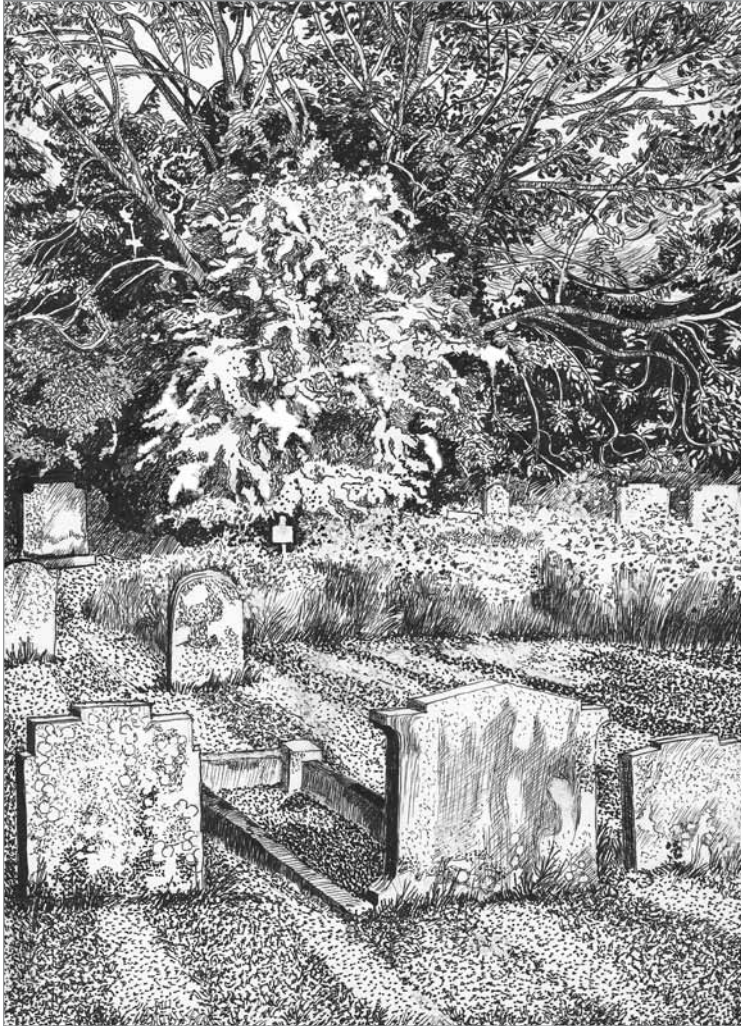
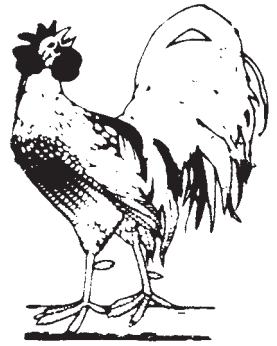


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

JUNE/JULY 2015

Issue No: 3



The little May tree Shelfanger church yard



Editors' Notice Board

Calling All Males over the age of 65!

Have you heard of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)? The aorta is the main blood vessel that supplies blood to your body. It runs from the heart down through your chest and abdomen. In some people, as they get older, the wall of the aorta in the abdomen area can become weak. It can then start to expand and form an AAA. The condition is most common in men aged 65 and over. Women can develop this condition but it is less common in females so screening is not available to them! Large aneurysms are rare but can be very serious. If you have an aneurysm you will not usually notice any symptoms so screening is the only way to detect an aneurysm which can then be monitored – or treated if necessary – and this greatly reduces the risk of an aneurysm causing serious problems. The easiest way to find out if you have an aneurysm is to have an ultrasound scan of your abdomen. Around 1 in 70 men who are screened have an AAA. Those people who are most at risk include smokers (past or present), those with high blood pressure and those whose brother, sister or parent has, or has had, an abdominal aortic aneurysm. An ultrasound scan usually takes less than 10 minutes. This is a self-referral service and you don't need to contact your GP. Screening can be arranged at the Diss surgery – no need to go up to Norwich. Men who want more information before deciding if they want to be screened can visit the AAA Screening Patient Decision Aid at www.nhs.uk/aaadecisionaid. To make an appointment phone the NNUH NHS Foundation Trust on 01603 288218 or email the Screening Programme Co-ordinator at: sarah.pond@nnuh.nhs.uk.



Other items
the Editors think
you might like
to know about

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Borderhoppa information | 34 |
| CPRE conference on light pollution | 16 |
| Diss Library news | 31 |
| Lopham & Redgrave Fen | 33 |
| Lophams Society Summer Jazz | 24 |
| Murphy's Rambles | 34 |
| South Norfolk on Show | 6 |
| Tivetshall Flower Festival | 15 |



The Highs and Lows of Ministry

When this edition of Cock Crow comes out, I shall have been Rector of the Winfarthing Benefice for 13 years. I was installed into the Benefice by the Lord Bishop of Norwich, on the Friday of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. During this time there have been good times and sad times, highs and lows. It has been a privilege to share with others the times of great joy in taking weddings and celebrating the birth of a new child, and also many times of great sadness in sharing in the bereavement of a much loved one. A vast range of emotions affect one when crying with those who cry, and laughing with those who laugh; I remember the pain of cradling George, a baby who had only lived 20 minutes.

A change that has slowly crept up on me is that I am not as nimble as I used to be. The body is beginning to show signs of gradually falling apart. I recently had a spasm in the back that was soon followed by Cellulitis in the left foot, a frozen shoulder and Gouty arthritis in the left hand all at the same time. At one point I could hardly walk because of the pain. It was a great achievement when I was able to drive again, even if only in reverse!

The honour of being able to lead public and private acts of worship and services within our community; the saying of the daily office, either on my own or in the company of others has sustained me during those times of highs and lows.

For me Ministry is to be seen in service and duty to almighty God and lived out practically in a life of prayer, within the community. I have learnt from the Society of St Francis that prayer and service is also a constant source of fun and enjoyment.

I have this verse written on a card in my room. Acts 20:24. 'However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace'.

David Mills

BURSTON NEWS

Mary Ethel Saunders 1944–2015

Mary was born on 6th November 1944 at Thorpe Abbots, to Cecil and Winnie Bloomfield. She had an older brother, David, and a younger sister, Jean.

When she left school, Mary was employed at Richard Emms Clothing Manufacturers in Syleham. She married Brian in 1961 and they had three children; Kim came first, followed by Dawn and Mark after they moved to Bridge Green in Burston. Brian took up Superstock Racing and Mary and the children went along to support him. She enjoyed being a spectator of this sport for much of her life.

After Mary and Brian parted she was joined at Bridge Green by Michael. She returned to the clothing factory for a couple of years but then started work at the nursery in Blooms of Bressingham. Not only did she enjoy outdoor work but also cultivated many strong and lasting friendships.

On the 16th August 1975 Michael and Mary were married at Diss Registry Office and on 2nd December moved into Crown Green in Burston. In 1978, Mary sadly gave birth to a still born son. However, Martyn was born in June 1980.

In 1982, Mary and Michael bought a Sprite caravan and attended many 'Sprite Owners Club' rallies in the East of England and beyond. Mary really enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie at the rallies and looked forward to those weekends away. She also enjoyed trips to the coast and visits to vintage shows and displays, as well as all the socializing at her local – the Crown.

Mary successfully joined the local Weight Watchers group and then had responsibilities within the club encouraging other weight losers.

Around 1992/93 Mary worked for Blooms again until 2006, and then at the Snack shop in Stanton for a couple of years before ending up at the TW Gaze Auction Rooms in Diss. She enjoyed working there and, of course, made many new friends. She continued in this work until she became ill and sadly passed away on Sunday 8th March at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, surrounded by her family.

Community Action Team

The Burston & Shimpling Community Action Team has been busy.

In April a new Craft group began, the first meeting being attended by ten active crafters doing knitting, crochet and cross stitch, sharing their skills over cups of tea. Meetings will be held on a regular basis and details can be obtained from Elaine Norman on 01379 740106.

Also in April the team helped to organise a St George's Day Evensong in St George's, Shimpling.

A Summer Music and Buffet event will be held at St George's Shimpling on Saturday 13th June. Peter Creswell and friends will be providing songs and melodies from yesteryear, followed by a buffet supper. Tickets, including a drink, cost £11. Please contact Nigel 013759 644788, Lindsey 01379 741278 or Keith 01379 640405.

Members of the team will be helping Friends of Burston Church on the Village Open Day on Saturday 12th July, details below.

Burston St Mary's Luncheon Club

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

Any enquiries to Sybil Peck on 01379 741410

Have Fun at the Youth Café

Every Thursday during term time the Youth Café is in full swing in the Church from 3.45–5.15. If you are aged 11–14 come along for games and crafts and other fun activities planned for the summer term. There is a tuck shop and free pizza and milkshake.

New members always welcome.

Church Hire

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

Burston Chapel

Services: Sunday 11am and 6.30pm

Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays 8pm (call 01379 741816 for details)

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

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

St Mary's Church

Worshippers and visitors will not have failed to notice the scaffolding on the outside of the church and, inside, the barrier blocking off the chancel. The building works to make sure the roof is secure and the church building safe has started! Hooray!

Readers will be aware that we have fortunately been awarded a grant from the heritage lottery fund to make the building suitable for the twenty-first century. The PCC has to raise a proportion of the money needed, and we have been busy applying for grants from a number of charities.

The Friends of Burston Church exists to raise money towards expenses for the church building and we have recently had a successful (and fun) social event which helped with this. Two days after St George's Day we had our Spring Fling. Thanks to all who provided delicious shepherd's pies and desserts and prepared the church so beautifully. We were entertained in great style by Becka Jillings who sang pop classics and songs from the shows.

The next fund-raising event is the Open Village extravaganza, taking place on Sunday 12th July from 11–4.30. Burston will be open – with lots of delights for you – including gardens open for you to enjoy, refreshments, vintage vehicles and memorabilia, an 'Eco House' and a splendid outdoors train set! There will also be a number of garage sales, too. Admission to all events is only £4, come to the church first for your programme. If you live in Burston and want to open your garden or have a garage sale, please get in touch with Norma Ajdukiewicz 01379 740595.

Rachel Hobson 01379 741033

Parish Council News

Proposed changes to ForFarmers (BOCM) Pauls operating arrangements.

To address issues regarding the movement of vehicles, ForFarmers propose to trial an earlier starting time which will allow outgoing vehicles to leave

site from 6am. This will ensure all delivery vehicles are clear of the road through Burston and Shimpling (C205) and onto the A140 before incoming raw material vehicles are allowed onto site at 7am.

The purpose of the exercise is to reduce the number of times it is necessary for HGVs to pass each other which results in a consequent damage to the roadways and verges along Mill Road and the C205. They propose to commence the trial from 1 June 2015 for one month so that they can monitor and review the impact on the neighbouring community. Control measures will include:

- The weighbridge gate will continue to be locked shut until 7am.
- A 20mph speed limit will be imposed whilst travelling through the Parish.
- A tracking system will be fitted to all delivery vehicles to monitor speed infringements.
- No vehicle loading will be carried out before 7am.
- Vehicle leaving times will be staggered.
- Regular monitoring will be carried out to ensure compliance.

You are invited to feed your comments back now or as the trial progresses. You can do this either direct to the Parish Clerk, to any Councillor or at a Parish Council Meeting.

My sincere thanks I did not offer myself for nomination to the Parish Council this time, and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the Parish Council during my 23 year term of office.

I wish my successor, the Parish Clerk and all Members of the Parish Council, every success as they face new challenges and I feel sure that you will support them in the important work that they do.

Len Hobson, Chairman

Burston School

Class 1: We are focusing on Dinosaurs, looking at the stories of Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs and designing, making and evaluating a model of one using papier mache. Our topic of The Lost World will look at the seasons of the year, the changes they bring, the weather during those seasons and the length of the days.

Class 2: We will be looking at humorous poems,

basing our work on 'Aliens stole my underpants', before creating our own alien poems. We are also writing about Dinosaurs. In maths we shall focus on telling the time to the nearest quarter hour and to the nearest five minutes and also using analogue and digital clocks. Following St George's Day, we shall look at the United Kingdom and its four countries, as well as looking at the English flag.

Class 3: With the lead up to SATS, we are focusing on different types of writing. In maths we shall look at translation, rotation and fractions.

Our current topic is Early Civilization – a fascinating way to enable the children to have an overview of when and where the earliest civilizations appeared, introducing them to the amazing achievements of each. We are studying flowering plants, looking at the seven life processes and how these apply to all living things. In RE we are looking at Reconciliation, its importance in all religions, thinking about what it means and why it is important to forgive.

South Norfolk on Show

Sunday 5th July 11am–4pm

South Norfolk Council Offices,
Swan Lane Long Stratton NR15 2XE

Free Entry • A Fun Day Out for all!

Fairground rides, Spider Mountain, face painting, outdoor theatre, animals and plenty of fun and games. Entertainment provided by local dance troops, and school choirs. Take a virtual cycle ride through our market towns, have a go on our Segway Track or meet visiting ponies, sheep and goats! Classic cars and a vintage fire engine will also be on display, alongside top of the range sports cars from Lotus and Xenos. Plus lots more including stall and stands crafts and farmers market.

Tasty snacks, Ice creams, speciality coffee, vegetarian treats and hot dogs can all be washed down with a glass of local ale from the beer tent run by our Pub of the Year Winner

Come and see what makes South Norfolk such a fantastic place to live, work and visit.
www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/onshow

GISSING NEWS

Farewell to Florrie

In March a packed church congregation gathered in celebration and thanksgiving for the long life of Florrie Sell who passed away in March, aged 95. The service was conducted by the Rector and Pastor Sam Brinkley gave the address. Joe and Daralyn took turns at the organ seat, playing, as the congregation arrived, some of the songs that Florrie and her sister-in-law, May, might have performed together in concert during their younger days, and Florrie's 'signature tune' – Country Gardens.

As a young woman Florrie trained as a nurse, qualifying aged 17 on the Coronation Day of George VI. She raised a family of four children, took an active role in the family business and years later, arriving in Norfolk, became a regular church organist at St Mary's. Florrie was also secretary of the thriving Gissing Sunshine Club for 'older folks' in our village. She and Paul were regulars at Bunny's bingo at the village hall, along with her good friends Winnie and George Yellop, where folks of all ages had good fun playing for such prizes as fresh farm eggs, hampers of food and boxes of chocolates together with meat from the Sell family's farm shop. Good times!

During the service we heard some amusing stories about Florrie. She had a wicked sense of humour and once sewed up the hems of her husband's pyjama trousers – a story line that would surely sit quite happily in a television comedy sketch! Many years later, whilst playing the organ at a funeral a sudden storm cut off the electricity supply (surely every organist's nightmare) and Bill Brown, who had been a choirboy at Gissing in his very young days, stepped forward to pump the organ by hand which saved the day.

After the service we all enjoyed tasty refreshments, prepared by Clare Calton-Moore, at the village hall where family and friends mingled to share more memories of Florrie and enjoy the many family photographs that had been pinned around the walls. Florrie was much loved and will be missed by her family and friends.

Gabriel's Garden Open Day

We are celebrating the start of British Flower Week by opening the garden on Sunday 14th June, 10–4.30, Common Road, Gissing IP22 5UR, 01379 677793

We sow, grow, pick and deliver seasonal British flowers fresh from our garden here in Gissing. Come and see the work in progress and the seasonal floral delights that June has to offer, and the transformation from waste ground to flower cutting gardens.

Friends of Gissing Church

A Festival of Flowers and Music will be held in Gissing Church from 12th–14th June.

The event is a celebration of weddings and in addition to themed floral displays, there will be a display of wedding dresses from local people who have connections with the church. We would like to invite people to lend their wedding photos and other memorabilia from those who wish to remember a special day in their own lives or the lives of those they love.

There will be an evening concert on 13th June by the Gissing Singers 'A Summer Song Book', which will be opened by Richard Bacon MP and a combined church service with Tivetshall on Sunday, 14th June, 11am, where couples can renew their vows.

If you have your own special wedding memory or that of a particular couple you would like to remember, we would be delighted to include you in the Festival programme and on the 'Memories' board in the church. The suggested donation for us to include your memories is £5, with all monies raised helping to provide the church with a sustainable future by completing urgent repairs and equipping the building with modern facilities such as heating.

Also we are still looking for help with the Festival so if you would like to:

- Volunteer to do an arrangement and have not yet been in touch, it is not too late!!
- Volunteer to act as a steward in the church, provide and/or sell refreshments during Saturday for the Flower Festival visitors.
- Sponsor a Wedding Memory or an arrangement, please do contact us.

If you would like us to include your memory or buy tickets for the concert

(£4 each) please contact Fiona Turton, Moat

Meadow Farm, Gissing (01379 677811) or Ed Scoggins, The Old Bakery, Gissing (01379 674669).

Kevin and Julie will also be holding a Beer Festival, with six guest beers from Norfolk breweries, as well as the usual beers available at the Gissing Crown, over the same weekend.

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival of Flowers and Music. We hope it will be a very enjoyable weekend for Gissing and its visitors.

Heart of Gissing

Heart of Gissing (Land & Buildings) is busily putting the final touches to the Stage 3 bid for Big Lottery funding to provide new-build and improved facilities at the Old School, which is due to be submitted in mid-June. The proposed plans for the new-build are available to view on the outdoor notice board at the Old School. Plans are in hand for the development of a new programme of groups/events to take place in the new community space, but even before this happens, new groups and re-energised groups/events are emerging.

Amanda Gingell has written this account of the new group she facilitates:

Show Stars After much consultation, discussion and organisation, the Heart of Gissing Community Arts Group and I have launched a new group to meet the needs of the younger range of adults with learning difficulties all over Norfolk.

With the help of Linda Nash, I have arranged for Borderhoppa to pick the girls up and bring them in, much to their excitement! Many of the young women have no real independence; they are transported passively around in the backs of cars or on minibuses but this means they handle money, look at the time and communicate with the driver – real life skills. Travelling like this is also hugely social. They are all missing important social opportunities.

Tuesday 28th April was our first meeting.

Our theme is 'The Seaside', so lots of the music and activities were linked to this. We made an octopus puppet whilst singing, did a line dance, tried on mermaid costumes, looked at makeup and props. We tried un-tuned percussion or 'water in jam jars'. Each girl making a scale with a selection of water jars to tap along to 'Yellow Submarine'.

Then we moved onto our play, 'The Little Mer-

maid'. My 14yr old daughter, Maddie, volunteering as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award, then taught us a routine based on the movements of mermaids. The group loved working with someone nearer their age! After an hour, we had a break for a cup of tea and iced a 'seaside cake' each. The girls loved the activities but also enjoyed working with Julie Botwright and Sarah Willett during the evening. What I noticed was how they all just loved to chat whilst they worked, so happy and so normal! I came home buzzing with ideas for the next session, can't wait 'til the next one!

If you know anyone who might enjoy this group, contact Amanda on 01379 741788 or email: mummy-sheep@tiscali.co.uk Sessions run at The Old School on alternate Tuesdays from 7–9 pm and cost £5.

The Heart of Gissing Crafter's Café meets from 10–1 on the second Tuesday of every month. Come along to learn a new craft or work on your own pieces. The session costs £3. Tea, coffee, cake and friendly chat provided. For more details phone Anne Reynolds on 01379 674272 or Kate Heath on 01379 677504.

9th June: Craft Workshop for sales table; 14th July: Make a craft holdall bag;

Heart of Gissing Community Theatre Project join us for a week of fun, learning and performing a musical, creating props and playing with sets and costumes. The project runs from Monday 27th July to Saturday 1st August 9-5. Rehearsal days are at the Old School, Gissing and performance on the 1st August at the Central Hall Theatre in Wymondham. Meet the crew and audition on Saturday the 6th June from 1–5. Course is £75 for the 7 days, including cast t-shirt and script. Participants need to be over the age of 8. Please email: performingartseast@gmail.com or call 01953 798627.

Forthcoming fundraising events include

Italian Night on Saturday 11th July from 7pm at The Old School, Gissing. Tickets £10 to include meal, one drink and light entertainment.

Table Top Sale on Saturday 18th July from 10–1 at the United Reformed Church, Mere Street, Diss (opposite Aldi).

Gissing Summer Fete will be held on Bank Holiday Sunday 30th August from 2–5 at and around the Old School. More details in the next issue.

For more details on any of these events please contact Anne Reynolds on 01379 674272

Footpath Walks

Following the success of the series of walks to check the condition of the parish footpaths last autumn, (a sort of modern version of beating the bounds), the village will once again sponsor a series of walks covering all the local footpaths during the course of this summer. They help people to know the routes of the paths, and allow us to replace or repair signs, stiles, etc, or make any necessary alterations. The first walk will begin at the old phone box near the junction of Wash Lane with Common Road and Upper Street on Monday, 22nd June, meeting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome, and dogs are encouraged to come along as well.

Gissing Children's Centre

Our popular and successful Pre-School runs Monday to Friday during term time in two 3 hour long sessions per day where children can attend from 9–12 and/or from 12–3. Any families wishing to come and have a look, are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9–3 during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or to send enquiries to preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk Do visit our website (www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) and our Facebook page to see the sort of things we do. The first half of the Summer Term has been spent growing things (beans, sunflowers) and with the children making their own seed packets with instructions. We were also making a bug hotel outdoors and butterfly houses.

We will be running Summer Playschemes for primary school age children this year on selected days throughout August. We will offer a long day from 9–3.30 at £15 per child and now also offer a short day from 9–1 at £12 per child. Book and pay in advance, by phone 07531 810704 or by email play-scheme@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.

SHELFANGER NEWS

Friends of Boyland Common

I would like to let people know that we will once again be inviting people to a Wild Flower walk up on the Common. This will take place on Sunday 31st May, meeting at the Common at 3pm and will once again be led by Stella Taylor, our wonderful local fount of botanical wisdom. It is a free event.



Shelfanger Charities

We would like Shelfanger residents to know that the Shelfanger Charities are able to make small one-off grants to help people in times of need and unforeseen additional expenses like, for example, hospital visits.

Our pot of money is very small and our grants, therefore, are necessarily small but it is the aim of the Charity to put the money to good use and help where we can.

If anyone feels that they know of a case where a little extra might help, they can email the Shelfanger Charities Chairman on ronpamross@gmail.com

All Saints' Church

Easter Celebrations The short evening meditation services held in Holy Week were well supported. The events of that fateful week 2000 years ago leading to Christ's crucifixion were again re-read and followed, and finally marked by the Good Friday service for all ages.

Your church was yet again magnificently decorated for the glorious Easter Day. The wardens thank Marian, Pam, Marilyn, Sheila, Jean, Anne and those who supported them for their floral arrange-

ments. Music for the Easter Festival was selected and arranged by organist Joyce Yates.

With its services and displays, your church in its central position on the main B1077 road is a focus and a beacon for the Christian message of hope and peace.

We now look forward to Whitsun and Trinity, the great growing season of the church.

Architectural Matters All Saints' Church Council has now appointed a new church architect. Mr Nicholas Warns and his firm, based in Bishopgate, Norwich, specialises in the restoration and maintenance of Grade I listed buildings.

As part of the church council's efforts to obtain grant assistance for the major repairs the church needs, the wardens and treasurer are involved in a series of meetings and visits by officials to the church. On 21st April, the group met Mrs Dawn Bainbridge of Heritage Lottery Fund and on May 11th met Mr Andrew McDade of the Norwich Diocesan Building Advisory Committee. So, much is happening and there is much activity waiting in the wings. Watch this space!

The Churchyard The Friday morning 'rotary' club which pushes mowers to keep the churchyard tidy is back in business as the grass grows again. The display of cowslips this year beat all previous records and the area is a beautiful oasis of peace. Peter, Ray, Roy, Fran, Des and Roger do a great job fuelled and refreshed by Jean.

The thanks of the 'rotarians' goes specially at this moment to Jonah Mitchell and his assistant who came and cleared the mountain of tree, hedge and shrub material trimmed by the team during the autumn. Jonah, with his tractor and loader, picked up four giant trailer loads from the end of Church Walk. Extra and much needed muscle power was provided by Tig Ross and Alan Holmes. Well done chaps.

Shelfanger Village Hall

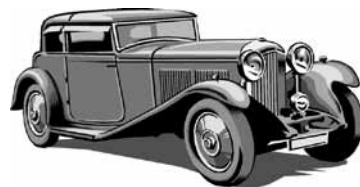
The AGM was held on 7th May, under the chairmanship of Malcolm Barnard. The past year was reviewed and all officers and members were thanked for their efforts. The chairman and existing committee of Anne Lord, Mike Paines, Jan Barnard

(Secretary), Marilyn Hurst, Marian Paines, Ron Hurst, John Kemp (Treasurer), Roger Challoner and Derek Lord were re-elected. Mr Ivan 'the Hall' Cotton was again elected as bookings secretary.

Shelfanger Grand Fete 2015

This will be held on Saturday 18th July at 2pm on the playing field. Plans are already well in hand. As befits a proper rural fete, there will be all the traditional, classic side-shows and stalls. Among lots of activities, you can make a lucky dip, shy at a coconut, bowl at skittles or at a jack, cast a hoop, chance your luck at tombola, browse for a book or enjoy a cup of tea, a pint or a burger.

Special attractions include a musical performance by the children of All Saints' School, a return display of classic cars for you to examine and discuss together with a working model railway layout. There will be lots more publicity as we approach the event – come and have a great afternoon.



Meanwhile, if there are any strong people out there interested in helping the fete team, we can use your enthusiasm on the field each evening from Tuesday 14th to Friday 17th July from 7pm

Shelfanger Social Club

Another positive period of activity has just passed with good attendances and much good fellowship. The Darts Evenings are proving a great hit with delicious refreshments to accompany some great darting, some erratic table tennis and the usual passionate dominoes school. These lively evenings are presided over by Tig behind the bar.

Shelfanger Allotments

These are now a scene of intense activity as spring cultivation gets into full swing. All allotments are now taken and wherever you look figures are bent to the sewing of seeds, grappling with rotavators and pushing wheelbarrows. This work is good to see.

Thanks to chairman of the Allotments Committee, Pam Ross, Colin Mobbs and all the committee. Further thanks are due to Ray Leeder who in the lean times when allotments were out of fashion took on a group of plots in order that they might be preserved for future individual use.

We extend a warm welcome to all new allotment holders. We hope you will get pleasure and satisfaction from your labours on the land.

Shelfanger Parish Council

Following the May elections, the Parish Council remains the same with all members: Marian Paines, Pam Ross, Marilyn Hurst, Anne Lord, Mike Paines, Ron Hurst and Pat Webster – standing unopposed. Helen Green continues in post as Parish Clerk.

District Council

The area says 'thank you' to Keith Weeks of Church Walk, who represented the village and adjoining area for some ten years and who stepped down at the May 7th elections. Keith was always available to be consulted and a faithful attendee at parish council meetings. He did great work in getting business life made easier for public houses at a time when they face great difficulty.

Being a district councillor is a great privilege but a thankless task, there being 'more kicks than ha'pence'. Thank you Keith and Vivienne for your service.

Shelfanger Stitchers

The group continues to meet fortnightly where much talking, some stitching and tea drinking takes place. Knitting is still proving the most popular pastime amongst the members with some lovely projects in hand and, to this end, the group is planning to mount a small display at the Shelfanger Fete. For more information, please phone Helen on 652199.

Personalia

We continue to send our very best wishes to all those who are not very well and to all who care for them. We especially remember Mr & Mrs Barber of Rectory Road, Joyce and Howard Yates, Peter and Pam Harries and their son, Ian, and David Lond at Hoxne.

TIVETSHALL NEWS

St Mary's Church

As many of you will be aware a large ash tree fell into the churchyard during April, this has now been cleared away but sadly has left damaged grave stones. The Friends of St Mary's have a tiny budget and are hoping that funds to rectify the damage will become available. If you are able to help with either an offer of labour or a donation, please contact Claire Kirby on 01379 677373.

St Margaret's Church

Flower Festival Please find time to visit the church this weekend (6/7th June) to see the lovely flower arrangements depicting nursery rhymes. There will be refreshments, a cake and produce stall and tombola. Donations for these will be much appreciated.

Church Maintenance John Grimmer has kindly carried out maintenance work on the church giving his time and materials free of charge. For this we are very grateful. Thank you, John.

Tivetshall Primary School

We are very pleased to report that our recent Ofsted inspection was very successful. Our overall grading was 'good', with behaviour and safety rated as 'outstanding'.

'Pupils' behaviour is outstanding. They put into practice the values they are taught. This is a strength of the school's work and is evident in the respect and care pupils show for others.'

'Pupils in the early years are well taught and have a positive start to their schooling.'

'Written work in Years 5 and 6 is of a very high quality. Progress in writing in KS1 is outstanding.'

On 5th March we celebrated World Book Day. The children in Reception retold the story of Marvin Wanted More and made their own Marvins; Years 1, 2 and 3 made story boxes for the book *Little Nose the Hunter*; and Class 2 wrote and illustrated their own story book which they read to us all at the end of the day.

The netball team played very well against a sporting Bressingham team, winning 11-1. Well done to Jess, voted by Bressingham to be the best player. The team is made up of boys and girls.

Our annual Mothers' Day café was as successful and enjoyable as ever. The hall was packed with mums and families and Chair of School Council, Ollie Cocks, thanked everyone, especially Mrs Brown, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Rednall, in a very mature manner. This year we combined it with Red Nose Day and the school council committee organised lots of fun fund raising activities.

We had a very busy week at the end of term, beginning with a visit from a touring opera company. Children and adults, including children from our partner school in Burston, were transfixed; a very enjoyable and stimulating afternoon.

On the following day class 1 enjoyed a Stone Age feast around the bonfire. Learning about hunter-gatherer lifestyles were re-enforced as we ate nuts, berries, mushrooms and herbs. The children especially enjoyed roasting monkey nuts in their shells on the end of sticks.

Later that day the netball team beat Dickleburgh 8-5. On the following day it was more netball with a netball day at the high school and another match and victory after school, against Winfarthing.

At the end of term we held our annual Easter garden competition. The standard this year was higher than ever. Well done to age group winners Phoebe, Max and Amy and overall winner - Max.

At the beginning of the new term the netball team were off again, this time to UEA, for the netball finals. They did not win but only lost one of their games and behaviour was outstanding.

Sandra Potter, Head of School

Light Pollution & Street Lighting

A conference at the University of East Anglia on Wednesday 10th June, 9.30-3pm, will look at the topical issue of light pollution and street lighting in Norfolk. A range of speakers will examine how architects, planning professionals and the public can make sensitive decisions about street and security lighting to protect our views of the stars. The conference is being organised by CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) and bookings start at £15 for the day including lunch, refreshments and parking. All are welcome.

CPRE also recently published results of an extensive survey of parish council views on street lighting and light pollution in the countryside, as featured in the EDP. The survey revealed that nearly two-thirds of councils are concerned about light pollution in their area, with the most common causes of light pollution being from residential security lighting, road lighting, floodlighting of churches and sports facilities, and excessive lighting from industry, farms, schools and garages. The survey also looked at street lighting trends in Norfolk.

To find out more about the survey results and the Conference, visit www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/light-pollution



WINFARTHING NEWS

Winfarthing Church has recently been fitted with new carpets; it now makes our Church look very fresh and welcoming.

Thanks are due to Vicky Mitchell and her team of bakers and helpers, who hold monthly coffee mornings to raise the monies needed, well done folks.

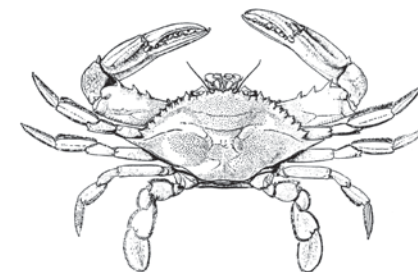
We hold coffee mornings every 3rd Saturday from 10.15. Please come you are most welcome.

Winfarthing PCC

All Saints' Primary School

All Saints' pupils and staff are now enjoying their summer term.

This term the theme for learning has been water. Children aged 4-7 years recently enjoyed an educational visit to Great Yarmouth Sealife Centre where they touched starfish and crabs and learnt about rays and sharks.



Since Easter, pupils in the upper school have been busy preparing for their Statutory Assessments. They now look forward to events such as a residential to Kingswood and Cluster rounders.

Following the Earthquake appeal for Nepal, the School Council organised afternoon tea for the community. This was well attended and raised over £200.

Events for the future include sports day and an educational visit to the Royal Norfolk Show.

If you would like further information about All Saints' Primary, or wish to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Norgate, on 01379 642767 or by e-mail head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!



Tivetshall St Margaret's

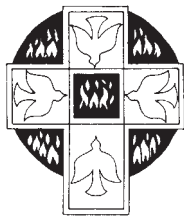
flower festival

Saturday 6th June 10am to 5pm
Sunday 7th June midday to 4pm

Please come and help us celebrate a lovely summer using the beauty of flowers and our best-loved nursery rhymes



Free admission
Donations to church funds



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
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Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

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



| | Burston | Gissing | Shelfanger | Tivetshall | Winfarthing |
|----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| June 7 | 9.30 MP | 8.00 HC | 11.00 MW | 11.00 FS | 9.30 MP |
| June 14 | 8.00 HC | 11.00 | 11.00 MW | Join Gissing | 9.30 MP |
| June 21 | 9.30 MP | 11.00 HC | 8.00 HC | 9.30 HC | 10.00 VC |
| June 28 | 6.00 P&P | Join Tivetshall | 11.00 MP | 11.00 MP | 9.30 HC |
| July 5 | 9.30 MP | 8.00 HC | 11.00 MW | 11.00 FS | 9.30 MP |
| July 12 | 8.00 HC | Join Tivetshall | 11.00 MW | 11.00 MP | 9.30 MP |
| July 19 | 9.30 MP | 11.00 HC | 8.00 HC | 9.30 HC | 10.00 VC |
| July 26 | 11.00 Chp | 11.00 MP | 11.00 MP | Join Gissing | 9.30 HC |
| August 2 | 9.30 MP | 8.00 HC | 11.00 MW | 11.00 FS | 9.30 MP |

Chp Family Service at Chapel | MW Morning Worship | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer | 5/P HC 5 Parish Service | VC Village Church | 4SS Fourth Sunday Service | MS Morning Service

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WINFARTHING

CORRESPONDENT NEEDED: please apply via Winfarthing PCC

| 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 June Trinity 1 | No Service | No Service | 9.30am 11am HC FS | No Service |
| Sun 14th June Trinity 2 | 9.30am HC | 9.30am MS | 11am 4pm FS Healing S | No Service |
| Sun 21st June Trinity 3 | 9.30am MS | No Service | 11am FS | 9.30am HC |
| Sun 28th June Trinity 4 | 10.30am with Methodists | 9.30am HC | 11am FS | 9.30am MS |
| Sun 5th July Trinity 5 | 4pm Thanksgiving Service (with barrel organ) | No Service | 9.30am 11am HC FS | No Service |
| Sun 12th July Trinity 6 | 9.30am HC | 9.30am MS | 11am FS | No Service |
| Sun 19th July Trinity 7 | No Service | No Service | 11am FS | 9.30am HC |
| Sun 26th July Trinity 8 | 10.30am with Methodists | 9.30am HC | 11am FS | 9.30am MS |
| Sunday 2nd August Trinity 9 | 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.

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

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

Churchwardens Bressingham D Burroughes 01379 688291

Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711 R Hewitt 01379 687355

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679

S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 J Brundell 01379 687216



Letter from South America

As I write I am nearing the end of several weeks in Brazil.

The first half of my time was spent 200km south of Sao Paulo, well off the tourist trail, in a relatively poor district of this massive country, with the Rector of the local Anglican church – a Brazilian and former student of mine. It was good to spend time with his parishioners, eating and drinking in their homes, restaurants and bars (some little more than shacks on a muddy river bank), or fishing with them on their massive river (about 300m wide – a bit different from the Waveney!)

It all got me thinking of the many local churches in which I have spent time over the past decades, in many parts of the world, seeing how similar congregations are the world over, but how varied the challenges they face.

So often we can visit countries abroad and not meet the local Christians, which can add such a lot to the richness of the encounter with that culture. It is my experience that the local believers find it a great encouragement when folk from England take time to share, however briefly, in the local expression of the worldwide Body of Christ.

The second half of my stay was in Rio de Janeiro, 2016 Olympics venue and the world's party capital! Again it was good to meet local Christians and hear from the Bishop of Rio about the challenges of being bishop in such a massive diocese. Rio is the most secular city in Latin America, trying to cope with the extremes of the exorbitant wealth of Copacabana Beach and the favelas a few metres away, where teeming millions live in cramped hillside slums, all watched over by the massive statue of Christ – not just a statue, but an icon on an industrial scale, symbolising His Kingship over the world and powerfully demonstrated by the witness of a Christian chambermaid from the slums working happily in one of the world's most expensive hotels.

Oh, for the justice of God's kingdom! How marvellous the grace and joy Christ brings to lives so different from our own!

+David Gillett

Team Ministry Page

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

Annual Meetings

At the recent Vestry Meetings most Churchwardens were re-elected for the coming year. At South Lopham, Jill Brundell is now a Churchwarden; David Huggins has become churchwarden emeritus. We thank him for his services.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting; one APCM was held for Bressingham, Fersfield, North and South Lophams and Roydon. The Rector and Team Vicar outlined plans for the coming year in the Team Ministry, and general reports were given.

Each parish then dealt with its own business, which included electing the PCC for the next twelve months.

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

On Sunday 5th July, the Bishop of Thetford is coming to dedicate the roof of the church porch in memory of Rodger and Millie Aves. The service starts at 4pm and refreshments will be served afterwards. PLEASE come and support us and remember two wonderful people who gave so much, not just to the church but to the village. You will be most welcome.

Combined with this we are having a Gift Day and in this edition of Cock Crow you will find an envelope into which you may put a contribution. This can be left at the church at the above service, or at the Village Shop, North South Cottage on Common Road, (Leonora Pearce), The Highlands on High Road (Linda Holly) or Abbotswood, High Road, the home of Kay and Reg Brock. Alternatively it can be posted to me, Diana Burroughes, Burrowood, Wilney Green, Bressingham IP22 2AJ. A pound coin from each house would make such a difference, but please give as much as you can. If you would like to send a cheque please make it payable to Bressingham PCC. Cock Crow is not just paid for by the advertisers, the church has to top it up by several hundred pounds each year.

On Saturday 10th April we had a really energetic morning when 10 people turned up to spring clean the church. It was real good fun and great refreshments were provided. My grateful thanks to everyone who came and contributed. May I also thank Linda and Mary for continuing to see that flowers are always in church. It does make the building look so much better when visitors come.

Diana Burroughes

Change of Correspondent: Diana is handing over her role as the Bressingham correspondent for Cock Crow after many years of sterling work. I am sure everyone in Bressingham would like to thank Diana for her many contributions to parish and village life. In future editions, Linda Holly and Leonora Pearce will share correspondent duties for Cock Crow.

(Editor's note; I would like to add my personal thanks to Diana for her years of service to the magazine; she could always be relied upon to submit her informative articles in good time for publication, which made my job much easier, thanks Diana! Tim Colyer; Bressingham Group Editor)

'Friends' Dates for your diary

Thursday 11th June, 6pm; Annual meeting, Friends of St John the Baptist, Bressingham: at The Highlands, High Rd, Bressingham (opp. village shop)

Saturday, 27th June; Strawberry Tea in the church at 3pm. Strawberries and cream, cream teas, cake stall and raffle. £4 per person.

Proceeds from 'Friends events' go to help fund building improvements and repairs.

Sunday, 5th July at 4 pm; South Porch roof dedication followed by refreshments.



Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Mrs DeLaSalle welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Annual Parish meeting. In her report she said that there had been some improvements with the roads although pot holes and speeding vehicles need to be constantly monitored. She said that the structure of the Parish Council had been slightly altered with extra meetings and sub-committees, mainly to deal with planning applications. She said the parish web-site continues to be very popular and provides information of the many village activities.

The Clerk provided a statement of the accounts for the year and this was followed by the Elizabeth Barker Charity report. As well as a donation to the school, the church had also benefitted with money for the time lock. The Fuel Allotment Charity had donated to the Village Hall re-building fund.

On behalf of Bressingham Church Mrs Burroughes reported that the church porch was at last renewed, thanks to money raising events and donations. A Friends of Bressingham Church group has been formed in an effort to help fundraising to meet the regular expenses. Mr Hewitt spoke of the repair work necessary on the Chancel of Fersfield Church and stressed that the churches received no money from the Government or the Diocesan.

Mrs Webb reported on another good year for the Drama group. They performed 'Madame Blavatsky Lives' and 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' to full halls, also a Murder Mystery Supper and in all made over £2000 for Village Hall Funds.

The Bressingham and District Ladies Club enjoyed another successful year and was pleased to welcome some new members. There had been 10 meetings and talks covering a wide range from elephant conservation to reflexology and a tour behind the scenes at BBC Look East and Radio Norfolk. A dinner in November at the Park Hotel was very popular also the party in March, the raffle enabling £100 to be sent to Cancer Research.

Mr Byrne, reporting on the Bressingham and Fersfield Community Hall and playing field was pleased that the repairs to the hall were almost complete. It is the 60th Anniversary of the opening of the hall so this will be celebrated during the year. An addition is the new play equipment for children which is proving popular.

Reporting for the Allotment Association Michelle Lanchester said the contract had been signed, work done on ditches and hedges and all the plots were in use.

Mr Traynier reported that the footpaths had been numbered and although there was a problem on one footpath in Bressingham arrangements were in hand to clear it.

In his report for NCC Mr Spratt said the Highways Dept. had lost over £12million to children's services but spoke of a 'buy-in' scheme which the council could adopt to deal with pot-holes and gritting problems.

Mr Weeks is retiring from SNDC but said that he was pleased that he had been able to get financial help for the Village Hall repairs.

FERSFIELD NEWS

St Andrew's Church

Our Annual Vestry Meeting on 22 March saw Jan Sumpter and Richard Hewitt re-elected as Churchwardens for 2015-6. Both thanked the Rector and PCC for their support over the past year. Our Annual Parish Council Meeting was held on 22 April: we were delighted that everyone was re-elected, and cannot thank the PCC and our supporters enough for all their time and dedication. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know: you will be extremely welcome.

We were a little disappointed, too, to have heard from the 'Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund' that we have been unsuccessful with our bid towards the cost of repairs to St Andrew's chancel: it appears that demand for this scheme has been very high, with the vast majority of claimants being unsuccessful, and we shall have to make a case for the proposed 'second round' of bidding some time later in the year. We are very grateful for the technical support we received from Fersfield's resident ICT and building experts, and hope they will help us again! There will be plenty to do in terms of re-submitting updated financial and 'housekeeping' data – also needed for the other bids we are making. Of course, we continue with our own fundraising projects.

The news on the Chancel itself is that we are still at the 'drying out' stage: the heavy marble memorial on the south wall has been removed and restored: there is a big hole in its place. The Chancel itself is still out of use: we are fortunate to have the lovely South Chapel in which to hold our Sunday services.

The funeral service for a Fersfield resident of many years, Mrs Irene Burrows, took place in the church on 1st April. Many people attended, and we send our love to Jennifer and Roy. We had a big congregation for our Easter Sunday Communion Service, taken by the much-loved Rev. Reg Daykin. It was lovely to see local families together on this special day.

St Andrew's is certainly a busy place. The Parish Council is again using the church for the summer meetings, the allotment holders meet here and our Fersfield Plant Sale took place on Saturday 9 May. This is a red-letter event, with months of preparation required by our quite amazing event team. We cannot thank enough all those members of the village, and beyond, who made this such a success by growing plants, attending to advertising, and working on the day with the refreshments, cake stall, tombola, book-stall, general supervision, art (Hazel Richardson's beautiful paintings), crop quiz, the plant marquee itself – and supporting the event with some generous donations and making purchases. We have raised just over £800 to date – well done and thank-you to everyone! (We are very happy that the plants we had left over have gone to the Bressingham and Redgrave sales to raise funds for the Nepal appeal.)

An exciting development being planned by Sophie Gosman is the series of four summer film-shows, in the church, arranged with Sophie Clouston of Creative Arts East. High quality equipment and training for the presenters are provided. Keep a lookout for the posters and publicity – you can even state a preference for the films you would like, so do please come!

Richard

Lophams Society presents
Summer Evening of Jazz, featuring

PORK PIE HAT

Lophams Village Hall
Saturday 18th July, 8pm
[entry from 7pm]



Entry £7 per person • Bar
For advanced bookings [advised] phone
01379 688408

LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's Primary School

Pupils and staff are now enjoying summer term.

This term the theme for our learning is water. In Endeavour class we have been learning about the water cycle and all its properties.

Prior to the Easter break we made Easter gardens for a competition organised by school council! They were displayed in St Nicholas's church in North Lopham. In our school we learnt about the Australian Easter Bilby and pretended to be an Australian child, writing a diary extract

During the last week of the Easter term we also went to London. It was brilliant. It gave us a good idea of how busy it is in London and how many differences the city has with Diss.

Events for the future include a Scavenger hunt, residential to Horstead and sports day!

If you would like further information about St Andrew's Primary, or wish to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Norgate, our headteacher on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Endeavour Class

St Andrew's Pre School

Everyone connected with Pre School sends sincere thanks to all those who supported the Easter activities, and a big thank you to everyone who donated towards our Easter Raffle, we raised £43.

After looking at our Solar System last term, the children are now looking a little closer to home. They will be discussing our place in the world, our houses and families, and our village and community.

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

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

PS The mobile recycling initiative has now ended; we are very grateful to all those who passed their old mobile phones on to us.

Lophams' Ladies

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

At April's AGM we thanked Chairman Sarah Frizzell for leading us throughout another enjoyable year. She was duly elected to carry on for the next twelve months, as were all the other committee members. The evening was completed with the reading of a one-act play written by Lin Newstead; grateful thanks go to those who were gently persuaded into taking part!

The first meeting of the new year was a very successful visit to Morrisons supermarket on 5th May. There were demonstrations in the florists and bakery, samples to taste from the greengrocery and deli departments and many opportunities to ask questions as we moved round all areas of the store. Most of us were heartened to learn just how much of the stock is genuinely British. The evening ended with refreshments, including 'home made' cream cakes, before we collected copies of the latest store magazine in a Morrisons goodie bag!

On June 2nd, back at the Hall, there will be a talk by Carol Kearns who is a freelance illustrator. Also in June we have our annual Jumble and Bric-a-Brac sale on Saturday June 13th. We would welcome any Bric-a-Brac, Books or Jumble that readers wish to bring along to the hall at 10am that day, or can collect if you telephone Sarah on 01379 687337, or Jennie on 687679. Doors open at 1.30pm, and admission is free!

We are off out again in July to see Mervyn Lambert's Garden in Bressingham. For further details, or general enquiries about the group, please 'phone Sarah, as above.

Lophams' Garden Club

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

On 7th May we paid a visit to Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery at Dickleburgh. On arrival we were given a guided tour of the Nursery and the Wildlife Gardens by Ben Potterton and Tom Proctor who told us about the various birds and animals kept at the gardens. We were then free to wander the gardens, buy plants and also sit to enjoy tea/coffee and a piece of cake. We were lucky with the weather, despite a large and threatening raincloud, and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Our next meeting will be on 4th June when Martyn Davey will give a talk on 'Growing Vegetables', and looking further forward, on July 2nd we shall welcome Graham Jenner who will give a presentation entitled 'A Rose by any other Name'.

Please telephone 01379 687833 for any further information.

Lophams Society

AGM The Lophams' Society AGM took place on 10th April as part of the Lophams Village Annual meeting. The chairman of the Lophams' Society, Roy Clark, reported that 2014 had been a successful year and was hopeful that events for 2015 would continue to be supported by residents of the Lophams and surrounding villages. He also reported that monies raised had been used to purchase and upgrade equipment used at the society's events. There have been a number of changes to the 2015 committee as long-standing members Simon Dilloway, Stephanie Fleming and Cynthia Huggins have all decided to stand down. All three were thanked for their hard work and commitment over the years and we look forward to seeing them at future events where they will be able to take a more relaxed role. Fortunately we were able to welcome Pauline Packer on to the committee who has agreed to take on the post of secretary. Events for 2015 have already been agreed and publicised, the next being the Jazz Night featuring a return visit by Pork Pie Hat on Saturday the 18th of July. This will be followed by the Autumn Quiz on the 9th of October. The Christmas Drop-in will take place as usual on the 18th of December but may change in format. For further information on the Lophams' Society or to book tickets for the jazz evening or the quiz night (always advisable) please ring 01379 688408.

Spring Quiz The Lophams' Society welcomed an almost capacity attendance at its Spring Quiz on the 27th March when almost 70 people arrived at the Village Hall to do justice to the questions set by joint quiz-masters Roy Clark and David Hammond. The result as usual was a close run thing with Jim Pursehouse's team proving victorious at the end of the evening. Many thanks go to everyone who took part in the quiz and to the hardworking committee members behind the scenes who ensured that everyone was fed and refreshed throughout the evening. The next quiz will be on the 9th October and in order to avoid disappointment for what is always a popular event, tables will be available to be booked in advance from September onwards. The next event organised by the Lophams' Society will be a Jazz Night on Saturday 18th July.

Summer Evening of Jazz Join us on Saturday 18th July at 8pm when popular jazz quartet Pork Pie Hat will be at Lophams' Village Hall to entertain us. Come and enjoy the music and atmosphere. Tickets are £7 per person. The bar will be open all evening. Tickets are bookable in advance (which is advised) by telephoning 01379 688408. Entry is from 7pm.

Holy Bingo in the Village Hall, usually on the first Monday each month at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. Forthcoming sessions are on June 1st and 6th July. Please telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport.

Lophams' Village Hall

The Village Hall was visited by a large percentage of local residents on Polling day; it was lovely to see so many groups stopping for a chat in the sunshine!

The playing field should soon be more easily accessible, the gates are to be re-sited and re-hung during the next few weeks. It would be lovely to see kites flying overhead, or groups playing field games. The verandah wall is also scheduled for attention, an alternative to the brick capping is being sought.

One important reminder to dog walkers: the litter bin should not be used as a poop-scoop receptacle; this poses a real health hazard. If possible a proper doggie bin will be provided.

The Village Hall AGM will take place on Friday, 26th June, at 7.30pm. All local residents are warmly invited to come along to hear the formal reports, share ideas about the use of the hall and field, and to ask questions.

The Lottery In February, we reached the elusive 100 members target, so the first prize was £200. We are very keen to maintain this situation, so please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a vacancy occurs. Please ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw in December for those who have been 'in' for at least three months. The Lottery winners for March were: first prize £200, M McCaw; second prizes of £50 each, J Leeder and M Lanchester. In April the winners were: first prize £200 R Bassett; and second prizes of £50 each J Farren-Bradley and J Keylock.

In addition to the Lottery draw, there is a monthly raffle at the Farmers' Market with one superb prize, which includes an item from every stall – a wonderful array of goodies for the larder.

Farmers' Markets are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next are on 27th June and 25th July, details from Mike on 01379 687235)

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

Dog Training is held most Tuesday evenings, trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information.

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

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more visit the website at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk.

Diss Library News

Diss library has some exciting events for adults this summer as part of Norwich Writer's Centre's Brave New Reads promotion. Six enticingly different books have been chosen for this year and we have lots going on, including:

Come and meet author Patrick Flanery on June 9th at 6pm. Tickets £2

Book Quiz on Wednesday 22nd July 6pm. Teams of 5, £5 per team

Regular Events

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time breaks for the school Summer holidays so the last session will be on Friday July 17th at 10.30; these short sessions of rhymes and songs are for babies from birth to 3 and new faces are assured of a welcome.

Junior Book Group will be on Mondays 1st June and 7th July at 3.30pm for children aged 8+.

Go for a personal best this summer with Records Breakers, Summer Reading Challenge 2015 at your local Norfolk library and mobile library.

Discover AMAZING world records as you read your way through your choice of library books, collecting stickers as you go to complete your fold - up poster.

New for 2015 a Record Breakers challenge for pre school children – get the whole family reading this summer.

Pick up your poster at any Norfolk Library or mobile library and look out for special Record Breakers themed events. For library opening times visit : www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries or find out more at the Summer Reading Challenge website: www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

For 11–18 year olds let your ImagiNation go wild with ideas for art, music, photography, poetry inspired by the books you enjoy over the summer. Pick up your ImagiNation booklet at your local library and mobile library over the summer

For 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.



NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council

Meeting 13th May 2015, present: Councillors D Eagle, M McManus, D Hammond, J Tate and R Carley; Parish Clerk J Crossley; Breckland District Councillor M Chapman-Allen; in an advisory role, L Farren-Bradley; approximately 40 members of the public.

Election of Officers: D Hammond was elected as Chairman; J Tate was elected as Vice-chairman.

Council Vacancies: Applications are invited to fill the two vacancies on NLPC. Details are available from the Parish Clerk.

Traffic Calming: The chairman outlined 3 areas of concern; speeding vehicles of all types, failure of some HGVs and agricultural vehicles to comply with the 7.5 tonne weight limit zone*, potential increase in traffic associated with the Kenninghall digester.

The chairman also listed measures taken so far; signage including new 20mph limit signs near the school to appear very shortly, the mobile flashing speed advisory sign, letters and discussions with local hauliers and delivery companies, consultation with NCC and direct contact with the Traffic Division of Suffolk Police (responsible for this area) which has resulted in an increased police presence.

*Crown Milling and their subcontractors' lorries are quite legally permitted to enter the 7.5 tonne zone for access to the mill as are agricultural vehicles for access within the zone.

A lengthy open discussion followed. Safety concerns, especially for child cyclists, noise and lack of official funding for calming measures were hot topics. Residents decided that an action group would be formed separately from NLPC, initially to set up a Community Speedwatch scheme and to monitor HGV movements within the 7.5 tonne zone to measure the number of illegal journeys. It was thought this would have a deterrent effect and provide evidence for further representations if required.

For further details contact: Rob Gerrett, 688512 or Kevin Edwards, kevedwardss@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Plan: Mr Farren-Bradley gave a brief outline of how a 'recognised body' eg NLPC might apply to Breckland District Council to have a Neighbourhood plan adopted for a particular area eg within the NL parish boundary. The plan must comply with Breckland planning policy but once adopted becomes part of that policy and carries the same weight. District Councillor Chapman-Allen added that new funds for grants towards the costs were being made available and a new officer appointed at BDC to speed up the process. It was decided to make the initial application.

Bottle Bank: Please continue to use the King's Head bottle bank, it raised over £400 towards Parish Council funds last year.

Roads/Footpaths: Potholes outside 'Conkers' are scheduled for repair, 'horse deposits' in Pound Lane and standing water in Tanns Lane were discussed but it was decided no action could be taken.

Village Hall: Thanks expressed to Village Hall Committee, the gates are shortly to be moved to improve access to the field.

Next meeting July 8th 2015

North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends now 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. Forthcoming services are on June 24th and July 22nd.

N Lopham Outreach to those in real need

Lent Lunches, in homes round the village raised £346 towards the Diocesan Lent Project to help the suffering church in the Holy Land. Grateful thanks go to all those who hosted the lunches and to those who came along to support them.

Collections at Church in May raised almost £100 for the Disasters Emergency Committee following the devastating earthquake in Nepal.

St Nicholas' Church

Among some very memorable services in recent weeks, we must highlight: The Good Friday Last Hour at the base of a 14 foot wooden Cross, led by Richard Hewitt from Fersfield, was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

The Church was dressed overall to look its Spring

Events at Redgrave & Lopham Fen



Guided fen walks

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

Wildlife Watch Group

Saturdays: 13 June, 11 July 10.30am–12.30pm.
A club for 6–12yr olds, £2.
Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Summer holiday activities

Family events, £2.50 per person

Wednesdays: 29 July, 10am–12noon and 2pm–4pm: Pond dipping • 5 August, 10am–12noon: Super furry animals • 12 August, 2pm–4pm: Awesome arachnids • 19 August, 2pm–4pm: Pictorial orienteering • Tuesday 25 August, 10am–2pm: Fabulous flowers • Wednesday 26 August, 2pm–4pm: Beethovenia Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential 01379 688333

Activity days, £6 per child

Tuesday 4 August, 10am–2pm: Wild art • Tuesday 11 August, 10am–2pm: Bio challenge • Tuesday 18 August, 10am–2pm: Wild fun and games. Unaccompanied children only. Booking essential 01379 688333

Art Exhibition

Sat 29, Sun 30 & Mon 31 August, 10am–4pm.
Artwork by local artists inspired by nature. Free entry. Refreshments available.

Adult courses: Botanical Illustration

Saturday 1 August 10am–3pm. Illustration techniques with the emphasis on botanical accuracy. With botanical illustrator, Christine Grey-Wilson. £25/£21.50. Booking essential 01473 890089

best in time for the Easter Day Communion service for all ages, at 11am, led by Bishop David Gillett.

The children, and adults too, enjoyed chocolate treats and real eggs afterwards.

We were thrilled to have some beautiful Easter gardens made by pupils at St Andrew's School as extra decorations in church this year.

Pentecost is on Sunday 24th May. As ever, it will be marked by a Birthday Party Service for all at 11am. This will be reported next time.

Annual Meetings: At the Vestry Meeting in March, Alan Briggs and Richard Vere were re-elected to serve as churchwardens for a further year, and were warmly thanked for all they do for the church in North Lopham.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, the Wardens thanked everyone who helps in any way to support the work in and outside the church building, or its activities in the wider community. Included in this are all those who deliver the magazine in alternate months. Without your hard work, all the efforts of the contributors and production team would be wasted, and our advertisers would be deprived of many useful contacts.

The Starters and Sweets Evening, planned for 25th April was postponed until later in the year. The North Lopham community was greatly saddened by the death of Gill Osler in the early hours of 26th. Gill has been at the heart of Lopham life for more than the last decade, as a member of so many groups and activities in both church and village, greeting everyone with real kindness and that beautiful smile. We send sincere sympathy to Tony, and to Gill's daughters and all the family.

Friday Night is SNYSB Night on 22nd May will be reported next time. We hope all those who came along had a wonderful time!

Advance Notice A Hymn Marathon – the very last one! – will be held at the beginning of August. The details of the day will be publicised in the next issue, but pleased be prepared to see Jennie around the village in the coming weeks, inviting residents to sponsor a favourite hymn – perhaps in memory of someone special. Thank you!

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church News

At the Church Vestry meeting on 19th May, Mr Peter Reeder and Mrs Jill Brundell (01379 687216) were elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

David Huggins has now retired from his position as Churchwarden and is now Churchwarden emeritus. The PCC express their appreciation to David for his services to St Andrew's Church

Fancy a day out with Borderhoppa?



At Borderhoppa we operate regular weekly outings for our members throughout the year. It's a door to door service and a great way to get out and about, meet people or just visit somewhere different.

This year our members have enjoyed shopping trips to Stowmarket, Beccles, The Range, Thetford and Bungay. Pub lunches at The Half Moon, Rushall; The White Horse, Stoke Ash; The Black Horse, Thorndon and The Jolly Farmers, Fornsett St Peter.

Future outings include, Lowestoft, Taverham Country Shopping Centre, Aldeburgh and Thorpe-ness, Waveney Stardust boat trips, Southwold, Gt Yarmouth, Felixstowe, Fairhaven Water Gardens, Raveningham Country Fair, Stowmarket and several pub lunches.

If you or someone you know would like to join us, please call us on 01379 854800. Membership is £6/6 months or £10/12 months, outings are individually priced. If you would like more information please visit our website www.borderhoppa.org.

Once you become a member you can also use our door to door Dial-a-Ride service for appointments, shopping or just to visit a friend or family. Our buses are fully accessible and can be used by anybody of any age.

Murphy's Rambles

What a flower filled Spring we are having; it seems such a short while ago that we were admiring the snowdrops and eagerly awaiting the first primroses. Now clumps of primroses jostle for space with stands of cowslips, joined in the ditches by celandines. Every verge is brimming with purple bugle and white stitchwort and studded with dandelions. The lawn is so thick with white and purple violets that my human cannot step without crushing them.

Early mornings are often still frosty and it's great watching the sun turn the ground frost into mist that disappears as quickly as the frost. We love it when the frost sparkles like diamonds and you can see all the funnel cobwebs waiting for unwary insects, but never a spider in sight.

When the mornings were darker we usually shared our walks with the barn owl, but now it is skylarks serenading us and the amazingly acrobatic yellowhammers. One morning my human spotted a new bird daring us to come closer to its bushy perch. Needless to say, my breakfast was late while she looked it up – a reed bunting. The sweetest is mother duck and her brood bustling along the ditch; we have seen her three times now. I love finding egg shells for my human – pale blue, speckled greeny brown or opalescent white, but never near a bush or a tree.

A lone deer is sometimes our morning companion, until he spots us and bounds off. We did come face to face with a muntjac one morning; wonderful face markings, but neither of us liked his 'devil' horns and we were glad he went the other way. But best of all is to watch the hares in the fields playing tag. They are so fast and agile and they couldn't care less whether we are there or not!

Bye, take care and keep taking your human out.



From the Registers

Winfarthing Group

FUNERALS

Cyril George Turner 10th April, Burston

Chris Monument 21st April, Tivetshall

Denis Walter Bowen 27th April, Burston

Leslie Taylor 7th May, Winfarthing

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Chris Monument 14th May, Tivetshall

CHRISTENING

Oscar Jackson Martin 3rd May,
Winfarthing

Bressingham Group

WEDDING

**Michael James Morris and Jessica Daisy
Wheeler** 30th May, Bressingham

FUNERALS

Ivan Rowland Scott 31st March, South
Lopham

Irene Lucy Burrows 1st April, Fersfield
Raymond Edward Garnham 2nd April,
North Lopham

William Alan Stone 13th April, South
Lopham

Gillian Joyce Osler 14th May North
Lopham

