Chest Help Support South Lopham Church

Please help the Friends of South Lopham Church maintain the church building by collecting the EDP Community Chest tokens. There is one token every day and more in the Saturday paper.

Tokens will be entered by the Friends monthly to the judging panel over the next twelve months.

Tokens may be given to members of the Church or left in the Church for collection.



## Murphy's Rambles

Hello folks,

Well, what is it with the weather? I was so excited in late November when we had snow (I love playing in that stuff) and then with a really hard frost I thought winter had arrived. Then what happens? Rain & more rain & so mild. Now you all know I don't mind mud & love puddles but it has had the inevitable result. She has bathed me twice this month with another one threatened!! It's not the warm water but that horrible white foamy stuff I hate.

It's really grey when we walk in the mornings now, but it just makes it very special when we see through the gloom 2 or even 3 deer watching us pass from the next field. There must be lots about though, as every path we walk down has either deer or muntjac prints. Mind you, we didn't want to run into the owner of one set of prints – they were huge! We even see the owl some mornings, looking so white flying across the fields but when you can sneak up close to them they are surprisingly brown. A kestrel has taken residence on our morning path, usually found sitting on top of a telephone pole, he used to fly off but now he just watches us pass beneath him.

We have had some lovely sunrises to brighten our gloomy mornings; on one we saw a whole flock of starlings perched on a wire outlined against the bright red sky.

The warm weather is certainly having an effect on the flowers. We have found aconites, tiny snowdrops celandines and even a daffodil, with lots more in bud and, as ever, daisies. They just don't seem to worry about the seasons.

We'll take care folks and a happy 2016 to all my 2 & 4 legged friends



# *From the Registers*

## **Winfarthing Group**

### **FUNERAL**

**Rachel Tarry** 27th November, Gissing  
**Alfie Kaschner** 11th December, Gissing  
**Joyce Whymark** 12th January, Gissing

### **WEDDING**

**Emma Skilton & Andrew Corbyn**  
5th December

## **Bressingham group**

### **BAPTISM**

**Angela Perry** 27th December,  
North Lopham

### **FUNERALS**

**Richard Francis (Dick) Knight**  
11th January, North Lopham  
**Pamela Bowgett** 13th January, Roydon

