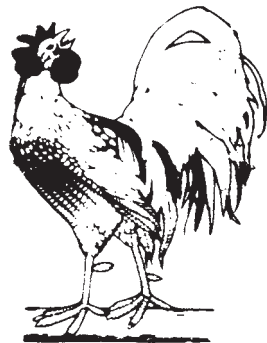


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

Issue No: 1



Through the Harbour Heads, Lowestoft

Editors' Notice Board

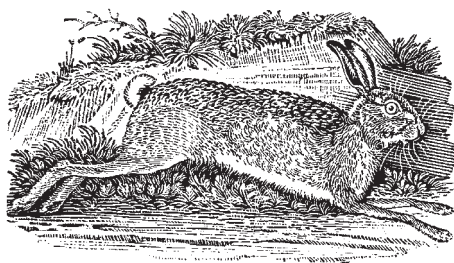
Murphy's Rambles



Hello folks – definitely British weather we are having isn't it? One day cold and frosty, another you can hardly see a hand in front of your face and then it's back to milder dark and dank! I love walking in the frosts, everything looks sparkly and there's nothing nicer than a good long roll in a patch of icy frosty grass.

Although sometimes after we have walked we think that we haven't seen anything there is always something – this morning, human suddenly realised that the drops of water festooning every bush & tree were all actually frozen and sparkling like diamonds in the morning light.

One crisp sunny afternoon we were treated to our own acrobatic air display by a red bi-plane – we stood & watched in awe as it looped the loop, barrel rolled and stall turned until poor human was quite dizzy. We thought we had found some weirdly behaving seagulls one dark murky morning but, as we got nearer, they morphed into 4 white deer rumps. How does she get those confused?



Our best experience was when we were catapulted into a 'David Attenborough' sequence as across a frosty wheat field a hare hurtled towards us being out-run by a fox; we stood transfixed, waiting to see if the hare became breakfast, when we were spotted; instant braking and they disappeared in different directions. The poor hare must have been tired as it made sure the fox had gone and then just snuggled down to become just another mole hill!

Two cock pheasants decided that outside Field View was the perfect venue for a really vicious cock fighting display; we were amazed! We almost got within touching distance before they saw us. I think they woke half the road with their screeching as they flew away. We have only seen the owl once but we have been lucky enough to see the kingfisher 3 times this week as it flies off from its perch in the ditch outside Manor Farm.

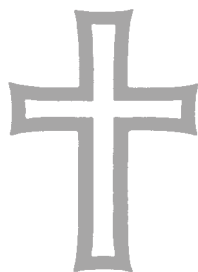
We love spotting the colourful array of fungi that lots of stumps & trees are sporting and watching their colours change as the days pass; it's good wandering along admiring the shapes of the bare trees as well, so beautiful when outlined against the winter skies.

Take care folks and look after those humans – it can be slippery out there!

Other items
the Editors think
you might like
to know about



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‘Abide with me’

Since 1927 this hymn has been played at the FA Cup final held at Wembley, (except during the rebuilding); and since 1929 at the Rugby League Cup Final. It was written by Rev. Henry Francis Lyte, who was born on the 1st June 1793 near Kelso in Scotland and who died on the 20th November 1847 in Nice, in France. During his life he became a good friend of William Wilberforce. In 1833 he organised a petition to Parliament, requesting the end of slavery in Great Britain

For Lyte, it is the abiding presence of God in his life, both in the good and the bad, in the sorrows and joys of life that put an everlasting and eternal joy in him. He was a Conservative Evangelical in his religious upbringing, and preached many times on the individuals standing before God and his own utter worthlessness. He died from Tuberculosis only weeks after writing the words to the Hymn, which is an expression of his full and utter hope, on the dependence on Jesus Christ for eternal salvation.

In the first verse he speaks of the ‘darkness deepening’ over him, he has ‘no other helper’, ‘comforts flee’ ‘help of the helpless abide with me’.

With his life close to death, he reflects on the changelessness of Jesus Christ, who can save him except Jesus – who has guided him through life, through cloud and sunshine. Where is death sting, where grave thy victory, I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

For me the last verse is the key to the hymn, ‘Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes’. It is in the acceptance of what Jesus Christ has done for him and not of any vain glory in himself that is the important question. ‘In life, in death, O Lord abide with me.’

The tune associated with this hymn is ‘Eventide’ composed by William H Monk; and scored after the death of his 3 year old daughter. The hymn was said to have been on the lips of Nurse Edith Cavell, whilst facing the German firing Squad.

Rev David Mills

BURSTON NEWS

Parish Emergency Preparedness Plan

With winter upon us, I would like to reiterate my previous articles concerning our Parish Emergency Preparedness Plan, which covers Burston and Shimpling... to remind you of its existence and how you can contribute to it and use it should the need arise.

So, why have a local emergency plan? Well, emergencies happen. The professional emergency responders will always have to prioritise those in greatest needs during an emergency, especially where life is in danger. There will be times when you may be affected by an emergency but your life is not in immediate danger. During this time, you need to know how to help yourself and those around you. By becoming more resilient, you and our community can complement the work of the professional emergency responders and reduce the impact of an emergency on you and our community both in the short and long term.

As the local emergency coordinator, I hold a copy of the Plan which contains a database of those who have volunteered their services and/or the use of equipment or the provision of accommodation, etc. However, the Plan is overdue for review and, with the resignation of my deputy, Andrew Grimley, I need to appoint a Deputy Emergency Coordinator to help with the review process. If you feel that this role could be for you then I would be pleased to have a chat with you to explain what is involved. I am extremely grateful to Andrew for his time as deputy.

I should stress again that in case of an emergency your first call must be to the professional emergency services via 999. My contact details are 07712 670926 lenhobson@bmn-management.com.

Do please let me know if you are interested in becoming involved in our local plan or if you have any queries concerning the plan itself.

Len Hobson, Emergency Coordinator



Village Activities

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

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. Contact Stephanie Richardson 01953 887396

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 Craft Group

Burston Craft will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Pavilion in Mill Road. Our programme for the coming months will be:

February 15th: Handbag Chains

March 15th: Stitch Cards

If you are interested please come and join us or come for tea/coffee and discuss your interests, we will try to include them in our forthcoming programme for 2017. *Elaine Norman 01379 740106*

St Mary's Church

The Christmas season at St Mary's started with a Christingle service, enjoyed largely by children and parents from Burston Primary School. There was also an entertaining – and uplifting – concert before Christmas, organised by the Friends of Burston Church, featuring the Shelfanger Singers. Pam Ross, the choir's leader and musical director, introduced a varied programme of seasonal pieces, which included a wassail, and she explained something of the history of wassailing to us. Grateful thanks to Pam, the singers, and the Friends, who supplied most welcome mulled wine and mince pies after the concert – the whole event was hugely enjoyable. The third Christmas event at St Mary's

was our 'Christmas Spectacular'. This was an informal Christmas service, particularly with children and families in mind. The Christmas story was brought to life by 'Magical Mark' who entertained us with magic while we were enjoying hot dogs, mince pies and mulled wine. (Quite a lot of mince pies were consumed in St Mary's over Christmas, one way or another!) Again, grateful thanks to all involved in this special service, in particular to Margaret and Rod Tuck who provided the refreshments.

Rachel Hobson



Burston 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.

Burston Chapel will be running a Christianity Explored Course early in 2017. CE is an informal and relaxed 7 weeks course for anyone who wants to know more about what Christians believe. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing! You can ask questions, or just sit and listen with a cuppa and some cake. For more information please contact Sam Brinkley: sambrinkley@gmail.com or 01379 741816.



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Burston School

What a busy last week we had! We visited the Panto to watch Jack and the Beanstalk. Through the generosity of the Friends of the school, everyone was able to enjoy this treat! The children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 performed the nativity which was called 'Angel Express'. They all performed brilliantly – learning their lines and singing too. Thanks to

everyone behind the scenes for help with costumes and staging. We also finished off our last day with Christmas Jumper Day and raised £91 for Save the Children. We ended the afternoon with a Parents Café which included lots of craft making. Good fun was had by all.

Class 1: This half term our topic is light and dark. The children have already begun thinking about questions they have in relation to this topic, such as, why does the sun and moon move up and down and what do comets look like? We will be looking at some of these questions and addressing some of the misconceptions that the children have in relation to the topic. We are going to compare our local geography with an area that has a very different time zone and where the length of the day/night is a sharp contrast to our own. We will be looking at plants, during our science lessons. PSHE is all about 'going for goals' and the children have already set themselves a goal. During RE we will be discussing the enquiry question: why is light an important symbol?

Children in Class 2 have come back raring to go after a couple of weeks off to celebrate Christmas.

This half term, the children are going to be reading the story 'Five Children and It' and their literacy work which will include a report and fiction writing will all stem from this novel. In science, the children are going to be looking at materials and their properties which will be learned through a range of experiments including the best material to absorb water. The topic is focused around the local area. The children will be learning how to draw and read maps, the history of the local area and sketching well known areas. You may see us going on a walk around to see what sights we can spot!

GISSING NEWS

Friends of Gissing Church

The Friends thank all those who supported our stall, and the St Nicholas Fayre in general, which was held on December 3rd. Many thanks go to Denise and Ed for running the stall this year, and through the sales of Christmas cards designed by John Nash, George Hammond, and Avril Pierssene, pottery donated by Pat Cattell and bracelets made by Moira Walters, we raised a further £60 for the structural repairs' contingency fund. We also had a very good turn-out – some 22 individuals including some children – for the New Year's Eve bell-ringing at the church to welcome the start of 2017.

Since the 'Angel Roof' photography weekend in October and the resulting press coverage, the Friends have been working towards the start of the structural repair work and the heritage promotion activities. We have also been working with the architects and builders to look at the final detailed plans and it is now likely that the structural work will start in early March.

Plans will be discussed soon to arrange 'hard hat' days with the building contractor to enable anyone (including children and young people from local schools) who is interested to see how the restoration work is carried out, to be able to join one of these days and see for themselves crafts-people at work.



Representatives of the PCC and the Friends have also had a recent meeting with the Conservation Officer from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to discuss the conservation management plan for the churchyard. We now know which areas are best to be left to grow long to protect the wild flowers and plants; a smaller area, we are pleased to hear (!) than the test areas during 2016 to facilitate the base-line plant and

flower survey, with the remaining churchyard being mown as usual. The PCC/Friends are also planning to organise a churchyard restoration working party to deal with the overgrown graves, which will make it far easier for the contractor who will be managing the churchyard.

Look out too for an invitation to join a snowdrop planting party in the early spring as we work towards increasing the area of the 'Gissing Snowdrop Trail'.

Gissing Church PCC

The Remembrance Service in November was very well attended with the collection of just over £100 being sent as usual to the Royal British Legion for their work with ex-servicemen and their families. The village Poppy Appeal also did very well thanks to Tony and Heidi Baxter who took on the door to door collection in the centre of the village whilst George Hammond looked after the outlying areas. In all £271.63 was raised – slightly higher than last year's collection.

The Carol Service on the 13th December was a great success, helped in great part by the involvement of the Gissing Singers. We, once again, thank Andrew Pierssene and his team for their participation. Thanks also to Muriel and Trudy for the refreshments after the service which are always very welcome and eagerly consumed.

The Christmas Day and New Year's services at St Mary's provided a few surprises – firstly we had an exceptional turn out of 16 at the 11am Christmas Day service and a similar number at the New Year's service. Thanks to all who braved a cold church – we promise that next year we will be able to provide a more comfortable and warm environment.

Finally, St Mary's played host to the children of Performance Arts East's Christmas concert on 16th December. A good crowd of parents, relatives and the general public were on hand to see the really impressive numbers that the kids, under the direction of Sam Watt, had worked on, and to join in singing a selection of traditional and festive carols. Mince pies and mulled wine were served afterwards and the proverbial good time was had by all. Hosting this event has become something of a tradition for us, and we're proud to have the opportunity.

Gissing Children's Centre

During the Spring Term we will be looking for and celebrating early signs of spring. Our focus will also be on delivering new and exciting ways to enjoy speech and language activities and those involving maths to inspire and ignite the children's interests. We are looking forward to installing our new mud kitchen so we can 'cook' and 'bake' outdoors.

There are still some pre-school spaces left for the Spring and Summer Terms, for both funded and non-funded children aged from 2 years to 5 years so if you would like to visit, please contact Linda Nash at lindamarynash@yahoo.co.uk, ring 01379 677300 between 9–3 Monday–Friday or leave a message on 07796 204367. We would be pleased to see you. Visit our website www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk and our facebook page to see the sort of things we do.

We will be running Holiday Playschemes during the February Half-Term and over the Easter Holiday for primary school age children. The cost, as usual, 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. Children will need to bring a packed lunch and some money for tuck. A wide range of activities including seasonal crafts, cookery and other workshops, construction etc., and outdoor activities will be on offer. Places must be booked and paid in advance; ring 07531 810704 or email playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk. Dates will be published nearer the time to local schools and facebook.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday 2nd April. Look out for publicity as this year we are making the event bigger and better with a few twists, turns and twigs along the way! Details for this event are kelpitcher@aol.com 01379 674511.

Heart of Gissing (Charity No: 1161599)

New Community building The extensive lottery-funded building project is on course for an early spring completion; it is really taking shape now. The layout of the new-build is best viewed from Rectory Road in Gissing. For more information on the facilities it will provide, contact Rose Eddington on 07504 895182 or email admin@heartofgissing.org.uk

The Craft Café and Crafty Sew and Sews Gissing craft café is held on the second Tuesday of each

month, currently meeting in the village hall, Rectory Road, from 10–1. Coffee/tea and cake is provided and the meeting offers an opportunity to try out a new craft each month. February's meeting on the 14th will involve a heart craft challenge. Weaving with natural objects will be the theme of the meeting on 14th March. For further information telephone Anne on 01379 674272 or Kate on 01379 677504.

The Heart of Gissing is incredibly grateful to the Crafty Sew and Sews (a spin-off from the Craft Café) for making lovely gifts to sell at events and on-line to raise money towards the fit-out for the kitchen for the new community building. In 2016 they raised a magnificent £2,170. It is hoped some of their gorgeous creations, available for sale, will be housed in a showcase in the new building.

Performing Arts East Congratulations to Stage HOGers and Performing Arts East whose panto performance of *Sleeping Beauty* at Aslacton and Great Moulton Coronation Hall in mid-January was, as usual, a gem of a production and great fun. We are very lucky to have such local talent and Heart of Gissing is delighted that the new community building will house facilities to enable these groups to flourish in a new setting. Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre classes are available at the Old School in Gissing with Performing Arts East for all age groups; if you wish for more information please email performingartseast@mail.com

Pilates Heather Ormerod's gentle pilates session at Gissing is particularly designed for the more senior among us and are specifically geared to improving and maintaining mobility. At present, and until the new building is ready, Heather is running this class at 11am each Thursday morning in the village hall in Gissing. For more information, contact Heather by email heatherormerodpilates@gmail.com or text 07769 973219. Information about her other classes is at www.facebook.com/heatherormerodpilates/

Gissing Reading Group The book for February is *The Illusion of Separateness* by Simon Von Booy.

The reading group will be discussing this latest book on 13th February.

SHELFANGER NEWS

All Saints' Church

The Rector, wardens and congregation send their very best wishes for 2017 to Shelfangarians and all readers.

The Advent and Christmas period was as busy as usual. The first signal of Christmas coming was setting up the advent candle display, performed by Marian Paines. Then the Church Flower Team of Pam Harries, Lorna Trudgill, Brenda Bailey, Jean Challoner, Anne Lord, Marian Paines and Sheila Churchyard swung into action, creating through their displays a true Christmas uplift of spirit. The combined collection of colour, shape and design in the church this year was one of the best ever. The Christmas tree this year was set in a new supporting cradle specially made by Ivan Cotton and was decorated by the 'Friday Team' of Peter Harries, Ray Leeder, Des Docherty and Roger Challoner. Thank you to these helpers and their assistants. This rich decoration greatly aided the worship at the Carol Service and the Christmas Day Holy Communion.

Carol Service

A congregation of 50 at the Candlelit Carol Service heard the reading of the Christmas story, sung the great traditional carols and listened to some slightly off-centre views of this festive time. Thank you to Pam, Sheila, Marian, and James for reading the Christmas story, to Linda Nash and Anne Lord for starting and concluding the service, to Ashley Christopher for reading 'Talking Turkeys!!' by Benjamin Zephaniah, to Pat Webster for reading 'A Knitted Nativity' by Jean Challoner, to Francis Coomber for his organ accompaniment throughout and, finally, to Rector David Mills who co-ordinated the service.

Christmas Holy Communion

The candles gleamed, the Christmas tree sparkled and a rising sun shone on a small but faithful congregation augmented by some village visitors at this early communion service. We thank David Mills for leading us in this act of worship.

Wall painting of the Adoration of the Magi

Over the Christmas period, the Shelfanger church specially encouraged passers-by, both motorists and walkers, to pop in and see its lovely interior and decorations and treat themselves to a quiet moment. Comments in the church visitors' books show that a good number of people did just that.

Our wall painting of the Adoration of the Magi which dates from around 1300 has always attracted interest and is well documented as an outstanding example of early church decoration. Interestingly, the British Museum has recently acquired an early English alabaster figure of the Virgin and Child which is similarly dated. Pictures of the figure published at the end of 2016 show a remarkable similarity to the depiction of the Virgin Mary in the Shelfanger wall painting so perhaps this underlines the significance of our ancient work of art.

WWII Memorial Rose Garden Appeal

The church Council has decided that the 'Humanity' roses planted at the base of the church tower in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War have now come to the end of their flowering life. The PCC has decided to pave the present bed with slabs and plant new roses in tubs, under the supervision of warden, Peter Harries, who asks that anyone with knowledge of and expertise in this area of work contact him as help would be gratefully appreciated. Peter's number is 01379 651524.



Village Hall

The committee and members of LEAF (the Tuesday group whose monthly meetings support those with learning difficulties) combined to put up the Christmas decorations. The first event in the festive hall was our brand new Christmas Quiz created by James and Lois Easter. A good gathering competed to answer Christmas orientated questions. Bottles of wine were taken off by a visiting team of experts from (we regret to say) Winfarthing. This was an excellent evening – hopefully the forerunner of more soon, so please watch for publicity/leaflets.

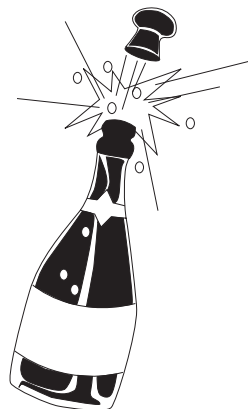
At the December committee meeting members heard the result of a recent security survey by the Norfolk Police Crime Prevention Unit. This survey was requested following a spate of crimes directed against village halls in the area. After discussion, the committee agreed to implement suggestions made in the report immediately.

Parish Council

Steady work continues on clearing and maintaining the network of parish footpaths. The Council is truly grateful to Ivan Lord and Dave Masters for the repositioning of the new finger posts replacing those which have fallen into disrepair.

Social Club

The committee got together and decorated the club lounge for Christmas. At the December meeting, Chairman, Ivan Cotton, welcomed and thanked Karen and Peter Lough who were 'in post' for their first full meeting as joint secretary/treasurer. On 9th December members gathered for the Thrift Club pay out. This scheme, operated throughout the year by Derek Lord, is an excellent and social way of saving. As might be expected from a group of people with brown envelopes of cash in their pockets and excellent refreshments available, the evening was a cheerful and festive one. Chairman, Ivan Cotton, made a presentation to Derek and Anne for another year of collections and managing the books. Nobody dares ask Derek how long he has been doing this task but its roots lie back at the Fighting Cocks following the closure of the Shelfanger Crown. Thrift Club payments started again on Friday 6th January and it is not too late for you to join.



2017 was seen in at the Village Hall Social Club where a small but cheerful gathering observed the usual end of year traditions. Appreciation to Anne and Derek for running the bar and to Dave Masters and Anne Surman for supplying the bubbly!

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We are pleased to announce that the final sum raised in Shelfanger last November was £408.97. Our thanks to organiser, Peter Harries, and his helpers Roger Challoner and Alan Holmes for achieving what may well be a record total.

Dade Charities

This village charity committee distributes funds from the rental income received from lands gifted for this purpose in wills down hundreds of years. The committee had the really nice idea of sending flowers or small gifts to those in the parish that have recently had a difficult time. Particularly pleasing was the remembrance of David Lond, late of Church Farm, and now resident at The Depperhaugh, Hoxne, as a tribute to all his years of work maintaining the parish clock and a large number of field edge footpaths.

Shelfanger Stitches

If one of your New Year resolutions is to get in touch with your creative side, why not join us. The group meets fortnightly on Thursday afternoons, and is about to embark on fresh projects for 2017. We would welcome new faces.

For further details phone Helen on 01379 652199.

TIVETSHALL NEWS

Remembrance Services

The service and wreath laying ceremony on 11th November took place as usual at St Mary's with the children from the school in attendance.

On Sunday 13th November there was as service at St Margaret's and the £44 taken in the collection was sent to The Royal British Legion.



Christmas at St Margaret's

The candlelit carol service was enjoyed by all those that attended and finished with hot drinks including mulled wine and mince pies. £84.50 was collected and donated to St Martin's Housing Trust in Norwich for the homeless.

We are still collecting stamps for the Leprosy Mission, the box is by the font and there is literature to explain about their work.

Paul Playford has kindly donated notelets depicting the church which are for sale in St Margaret's.

St Mary's

Volunteer work at St Mary's continues and there is now a box in the 'porch' which contains a visitor's book which has been well used. Our thanks to Trevor and Jan Woodrow for installing this and for their hard work in helping the church yard looking tidy.

There are more postcards of the interior of St Mary's (c1928) for sale in our Post Office and at St Margaret's Church.

Tivetshall Families and Friends (TFAF)

Christmas Craft Fayre Tivetshall Village Hall was buzzing on the afternoon of 27th November for the first Christmas Craft Fayre organised by TFAF. The event was well supported with people attending from the Tivetshalls and much further afield. Visitors enjoyed making purchases from the many stallholders offering a wide range of crafts and products; the festive refreshments; fantastic raffle prizes

and traditional stalls, such as tombola and guess the number of sweets in the stocking. Feedback from stallholders and visitors has been very positive. TFAF would like to thank everyone who donated or contributed in any way to this successful event.

The net money raised was £712 and has been equally split between the Friends of Tivetshall School, St Margaret's Church, the Village Hall and TFAF – each organisation receiving £178.

Coffee Morning TFAF will be holding a Heart of the Community Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th February at Tivetshall Village Hall from 11am–1pm. There will be delicious refreshments, a raffle, bric-a-brac stall and something for the children. So come and join us – you will be very welcome.

TFAF Community Lottery TFAF is planning to launch a community lottery in the near future and the aim is to launch this at the Coffee Morning on 11th February. If you are interested in buying a ticket or would like more information contact Ros Hill on 07830 292074.

Keeping in touch events and items will be posted on our Facebook events page – Tivetshall Families & Friends Events. Alternatively, join our mailing list to receive news of upcoming events <http://bit.ly/tivetshall-events>

Phone and broadband in the Tivetshall's

Public comments at both the December and January meetings of the Parish Council made it clear that our villages are suffering severely from poor phone and internet services with seemingly little being done to improve the situation. 21 months ago we were promised an upgrade in service that would see results in 2016, still nothing has changed! In December our Parish Council devised a brief survey to gain more information about the issues and the way in which poor connectivity affects residents, this information is to be used to demand improvements. For years individuals have complained to BT but to no avail, now we have an opportunity for the Tivetshall's to speak with one voice via a committee set up to push for upgrades. If this issue affects your family (working from home, children's studies, emergency call

button services etc.) please go to the Parish council web site <http://tivetshallpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk> or to www.sites.google.com/view/tivetshall and complete the short survey using the comments section to explain how this issue effects your family. If unable to complete survey online forms are available at Tivetshall post office. We thank you for your co-operation and will keep you informed of progress.

Tivetshall Primary School

Class 1 had a busy day in November when we combined an open morning for prospective parents and children; a trip to Diss High School for the annual multi-skills event; and parents' evening! Later that week we walked down to the ruined church for the Remembrance service which was as moving as ever. The children behaved very well and enjoyed meeting veterans and other adults present and taking the opportunity to ask questions about medals and flags. Thank you to all who took the time to talk to them.

National Anti-bullying Week saw the children working hard on anti-bullying leaflets which will be collated to produce two leaflets suitable for older and younger children.

Class 2 and their parents enjoyed a busy café with a Christmas decoration theme. We think that most of the glitter has been removed by now...!

The annual, candlelit Christingle service was well-supported by families and friends. Many thanks to all of those people who work so quietly behind the scenes to make this service what many see as the beginning of Christmas. Well done too, to the children who sang so well. The Christmas lunch was also well-attended and we were joined by our friends from The Monday Club. Many thanks to Mrs Smith and her helpers in the kitchen. This was followed by a concert which included traditional carols and modern Christmas songs and was greatly enjoyed by the audience.

The Friends Association generously organised a trip to the Hippodrome Circus in Great Yarmouth as an end of term treat. We cannot overstate how wonderful this was with every child, and adult, transfixed all the way through. Many, many thanks to Ms Sturgeon and the Friends for making this possible – and providing ice-cream!

Sandra Potter, Head of School

WINFARTHING NEWS

Village Website

The Parish Council website is now up and running. It includes local information, events, notices and Village Hall details, along with Parish Council information and meeting minutes. The website can be found at winfarthingvillage.co.uk

Village Hall Quiz night



Last year's Quiz and Casseroles evening on the 18th November was another great night with over 90 people attending. We raised a record £857 from entry fees and Tom's raffle thanks to the hard work of our quiz masters Maggie and Granville, all the cooks and committee members and everyone that attended and helped. Watch out for details of the 2017 Quiz Night on the village website and in Cock Crow so that you can book your table early.

'A United Kingdom'

This recently released film is the inspirational story of the controversial romance between the Prince of Bechuanaland and Ruth Williams, an English Girl with Winfarthing connections.

We are hoping to have a local showing of the film at the Village Hall in April or May and if so, full details will be available on the village website and in the next edition of Cock Crow.



Village Carol Service

St Mary's Church was packed for the annual village carol service on the Sunday before Christmas. Torches lit the pathway from the gate, and candles flickered in every window adding to the seasonal atmosphere. The church was beautifully decorated and the Christmas crib provided a focal point in front of the altar.

The service, which was organised by the PCC and the Village Church team, began with the lighting of the Advent candles and an explanation of what each represents. The Christmas story was then retold with a selection of carols and bible readings. There were also some poems allowing a chance to reflect on its significance. Each text was read by a different member of Winfarthing village, and All Saints' School choir delighted the congregation with their sweet singing. The sight and sound of young children singing 'Away in a Manger' is certainly a highlight of the Christmas tradition. The Rev David Mills led the prayers and the service finished with a rousing performance of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. The children were all invited to the crib to receive a small gift. There was a chance for people to stay and chat while sharing mince pies and a cup of warming mulled wine. Many thanks to all those who had a part to play in making this a special part of Christmas in our village.

The Village Church services are held on the third Sunday in every month. Everyone is welcome.

Winfarthing Walking Group

We are now in our 12th year. We do a 5–7 mile walk on the third Wednesday of the month, contact Marion 01953 860535 for details of the next the month.

Anyone from any of the parishes is welcome to join us.



All Saints' Primary School

The end of last term was very busy at All Saints; children, staff and parents enjoyed the fundraising activities organised by the HSA. We had a visit from Father Christmas and a very well attended Christmas Fayre that raised £600 – a fantastic achievement! They also organised a Disco which the children – and staff – loved.

The Christmas production 'A Dancing Christmas Party' was a great success with reception children providing a wonderful nativity tableau and all children contributing with their fantastic singing and dancing.

This year we raised money for Children in Need by dressing up, having a cake sale and dressing up a teddy bear where lots of the children joined in. Our thanks also go to all of you who donated food for the foodbank that was organised by the HSA committee – another opportunity of how our community really pulls together.

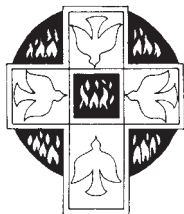
Each week the children from year 3 and 4 have been swimming and their confidence in the water is really developing. Children from years 3, 4, 5, and 6



also attended the cross country trials and our congratulations go to those who went through to the next round. The children from years 4, 5, & 6 visited the Science Museum in London and had a wonderful day out with the added bonus of seeing many of the London sights. Although very late back, all children and staff had a brilliant time and are asking to go back again!

All of the children from Rhinos have settled in brilliantly and their confidence is growing every day as they explore learning through play. The new term ahead will see us going to visit the pantomime in Norwich and we are busy organising events for the new topic ahead 'Time Travel'.

If you would like to know more about All Saints' Primary School and visit, please contact the school office on 01379 642767.



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
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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.



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
February 5	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
February 12	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
February 19	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
February 26	Join Chapel	11.0 MP	11.00 MW	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
March 5	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
March 12	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
March 19	10.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
March 26	3.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MW	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
April 2	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

Ash Wednesday. 7.30pm HC Winfarthing

Chapel 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 | P/P Prayer and Praise |

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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)
Sunday 5th February 4 before Lent	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sunday 12th February 3 before Lent	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sunday 19th February 2 before Lent	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Saturday 26th February 1 before Lent	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Wednesday 4th March is Ash Wednesday; Special service at St Mary's Diss at 7.30pm				
Sunday 5th March Lent 1	No Service	No Service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sunday 12th March Lent 2	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS	No Service
Sunday 19th March Lent 3	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sunday 26th March Mothering Sunday	No Service	9.30am HC	11am Fam and Mothers' Service	9.30am MS
Sunday 2nd April Passion Sunday	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 R Hewitt 01379 687355

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679

S Lopham J Brundell 01379 687216 M Crisp 01379 687953 P Reeder (emeritus)



Thoughts on Ageing

One of my aunts will soon celebrate her 100th birthday. She has been blessed with robust good health and an active mind and behaves as if she is at least 20 years younger – on her 90th birthday she went hot-air ballooning, and her 95th included a trip in a mini-submarine. We wonder what she has planned for this year!

Most of us are not as healthy and energetic as my aunt; as age creeps up on us we develop aches and pains and mentally slow down. Some Christians believe they lose any real purpose in God's Kingdom when they cease to be active in church life, 'I did all of that when I was young and active'

The commitment we make as a Christian does not include an earthly retirement package! Through God's abounding Grace there are many ways to be fruitful in his service. We can pray: show love to others: provide counsel, support or encouragement; help others to draw near to Jesus and discover his redeeming love. Through prayer, reading and discussion we can continue to learn more about who God is. I'm not talking here about learning facts and theology; our faith is all about having a relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit – he wants us to know his nature; his love; his forgiveness; and his glory. He longs for us to trust him more; to worship him more; and to know the joy he brings.

This is the wonder of our faith – however old (or decrepit) we are, however much we think we know already, there is always so much more to discover in our relationship with our ever-loving God. He never gives up on us; he loves and values us however much or little of our life we offer him. God's love for each of us never fails us in this life; through death, and into eternal life with him.

Team Ministry News

After all the excitement and highs of the main Christmas season, please don't be surprised to see decorations still in place in the churches!

The church 'Greater Christmas' doesn't end until Candlemas on 2nd February, so there will be some of the decorations in place until then!

Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent is on 1st March. The special ceremonies and services for the day will take place in St Mary's Church, Diss.

During the following five weeks a Lent Course will take place in the 'Country' parishes, using the same course as is being followed in Diss. The venue(s) will be decided when we know how many people from each church want to take part. Please get in touch with your own churchwarden, or phone 01379 687679 to register your interest.

Bressingham Church Fabric Fund

Concert



The wonderful
South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band
fundraising concert

Saturday 6th May
Bressingham Church

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £10 (under 16s £5) include food

Drinks (wine and soft drinks) will be
available by donation

Make a note in your diary and see the church
come alive with the sound of music

BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

By the time this goes to print we will be well into 2017 and all thoughts of Christmas celebrations behind us. However, I would like to thank those kind people who decorated our church so beautifully for Christmas.

I am pleased to say that the gravestone broken when the lead was stolen, was replaced and back in place by Christmas Eve. A coffee morning held at Burrowood and donations from various kind and generous people, including someone from Burwell near Newmarket who had read about it in the EDP, raised within about £100 of the cost.

Also, a bench given by Jo Lee in memory of his wife Peggy who died in 1998, was broken beyond repair during the robbery. Jo, who lived at 40 Common Road, died in 2007. We have been paid out by the insurance company to replace the bench and put the plaque on the new bench. Unfortunately, although I know that they had a family I have been unable to trace them. Can help me in this task? Please phone me on 01379 688291 if you can.

Correction

It has been brought to our attention that the Church News article in the Dec/Jan edition contained some inaccuracies; John Oates died in 1991, one month after moving to Waveney View, not as was stated. Our sincere apologies for the distress this may have caused. (*Editor*)

Heritage Lottery Funding update

Following a successful 'first round' bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in late 2015, most of 2016 was taken up with background investigations in our 'Development' phase bid for almost £250,000 to make Bressingham Church watertight. Overall, it was a busy year, with our architect, Nicholas Warns, and builders 'opening up' the church to check the extent of roof damage, and a team of consultants - including Bat experts, an archaeologist and a building

historian – providing background information so our architect could provide accurate costings for repairing and relaying the roofs and replacing all rainwater goods.

Our 'second phase' bid was finally submitted in December, 2016. In the next few months we will hear whether HLF is happy with our bid. Once we have their approval, we then need to submit a couple of further requirements (March–April 2017) before building works can actually begin in May, 2017

Heritage Activities

Please make a note of the following events starting in 2017

22 April: Guided walk and talk by landscape historian, Professor Tom Williamson, inaugurating Bressingham and Fersfield Historical Society. (Charismatic, fascinating speaker!)

May: Graffiti Project in Bressingham church begins, with Dr Matthew Champion.

May: Bressingham Church Bench Ends project begins, assisted by Dr Richard Hayman

23 May: Guided tour and instruction at Norfolk Archives for History Society members.

25 May: Bressingham Primary School children take part in Graffiti Project workshop.

6 July: Research training at NCC Historic Environment HQ, Gressenhall

August 5–6, HLF Project Celebration: Church Ale weekend with medieval re-enactment in Bressingham Churchyard and church, assisted by troupe of professional historical medieval interpretation actors

Concert dates for your diary

6 May, 7.30pm in Bressingham Church: South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band. £10 including refreshments.

Annual Church Spring Clean

Saturday 25th March at 10am. Please come and help us make our church sparkle for Easter! Refreshments will be served as always.

The Afternoon Club

The Afternoon Club continues to flourish and next month (Feb) we will be celebrating our 1st birthday.

New members are always welcome (no joining fee) so if you find you are at a loose end on the 2nd Tuesday of each month please come and join us.

We charge £2.50 per session and this includes tea, coffee and homemade cakes (as much as you like) plus any small prizes given out for the short quiz we have at the beginning of each meeting.

There are plenty of different games to play, knitting, crafting, painting or colouring or you can just sit and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

If you would like to come along there will be no charge for the first session. For any more information ring Kay or Reg on 01379 688331

e mail regkaybrock@btinternet.com.

The Church 59 Club

The 59 club raises much needed funds for the Church at the same time giving members a chance to win some money (£10 on the Wednesday night draw and £25 on the Saturday night draw). It only costs £1 per week and last year it raised over £1,000 for the Church.

Sadly we have lost a few members this year and now have some numbers available. If you would like to join and help our local church please telephone Kay on 01379 688331 or email regkaybrock@btinternet.com.

Community Defibrillator

At the end of last year we were fortunate in being awarded a community defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation. Part of the agreement for getting this very important piece of equipment is that we advertise and also train 10 people a month to use it. Training will be via a video and practical work in the Village Hall.

We are very lucky to get this piece of life saving equipment so we would ask all of you to think carefully about becoming a trained operator. If you do not like the idea of actually using this machine you can still come along and watch the video as one day you may have to help someone who is using the machine.

If you would like to put your name down for this worthwhile cause then please call Allan Byrne on 01379 688452 or Reg Brock on 01379 688331 or email regkaybrock@btinternet.com.

FERSFIELD NEWS

Church News

It hardly seems possible that December has gone past, and by the time you read this we shall have been deposited in February: we hope that the New Year is being a good one for everybody.

Christmas and its adjoining weeks were dominated by three very significant events at St Andrew's. Firstly, on 21 December, we had our Carol Service, now a very strongly anticipated annual event. A packed congregation enjoyed traditional carols in the setting of our beautiful church so breathtakingly decorated for Christmas, a variety of readings and superb music provided by organist Jennie, Michael Dann and Discord and Delcine and Luke Dunsmore. After the service much bonhomie and happy conversation were accompanied by excellent seasonal foods and mulled wine. We are pleased to be able to donate £150 of the generous offertory to Discord's current charities: the East Anglian Air Ambulance and Great Ormond Street Hospital. A huge 'thank-you' to everyone who contributed to this excellent event!

On Christmas Day another big congregation attended our morning family service. Jennie provided the accompaniment for well-loved carols, and Hazel Pankhurst expertly read the story of Jesus' birth and the visit of the Shepherds. After the Rector's blessing and a bit of a chat, we went home in good time 'to get the sprouts on'.

Then, on New Year's Eve, Olivia (Sumpter) and Aaron (Leary) were married at St Andrew's, supported by their many relatives and friends. Rector, Canon Tony officiated at a moving service, Jennie played the organ and a beautiful bride married her handsome groom. A truly great reception followed at the family's Fersfield home.

Now we look forward to a time when the care of our church building is in the spotlight. Our contractor and architect will have been busy in the building during January to prepare for the correction of the chancel wall and its now infamous 'hole'. We still

need to raise more funds, of course, and are planning another exciting musical event to take place in the early summer- more details to follow.

Very best wishes from us all at Fersfield.

Richard

Diss Library News

Friends of Diss Library

Diss library needs friends! Like many libraries we want to form a group to act as a link between your library and the local community and develop activities, fundraising and events in the library. If you would like to

Support your local library

Have fun and build new friendships

Get involved in planning and running fund raisers and social activities

Then get in touch with the library on 01379 642609 or email diss.lib@norfolk.gov.uk. There's no set commitment of time or energy and we hope to hold initial 'get to know you' meetings early in March.

Regular Events

New Family History club starts every Thursday afternoon 2pm from February 2nd; if you are interested in starting your family tree or have already made progress come along and share your interest and knowledge. Free access to the 'Find My Past' website and a friendly cuppa included!

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time every Friday in term time at 10am. 'Wordsworth' junior reading group meets at 3.30pm on the first Monday of the month.

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.

The library is free to join and it's free to borrow books, ebooks and audiobooks. For library opening times and more information on all our events and services visit: 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



LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's School

The end of last term was very busy at Saint Andrew's; children, staff and parents enjoyed the fundraising activities organised by FOSTA. We had a visit from Father Christmas and two of his reindeer as well as two donkeys who provided rides for the children. The Christmas production 'A Dancing Christmas Party' was a great success with reception children providing a wonderful nativity tableau and all children contributing with their fantastic singing and dancing. We completed our festivities with a visit to South Lopham church for a wonderful service that showed off the talents of all our children.

Each week the children from years 3 and 4 have been swimming and their confidence in the water is really developing. Children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 also attended the cross-country trials and our congratulations go to those who went through to the next round and subsequently the finals to be held in February. The children from years 4, 5 and 6 visited the Science Museum in London and had a wonderful day out with the added bonus of seeing many of the London sights. Although late back, all children and staff had a brilliant time and want to go back again!

The new term will see us going to visit the pantomime in Norwich and staff are busy organising events for the new topic ahead 'Time Travel'. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you all in the new term. If you need any further information about what we can offer please contact the school office on 01379 687253.

St Andrew's Pre School

The new spring term is just beginning as I write this, during which we will be exploring transport and vehicles. We also plan to celebrate Chinese New Year. Pancakes will also feature highly before we break up for the half term holiday in February.

Christmas was hectic but enjoyable with a visit from the man in red at our Christmas concert and party, and a visit from Diss Childrens Centre who read a seasonal story and brought some Christmas

activities for the children to do. We finished the term by joining the school for their Christmas lunch, which was very festive and fun.

We are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.45–3.15 during term times.

For further information or to arrange a visit call Jan on 07854091257

Lophams' Ladies

Meet in the village hall on the first Tuesday of the month, at 2pm on 7th February, 7.30pm from 7th March onwards.

The Christmas meeting was a real festive treat; Arthur Barrett's enthusiasm for Gilbert and Sullivan, for Railways and for Christmas was infectious. Members enjoyed singing along to some of the video clips and cd recordings he used to illustrate his talk. The Committee served seasonal refreshments at half time, and these also proved very popular. In January, Paige and her pet dog Pippa gave an illustrated talk about the Dogs Trust, focusing on the centre at nearby Snetterton. It was heartwarming to learn how well every dog is treated, and the care with which they are re-homed.



In February, the topic is Cambridge College Gardens, with Rodney Tibbs, and there will be a Bring and Buy Table. For March, at the usual 7.30pm time, Chris Parfitt will take us along the China Silk Road – sure to be a fascinating journey.

For more information, please contact Sarah on 01379 687337.

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.

On 1st December we spent the evening in the restaurant at Wyvale Garden Centre, Bressingham, enjoying our Christmas Dinner. The staff worked very hard decorating the tables, making us all very

welcome and serving us all with an excellent meal. The meal was followed by a raffle with some lovely prizes and we all enjoyed a very festive evening.

On 2nd February, Ben Potterton will give a presentation entitled 'Snowdrops', and on 2nd March we shall hold our AGM.

Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

Lophams' Society

The Christmas Drop-in on the 16th December was well attended (although slightly down on last year's numbers) and residents old and new were invited to come along and get into the Christmas spirit by joining us in the Village Hall which was decorated for the occasion and infused with the smell of mulled wine. The opportunity to catch-up with friends and neighbours whilst enjoying some festive food and drink made for a most convivial atmosphere. For those residents new to the Lophams, who may have come along as strangers, it was good to see that they went home having met and made new friends in the village.

Once again many thanks to the committee members for all their hard work to ensure the evening was a success.

Holy Bingo

Continues to meet on the first Monday each month at 2pm in Lophams' Village Hall. All are welcome to join these fun sessions, where there is always plenty of time for a chat. Forthcoming gatherings are on 6th February and 6th March. For more information, or help with transport, just 'phone Jennie on 01379 687679.

Lophams' Village Hall

Village Hall Lottery: The Lottery has been running for over seven years now! In that time, over £25,000 has been distributed in prize money, and £13,500 has been added to the Hall Development Fund, which has been used to make significant improvements to the hall and its surroundings, such as relocation of facilities for the less able to improve access, moving the main gates to encourage more use of the playing field, resurfacing of the car park areas, provision of a dog bin and new litter bin on the field, and ongoing improvements to the kitchen – new tiled walls and

a de-humidifier have been installed, new electrical equipment and cupboard doors will be added in the coming months. The main purpose of the committee is to maintain the hall fabric so that it is an attractive venue for the use of local communities.

Support from the Lottery members is gratefully recognized. If you are not in the lottery, but would like to join when there is a vacancy, please telephone 01379 687718, supply your contact details, and you will be contacted as soon as one arises.

Recent winners: December 2016: first prize of £200 – M Lanchester; second prizes of £50 each – B Inglis and P and S Marley; the Christmas Bonanza of £299 went to P Cooper. In November, the winners were: first prize of £198 – D Beales; second prizes of £49.50 – C Ward and M McCaw.

Farmers' Markets: take place every month, on the 4th Saturday, from 9am till 12.30pm, with a wide range of stalls to choose your locally produced goods from. In December we said a big Thank You and sad Goodbye to Jason Salisbury, and his range of wonderful Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses, which have been a feature of the Market for 12 years – a hard act to follow, but organizer Mike Shipperlee is 'on the case'.

The Raffle for over £40 worth of market goods was won by Mr and Mrs Harding.

The next markets are on 25th February and 25th March. Details from Mike Shipperlee on 01379 687235.

Other regular bookings

Judo is on Mondays and Wednesdays - (Details from Howard on 01379 688258)

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.

Dog Training: Most Thursday evenings with Rob Jessup; Rob's telephone number is 01379 873144

To book the hall for private events, telephone 01379 687679, or go to the website.

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

North Lopham Parish Council

Present W Nunn, D Eagle, M McManus, D Hammond (Chair), Parish Clerk (J Crossley), J Tate, M Tipple and 4 members of public.

Apologies R Carley, M Chapman-Allen.

Jubilee Lane has been adopted by NCC as a restricted byway but they have no money to maintain it.

Primrose Lane SLPC proposes 50/50 cost share for 5 grass cuts per year at £40/cut. Agreed. Investigate possibilities for Jubilee Lane maintenance.

Better Broadband faster broadband should be available to more addresses, contact your provider for details.

Precept Will remain at £3,600.

School Crossing Patrol A protest about the proposed removal of the SCP has been lodged with NCC.

Donation £50 donation to National Association of Rescue Services was approved.

Parish Plan Proposal to set up a subcommittee to manage this was approved. Neighbourhood Plan deemed too costly and complex. Village Design Statement/PP may/may not be adopted by Breckland, W Nunn to investigate.

Potholes/Tanns Lane repairs ongoing. Drainage of lower end of Tanns Lane continues to be problematic, no action from NCC, an official complaint will be sent to NCC chairman.

Planning some planning applications outside the settlement boundary have just been received. Check Breckland planning search for details.

Finance various payments were approved.

Chairman reported on a meeting at Kenninghall between KPC, public and Cranswick management to discuss problems of Mill traffic particularly in respect to Heath Road. Various problems were highlighted and some possible solutions discussed. 20mph limit, access road, rerouting.

Likely to be more traffic generated by the straw-burning power station at Snetterton and proposed grain storage facility at Bressingham.

Next Meeting 8th March 2017.

Kings Head Carol & Auction

North Lopham Kings Head was absolutely packed for the annual Carol Singing and Auction event on the Sunday before Christmas, to raise money for Nelson's Journey – a Norfolk Charity giving comfort and support to bereaved children – and the Norfolk and Norwich Big C Appeal – which has helped so many of our residents in their long battle with cancer. Auctioneer Richard Vere was ably assisted by runner Emily, who collected the money from successful bidders for the many and varied lots on offer, in between the breaks for carols. In addition to the auction, the draw for a beautiful Christmas cake, baked and decorated by Chrissie Callow took place. The lucky winner offered the cake back for auction, to further swell the funds. Very special thanks go to George and Angie Estcourt for so generously hosting the occasion, and serving delicious mince pies before the end. Thanks too to all those who provided all the goodies on offer and came along to bid for them, a real community effort. Over £1,500 was collected in on the day – this has since grown to over £2,000 – a really remarkable result.

St Nicholas' Church

Knitted Bible Festival 2017 The response to the starter Festival last October was amazing – well over 500 visitors and lots of very good feedback.

We plan to complete the project this Autumn, adding 15 more scenes, making a total of 50, depicting the most significant events/stories from the Bible.

We have patterns for anyone interested in having a go at knitting and/or dressing a figure. We do still need wool – the sort of colours that would be in use 2000 years ago. To find out more, just telephone Jennie Vere on 01379 687679. *Thank you.*



Events at Redgrave & Lopham Fen Suffolk Wildlife Trust

February

Guided fen walk

Saturday 4 Feb, 10.30am–1pm
£4 adult, £2 child. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required

Marmalade masterclass

Sunday 5 February, 10am–3pm
£25 + £7 on the day for jars & ingredients
Booking essential

Find out about volunteering

Wednesday 8 February, 10am–12noon
Find out about education and event volunteering both at the Fen and at Knettishall Heath. Just drop in. No experience necessary.

Two colour woodblock printmaking

Thursday 9 February, 10am–4pm
£35, inc materials, booking essential

Wildlife Watch Group

Saturday 11 Feb, 10.30am–12.30pm
A club for 6–12 year olds, £2
Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Children's activity: Weird wildlife

Tuesday 14 Feb, 10am–2pm
For unaccompanied 6–10 year olds, £7 per child, booking essential

Family activity: Bird box building

Wednesday 15 Feb, 2pm–4pm
Make a nest box to take home. Plus, trail & crafts, £6 per bird box, booking essential

Young naturalists

Thursday 16 Feb, 10am–2pm
For unaccompanied 11–15 year olds. Wildlife detecting & practical conservation work
£7 each, booking essential



Weave a willow birdfeeder
Saturday 18 February, 10am–1pm
£25, inc materials, booking essential

Basic hedgehog care

Saturday 25 February, 10am–3pm
£25, booking essential

Activity day for home-educated children

Tuesday 28 February, 10.30am–2.30pm
£7 per child, booking essential

The flowering of the fens

Tuesday 28 February, 7.30pm
Evening talk with Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments).
All welcome, no need to book



March

Guided fen walk

Saturday 4 March 10.30am–1pm
£4 adult, £2 child. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Pickling masterclass

Sunday 5 March, 10am–3pm
£25 + £7 on the day for jars and ingredients
Booking essential

Wildlife Watch Group

Saturday 11 March, 10.30am–12.30pm
A club for 6–12 year olds, £2
Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Intermediate hedgehog care

Saturday 18 March, 10am–3pm
£25, booking essential

Botanical illustration

Saturday 25 March, 10am–3pm
£25, booking essential

Activity day for home-educated children

Tuesday 28 March, 10.30am–2.30pm
£7 per child, booking essential

Gardening for wildlife

Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm
Evening talk with Valley Fens Wildlife Group
£2 per person (includes refreshments)
All welcome, no need to book

For further details and to book, visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org or call 01473 890089

A unique occasion for St Nicholas Church was a Confirmation by Bishop Alan of a whole local family. Friends from the Team joined the Harpers and their own family and friends for a very special service on 23rd November. This was an occasion we will never forget. Since that event, the Harpers have given the church – and the Team of churches – copies of the Action Bible – a graphic account of all the important stories. Rather than keeping them in the church buildings to be seen only briefly from time to time, we invite people to telephone (01379 79879) to arrange a 'long loan' to peruse them properly

Greater Christmas Season. Two months of extra events and services are almost complete. It has been a great pleasure to welcome visitors – from round the world – alongside new members of the village community. The Toy Service produced a wonderful pile of parcels for the Action for Children team to distribute to very deserving families in Thetford. Our pile was boosted by nearly as many from Roydon Church! The AfC team was overjoyed. The Advent Carol Service was the chance to sing some of the loveliest, but lesser known hymns and songs for the season, as was the Epiphany Service in January. Grateful thanks go to all who took part. The 'filling' in the sandwich – Family Carol Service and Crib Service – were great opportunities to focus on the real happenings of the actual Nativity, with many times for the children to take a big part in the action. To everybody who contributed, and to those who decorated the church so beautifully, we send a heartfelt 'thank you'.

Looking ahead, March 1st is both St David's day and Ash Wednesday. The latter will be marked by special ceremonies and service in Diss Church.

During Lent, there will be a weekly course to help focus thoughts, and also a series of Lent Lunches in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. Do look out for notices, then come along and join in.

Mothering Sunday is on 25th March. A Special Family Service will focus on Families, and the special place of mothers within them.

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

Apology

Two serious production errors in the Dec/Jan issue resulted in a very unsatisfactory South Lopham section of the magazine.

The first concerned the paragraph about the late David Huggins which we reprint in the Church News section below.

The second resulted in the loss of most of the November SLPC report which we also reprint in its entirety, it follows the report on the January meeting.

Our sincere apologies go to all who may have been upset or inconvenienced by these errors. (Editor)

Church News

The PCC and Church Wardens were saddened by the news of the passing of David Huggins. David had been an active member of the PCC, had served as a Church Warden and treasurer of the Friends of South Lopham Church, a faithful friend to St Andrew's Church and the Village.

Coffee Morning

The PCC would like to thank everyone who helped and came to support the Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th November and are pleased to report £244. was raised for St Andrew's Church.



St Andrew's School Carol Service

On Thursday 15th December 2016 we welcomed St Andrew's School for their Christmas Carol Service. Thank you to the children for producing such a lovely Service, and we would like to wish you all and your teachers and parents a very happy New Year.

Carols at The White Horse

An enjoyable evening of Carols was held at The White Horse, South Lopham on 15th December. The PCC thanks hosts Nigel and Tracy Martin for their hospitality and excellent refreshments and to all who came to support this well attended event.

South Lopham Parish Council

Parish Council 5th January 2017 at Valley Farm. Present four councillors, the Clerk with one parish-ioner (planning only) and one apology.

Chairman: The Chairman will be attending

- a) Presentation in Watton 19th January on policing the Breckland District.
- b) Councillor training at East Harling 7th January
- c) SNAP meeting at Attleborough Town Hall 23rd February.

New Councillor: The Council filled one vacancy on the Council when it was pleased to co-opt Mrs Ann Shipperlee to its body.

Budget 2017/18 and precept: The Clerk presented a financial report and various accounts for approval/ratification, after which the budget and precept were discussed.

It was decided that the precept should be £2816 (unchanged from 2016). A budget was agreed subject to, possibly, small adjustments which would need to be in place prior to the Council's March meeting. The Clerk reported the present position on the Parish Partnership bid application, and the Chairman reported on a discussion with Breckland Council regarding match funding, both to pay for additional speed reduction signs in the village.

In connection with the budget a quotation for tree trimming on Blo Norton road was agreed and other projects including trimming/cutting and War Memorial renovation were discussed.

Planning: Mrs Martin reported on all current matters (see Breckland Planning web site).

Mr Batchelor of Bridge Farm (planning application refused for conversion of workshop to dwelling) explained to the meeting the basis of his proposed appeal against the refusal.

Footpaths: The Clerk reported on the present position. A supply of Finger Posts is awaited from NCC. Assistance with erection will be required.

Date of next meeting: Early March, date to be agreed.

A full copy of the minutes of this meeting will be posted on the Parish website in due course.



Missed from December-January magazine

South Lopham Parish Council

Parish Council meeting on 3rd November held at Valley Farm.

Present four Councillors and the Clerk with one apology. The Council was pleased to have both our District Councillor Marion Chapman Allen and our County Councillor Steve Askew present.

Chairman The Chairman paid tribute to David Huggins who sadly died in October. David rarely missed a meeting and kept himself involved despite, in recent times, being unwell. He will be sorely missed and the meeting expressed their appreciation for the work David had done over the year

Highways The Chairman summarised a meeting he and the Clerk had had with County Highways. It is not possible to do anything other than reduce the speed of traffic within the present 30mph zone. The clerk will pursue a Parish Partnership Funding bid to purchase a SAM 2 speed sign and investigate whether Highways will replace or upgrade the existing flashing signs on the A1066. Steps will also be taken to canvas interest from within the village to set up a speed watch team. Enquiries will be made concerning the use of a SAM 2 flashing sign on the Redgrave road in addition to Church Road.

Planning Mrs Martin outlined the position on all current matters. (See Breckland Planning web site.)

Footpaths Letters and a map of our footpaths had been sent to the relevant landowners. New finger posts had been ordered and will be delivered when available. Highways have been approached to see if the verges along the A1066 can be mowed and widened to allow access to Parish footpaths. Highways have strongly recommended that the Council do not encourage walkers alongside the A1066 on safety grounds. Estimates were circulated for further work on trees and to clear Primrose Lane, further estimates to be obtained.

Councillor The Council is still one member short. Meetings are held bi-monthly and if any Parishioner wishes to participate by becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk Caroline Phillips, 01379 687950 or the Chairman John Crisp 01379 687953 and they will be happy to discuss the work of the Council with you.

Mobile Library Service Norfolk County Council have requested that the Council remind everyone that the mobile library visits our area and inform them of the timetable.

The Library is free and open to all ages, not only for books but other Library services. There are three stops in South Lopham and dates of the next visits are on 24th November, 22nd December, 19th January, and 16th February. More information is available on the NCC web site www.norfolk.gov.uk. The mobile Library office can be contacted on 01603 222303 or email central.mobiles@Norfolk.gov.uk.

From the Registers

Winfarthing Group

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Basil Hudson 18th November, Gissing

Bressingham Group

CONFIRMATION

Keith Allan Harper 23rd November,
North Lopham

Stephanie Jane Harper 23rd November,
North Lopham

Brennan Lake Harper 23rd November,
North Lopham

Ian Keith Harper 23rd November,
North Lopham

Marion Sky Harper 23rd November,
North Lopham

MARRIAGE

Aaron Leavy and Olivia Sumpter
31st December, Fersfield

FUNERALS

Pauline Mavis Lee (and Burial)
5th December, North Lopham

Brian Blanchard (Cremation at Waveney)
15th December, North Lopham

Aubrey Claude Frost (and Burial)
30th December, South Lopham

