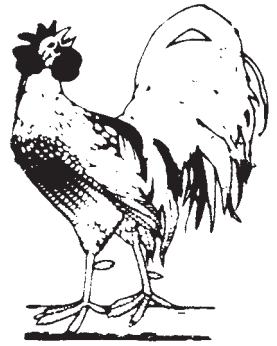


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NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015

Issue No: 4



Autumn bounty



Editors' Notice Board

CAR LINK VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED IN YOUR AREA

Car Link is a partnership between ERS Medical and Voluntary Norfolk, providing non emergency patient transport throughout the majority of the county. Our volunteer drivers provide an essential service, transporting up to one hundred patients to their destination each day. We are looking to recruit new volunteer drivers to join our busy team, and would love to hear from caring, calm and reliable individuals with their own car. As well as drivers to do journeys to hospitals in Norfolk and East Anglia, we are also looking to find volunteers happy to go above and beyond the usual, by taking on early morning appointments, and appointments in London. All expenses are reimbursed, and training is provided. Please call Jules on 01603 883860 or email jules.alderon@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk



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the Editors think
you might like
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Going to Church



The first time that I can remember going to Church was when I was about 4 years of age. It was St Hugh's Charterhouse in South London. You had to go down a very dark flight of steps to be greeted by a full-scale size crucifix at the bottom of the staircase; extremely frightening to a young child. So my first impression of going to Church was being scared senseless, let alone thinking about what strange things were happening. It was either a Wedding or Christening my family were attending. I had a very similar experience in 1997 when I led my first service at St Mary's Bottesford, (Near Grantham). I looked up into the side Chapel to see the very same Crucifix from St Hugh's Charterhouse, hanging down. A feeling of utter unworthiness came over me.

Entering a Church for the first time can be for some people a very awkward situation. They could have a deep sense of loss as a result of the death of a loved one. They might enter a Church to seek sanctuary from the grief and pains of daily life, seeking peace, solitude and a time for private reflection. Some come into a Church building mark a joyful occasion like a wedding or christening.

There are also those who like to meet together to give praise and thanksgiving to almighty God in worship and adoration; something that I have grown to love and enjoy. As a Priest I find it difficult to worship, as I am also concentrating on what is going to happen next in the service; do we have the correct reading, hymn, prayer ready, and the next page number is... ?

I have come across people who find it difficult to pray, in case they get the words somehow wrong. God looks on the heart of a person not on the correct words that are used. One of the prayers I use is 'Lord help me, I'm in a mess again, forgive me' another is 'Lord, I do not know what is happening at this moment in time, but you do, help me to follow in your footsteps'. You may well have your own. There is nothing wrong in entering into a church, sitting down quietly, being reflective and saying a simple prayer only God knows. Be open to his promptings. It is your Church building, as much as it is anyone else's.

Rev David Mills

BURSTON NEWS

Burston & Shimpling Parish Council

The Parish Council is now at full strength, with seven councillors.

The play equipment has been made available and we now have a zip-wire, a basket swing, a see-saw, a mound slide and a shelter to complement the existing, and now refurbished, swings, agility course and multi-play unit. We are very grateful to all the organisations that provided funding, including Awards for All (The National Lottery), ForFarmers (Burston Mill), Adnams, The Geoffrey Watling Charity, Saffron Trust, South Norfolk Council, and Norfolk Playing Fields Association, as well as local landowners, businesses and residents.

Since May the council has been going through a period of 'auditing', looking at all aspects of the Council to see where we are and where we ought to be. In particular we are reviewing all our policies and standing orders, looking at all the maintenance needs for property that the parish owns and assessing the present state of all of the footpaths that are shown to exist on the definitive map.

Additionally we are giving detailed consideration to the future of the playing field. We are very fortunate to have a field large enough for a proper football pitch, but following the closure of the Burston football team there has been no-one to play on it. The present changing facility is a simple shed with no plumbing at all, and modern teams require better facilities. We are looking into various possibilities, including providing a proper changing room with showers etc, and finding teams who would wish to use the pitch. However, it is possible that we will be unable to find teams interested in playing in Burston, and then no new facility would be built. If any residents have comments on this topic (or on any other topic that relates to the village) please let me (or any other council member) know.

Parish Council meetings are held on Tuesdays towards the end of the month. There is no meeting scheduled for October. The next meeting is on Tuesday 24th November at 7.30 in St Mary's, Burston.

Nigel Frankland

St Mary's Church

St Mary's is delighted to welcome our new Treasurer, Anthony Brice, to the PCC. He takes over from Keith Baxter, who has been in the position for more years than he probably cares to contemplate! Keith has been stalwart in fulfilling the role, and we thank him so much for all that he has done (and continues to do) for St Mary's.

The Friends of Burston Church has had to cancel the Fish and Chips quiz supper. However, we will be organising other fund-raising/social events and will publicise them when dates are finalised.

A date for your diary: Tuesday 15th December. We are very pleased to announce that the Shelfanger Singers have agreed to make a return visit for our annual Christmas Concert; more details available nearer the time.

We are changing the way we deal with church bookings to make it simpler for all concerned. If you would like to know whether the church is free on a particular date and/or book the church, please get in touch with me either by email, phone or text message (contact details below).

And finally, thank you to all who have to put up with the sight of scaffolding and temporary fixtures both outside and inside the church. It does mean that the renovations are continuing and we all look forward to a time when we will get St Mary's 'back to normal' – in a much improved state!

Rachel Hobson 07712 670 928

Thanks for Gift Day Contributions

Our grateful thanks to those who made contributions on Gift Day, amounting to £157, and also to those who give regularly by standing order. Your help is essential in keeping the Church a living ministry. It may seem, because we have a lottery grant, that to hold a Gift Day might be seen as 'over the top'. In fact these gifts are for the ministry, ie worship, funerals, weddings etc, also outreach such as Luncheon Club and Youth Group, while the lottery grant is for the church building only. Our Parish Share for the ongoing ministry is £6,000 a year – and without the ministry which keeps the church open it would no longer be available for community use. If you would still like to contribute it is never too late.

Remembrance Day

Please note that the annual act of remembrance for the fallen of Burston and Shimpling will take place in Burston Church at 8am on Sunday 8th November. It is our opportunity to honour those men who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy today and is followed by a communion service which is separate and optional.

Volunteers needed for Youth Club

Our devoted youth workers need the support of volunteers from Burston Village for practical help with the after school Youth Café. The tasks include setting up and clearing away equipment, tables, chairs etc. or serving snacks and drinks and keeping the tuck shop. Interacting with the young people is also an important aspect of this outreach; our thanks to those who have fulfilled this role for the last two years. Call Dorothy Swanton – 01379 741577

Burston Craft Group

Meetings for this term are 20th October, 17th November and 15th December. Please remember that the new venue is the Pavilion next to the For Farmers Mill in Mill Road from 10–12. All are welcome. For further information please contact Elaine on 01379 740106.

Burston & Shimpling Community Action Team

The Buskers and Bangers Barbecue was held on Church Green on Saturday, 5th September. The team served bangers, burgers, a salad and a pudding, all enjoyed by the hundred residents and friends who attended the event. The Green was already set out for the Strike School Rally on the following day, the beer tent was in operation and the buskers could use the stage provided by the Strike School. The rain held off, though the evening was slightly colder than could be wished for, but the buskers played a variety of music as people were served their food, cooked by Piers and Lindsey Bilston, Jim and Karen Rudd, Clare Clifford and Liz Gerrard. Thanks to the cooks and Keith Baxter who helped 'set up' in the morning. It was good to see folk enjoying a drink, some food, and the company.

The Community Action Team organises events

throughout the year and will be helping at the Shimpling Carols by Candlelight (over 500 candles this year!) on Thursday 17th December.

Nigel Frankland

Ronald Leeder 1917–2015

Ron was born in Mill Road, Burston on the 10th August 1917, the second child of Edward and Ellen Leeder. He had two sisters. Win, the eldest, and Stella, the youngest and mother to his nephews, Paul and Michael.

Ron was a pupil at the Burston Strike School and passed to go Diss Grammar School. After leaving school Ron worked away in Dereham for the Prudential Insurance Company until he was called up for WW2. He was in the RAF and trained as a wireless operator and was then stationed at several different airfields in this country, as well as such places as Egypt, India and Burma.

After the war, Ron worked in London for a while before returning to Mill Road to stay with his father, and youngest sister Stella, now married with her first child. He did several jobs including working at the Mill and doing track maintenance for the Railway but eventually returned to insurance work becoming an agent for CIS Ltd.

With the arrival of a second child, the family moved into 1, Gissing Road and Ron moved with them. When Stella's husband suddenly died, Ron stayed and helped her bring up Paul and Michael, becoming the father figure to them both. Ron enjoyed playing football and cricket and helped start up the Bowling Green at the Burston Crown, playing for a few years. He served as Parish Councilor for over forty years and was also a Trustee of the Burston Strike School. On his retirement Ron spent his time working in the garden and taking long walks with the family dog. He was a great animal lover.

Due to diabetes and poor eyesight, Ron had to give up driving in his early eighties. He was looked after by Paul and Michael after Stella died. Sadly, Ron's health deteriorated and after three short spells in hospital, he passed away in All Hallows Nursing Home, on 6th June, at the grand age of ninety seven. Our thoughts are with his family.

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

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.

Burston Chapel

Services: Sunday 11am and 6.30pm

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

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

Information Please

To inform the village of a special event or item of local interest please contact Liz McNiff on 01379 742583.

Burston School

We have had an excellent start to the year! We would like to welcome our new Reception children: Sofia-Rose, Clay, Annabel Libby-Rose and Poppie. Also welcome to Owen who joins year 4.

The children have really enjoyed starting their topic of Raging Rivers and have already started researching their Science topic of earth and space. The English focus for the beginning of this term is Traditional Tales, reading books by Brothers Grimm, Aesop and Hans Christian Anderson.

It has been a happy, positive and fun start to the new term in Class 1. All pupils have settled well to their new routines and activities and have enjoyed exploring the story of the 3 Little Pigs through drama, music and creative activities. In Maths pupils have settled well into number and place value work and are relishing the challenges set for them. Our new reception children have begun to make new friends and all pupils have displayed excellent behaviour, manners and a positive attitude to their work. We are all looking forward to a great term together.

GISSING NEWS

Friends of Gissing Church

It has been a busy summer. There was the Festival of Flowers and Music in June at which we heard we had been successful with the award of a Heritage Lottery Fund Development Grant.

On 1 August a Barbecue was held at Keeper's Cottage by kind invitation of Tony and Heidi Baxter. We thank them very much for working so hard to make this a really enjoyable evening for all, and for creating an ambience at which guests were obviously very generous in their donations. Many thanks are also due to Ed and Denise Scoggins for all their hard work in helping Tony and Heidi with the party, to Ellie Jennings and Clive Homer for running a very busy bar all evening, to Alex Holden for a Night at the Races!, and to everyone else who helped and supported, raising a fantastic £1500. Well done to all concerned and the funds will go towards the contingency we need to raise as part of the HLF Grant conditions.

Later in August, the Friends had a stall at the Gissing Summer Fete at which everyone enjoyed a great pirate-themed afternoon of entertainment, stalls and refreshments. Despite the typical chilly and threatening Bank Holiday weather, there were still plenty of visitors to the Fete. Many thanks are due to all those visitors who supported the Friends through the purchase of pottery products hand made and donated for sale by Pat Cattell.

Over the summer an HLF Project Team has been formed (drawn from the PCC and the Friends) to take forward all the work on preparing detailed plans to repair the church building, to promote the heritage within the church, and to bring in the upgraded electricity supply, which is the key to all the other aspects of the vision that so many have for the building in the future. The team will be liaising with the Parish Council and Heart of Gissing on any areas of mutual interest, so that good communication is maintained about the various developments in the village and that if there are any synergies that could benefit the various organisations then these can be taken-up.

The HLF Development Phase lasts until June 9th 2016. This is the final deadline for the PCC/Friends to submit a comprehensive plan for all required aspects of work. Acceptance by HLF determines whether or not Gissing will get the full grant and can start the repairs and improvements that are so necessary now.

The Project Team posts regular updates on the Friends of Gissing Church website (www.fog-church.org.uk) so that everyone in the village can be updated on progress towards the next phase. We also intend to hold a Village Meeting at a key stage in the planning to share these with Gissing residents and invite feedback and comment.

For further information on any aspects of the work of the Friends, or if you would like to learn more about the HLF development stage then please do get in touch: Fiona Turton, FoGC Chair, at fionaturton@btinternet.com or Ed Scoggins, FoGC Secretary at Edward.scoggins@live.co.uk, Denise Scoggins, PCC/FoGC Treasurer, at denisescoggins123@btinternet.com, George Hammond, PCC Lay Chair, at ghdesign@netmatters.co.uk

Open Churches, Especially Ours!

Each year during seven days in August, churches across the county take part in 'Open Churches Week' when churches that would normally be locked, open their doors to the public. Our church is rather special because it is open every day of the year, thanks to the good offices of Terry Fewell who kindly locks the building at dusk and opens up next morning. Our visitors much appreciate that they can come in and look round without having to go in search of a keyholder. There is something welcoming about a church that keeps its doors open and we are glad to do it, particularly when we read comments in our visitors book such as: 'So lovely to find the church open'... 'Thank you for being open'. Some folks come in to admire the architecture and some to walk down memory lane, recalling family weddings, baptisms etc. Other comments in the visitors' book this month include 'Beautifully kept, wonderful roof' so it seems an appropriate time to thank The Friends and others who help with our cleaning rota, thus making the church welcoming and present-

able. We're very grateful for your help, especially in summer when the bats leave particularly full calling cards each night and cause a lot of work!

We are always looking for new recruits (humans, not bats). If anyone is a wizard with a dustpan and brush and would care to join our cleaning rota then Fiona on 677811 would be pleased to hear from you. It's not too onerous a task – just a quick brush up around the floor and seats will take a couple of people an hour – or less in winter when the bats are tucked up in bed. If your talents lie in other directions, and you'd like to take a turn in doing an altar flower arrangement, then please contact Daralyn on 677633. The arrangement doesn't have to be a complex one – spending time working on a simple arrangement can be very relaxing. Flowers or even just foliage from your garden prettily arranged in a jug can look as good as those set in oasis and a container. Whatever takes your fancy! We have good team work going and our handiwork is rewarded when we stand back and see how good everything looks. Why not come and join us?

Gissing Children's Centre

Our popular and successful Pre-School runs Monday to Friday during term time, in two 3 hour long sessions where children can attend from 9–12 and/or from 12–3. Any families wishing to bring their children 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. We are very pleased to welcome the 11 new children and their families joining us this term.

We are running an Autumn Playscheme for primary school age children on Thursday 22nd and



Friday 23rd October. We offer a long day from 9–3.30 at £15 per child or a short day from 9–1 at £12 per child. To book places (paid for in advance), ring 07531 810704 or email: playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk Children need to bring a packed lunch and £1 for tuck. A wide range of autumn themed play opportunities, both indoors and outside, will be on offer, including Ian Constance Coaching on the first day.

Our second annual Witchy Woodland Fayre will be held during the magical afternoon of Saturday 17th October from 2.30–5.30 in and around the Millennium Wood which is adjacent to the Children's Centre. Admission is £6 per child and there will be a nature trail including craft activities, and lots of weird and wonderful things to do, and see, throughout the wood.

Heart of Gissing

Heart of Gissing (Land & Buildings) submitted the Stage 3 bid for Big Lottery funding to provide new-build and improved facilities at the Old School and await the outcome later this autumn. The proposed plans for the new-build are available to view on the outdoor notice board at the Old School and will be available to see at Heart of Gissing's AGM to be held on Tuesday 5th October 2015 at 7.30 pm at The Old School, Gissing. Anyone is welcome to attend to find out more details. Planning is 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.

Gissing Youth Group

An important date for your diary if you have youngsters aged 8 to 13 years. We have planned an exciting programme of adventure evenings which is scheduled to run on Wednesdays through 21st October. Sessions will run for 2 hours from 6.30 pm. It is the first of a new initiative to set up various activities/events for young people in the area. Headed up by Heart of Gissing, the sessions will be led by Adam Osborne of Osborne Adventures and the evenings will be held mostly out of doors, near The Old School in Gissing (IP22 5UJ).

Each session can only take a limited number, so

don't miss out. If you would like to take part, early booking is advisable.

Activities will include trebuchet and pioneering challenges, archery, den building, cooking over fires, using air rifles and catapults and tracking. For more information or to book a place, please contact Sarah Willett on 01379 677567 or email: swillett_ip22@yahoo.com or admin@heartofgissing.org

Show Stars a musical, theatrical and craft group for young adults with learning difficulties continues to be a resounding success. If you know anyone who you think might enjoy this group, please contact Amanda on 01379 741788 or email: mummysheep@tiscali.co.uk Sessions run on alternate Tuesday evenings from 7–9 and cost £5 per session.

The Heart of Gissing Crafter's Café meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 10–1 at Gissing village hall. 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.

Stage HOGers are once again 'treading the boards' to bring us a winter pantomime. Anyone interested in taking part or helping backstage, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or by email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com

Forthcoming fundraising events include:

The St Nicholas Fayre Saturday 5th December from 3.30–7 in and around the Church and Old School. This event provides a great opportunity to buy interesting Christmas gifts and homemade produce in a magical, festive setting. There will be an even wider range of stalls to choose from than last year, with entertainment and refreshments available, Father Christmas and his helpers will be there to receive Christmas wish lists. For more information please contact Kelly Pitcher 01379 674511 or email kelpitcher@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you there.



SHELFANGER NEWS

All Saints' Church

A busy period began on Tuesday 21st July when the church filled with young life as All Saints' School held its end of year service. At this gathering of pupils, staff and parents, awards were given for activities undertaken and standards reached during the past academic year. It was also a time to say farewell to those pupils who were leaving for the big adventure of secondary education and we offer our best wishes for their future.

On a more sombre note, Tuesday 4th August saw Shelfanger Village, the farming community and Christian friends gather in large numbers at All Saints' for the funeral of Anthony Victor Gardiner. Tony was born at the blacksmith's shop in Bressingham, coming to live at Green Farm, Shelfanger in 1948. After education at Diss Grammar School, and a spell in the RAF, Tony started his farming, contracting and agricultural instructing career which continued right until his death.

Tony was a totally committed Christian, preaching and spreading God's word here in the UK and across the world. Here at All Saints', he had served on the PCC and as churchwarden. The service and interment at Shelfanger was followed by a special memorial service at Soul Church in Norwich.

We send our sincere condolences to Jean, his wife of 56 years, and his children Gwyneth, Richard and Elaine.

On Saturday 22nd August your church was filled with glorious flowers and the rippling sound of the harp for the wedding of Paula Spittles and Carl Churchyard. The couple were blessed with a glorious sunny afternoon and we wish them well in their future together.

Another happy occasion was the baptism of Mia and Daniel Leeder on 26th July. Mia and Daniel are the son and daughter of Robert and Rebecca Leeder and grandchildren of Mr and Mrs Charles Spurling of Common Road, Shelfanger.

Reports on the Norfolk Churches Cycle Ride and the wedding of Edward Bailey and Jessica Watkins will appear in our next issue.

On Sunday October 11th, we 'thank the Lord for all good gifts around us' at our Harvest Festival. This lovely, traditional service will be at 11am led by our Home Team. Please come and join in. If you have some gifts of vegetables or produce they will be most welcome, adding to the decoration of the church.

On Monday 12th October, perishable produce will be sold for church funds at the Shelfanger Bus Shelter from 2pm.

Saturday 31st October sees the Annual All Saints' Shelfanger Gift Morning from 9.30–1. Please support this vital fundraiser for the church. You will receive details and a donation envelope shortly.

The Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 8th November beginning at 10.50am. The service will be led by our Rector, David Mills, an ex-army chaplain. Wreathes and crosses will be laid at the village memorial and a silence observed.

Church Building Work to sort out the building structure of All Saints' goes on. Inspections by a structural engineer are about to take place and a further update will be published soon.

Village Hall News

At the Grand Village Fete on July 18th we basked in a beautiful summer day, enabling the large crowd attending to enjoy the sideshows, browse among the vintage cars, try their luck at tombola and in the grand draw, have a luscious burger, or have a beer at the bar. The fete field was a picture of colourful, swirling activity over which came the rattle of skittles, the ooohs and aaahs of competitors and the shouts accompanying the welly-wanging.

The terrific sum of £2,020 was raised in total. The fete committee thank most sincerely all those who attended and all who helped in any way. Special thanks go to Tig and Jane Ross for their overall organisation, to Peter Harries for the grand raffle and to Helen and Ash for their compere roles.

The Annual Flower Vegetable & Homecraft Show was held on Saturday 29th August. From the longest runner bean to the heaviest potato, from the most spectacular fuschia to the best home-made cake, there was something for everyone. The Chiles Cup, Edith Limmer Cup, Playing Field Cup and the Tom Blake Shield all went to Ivan Cotton. The Hammond

Cup was won by Graham Lanchester, the Colin Mobbs Cup by Tom Blake, the Olive Chinnery Cup by Carol Watson and the Freda Stevenson Cup by Kevin Mobbs. After expenses, over £45 was handed to village hall funds. Thank you to Colin Mobbs, Malcolm Barnard and John Kemp for their skill and hard work in putting the show together.

What are you going to do this Autumn?

At Shelfanger Village Hall on Thursdays you can practice your yoga from 9.30–11. Pilates can also be enjoyed on Thursdays from 11.30–12.30. Your dog can bring you along for special training on Monday evenings from 6–8 or on Thursdays evenings from 6.30–7.30. On Wednesday evenings the model railway enthusiasts of the Diss & Roydon group set up their layouts and build their designs from 6.30–9.

Interested in any of these? Come along to meet the organisers and members during the times shown.

You don't have to go to Carrow Road to see good football. Why not come and view the thrills and spills of the local game at Shelfanger. Here on Saturday afternoons Diss Greyhound play their home games at 3pm and on Sunday mornings at 10.30 Winfarthing play their home fixtures (4th October, 25th October, 1st November, 22nd November).

News from 1st Dickleburgh Sea Scouts

The recent Bank Holiday weekend 1st Dickleburgh Sea Scouts had three Scouts and two Explorers participating in the National Scout Sailing Regatta at Wroxham Broad (courtesy of Wroxham Broad Sailing



The Diss & District Gateway Club, which provides a meeting point for social activity and mutual support to those with some form of disability has for the last three months been held in abeyance because of the lack of helpers. However, there is a glimmer of light on the horizon. Proposals have been made that the Club may re-start on a monthly basis, again on a Tuesday evening. It would be grand to see this very worthwhile club restarted.

Shelfanger Parish Council

The parish council ask that anyone with any high-ways problems in the village contact Clerk Helen Green on 652199 or shelfanger@dsl.pipex.com.

Shelfanger Stitchers

They have had two generous donations of wool, patterns and other knitting equipment, enabling them to continue their work in knitting for local charities. Recently, the group have donated blankets, hats, mittens and booties to the James Paget Hospital and some twiddle muffs for dementia patients to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.

The group continues to meet fortnightly. For more information about the group, including donations, please phone Helen on 652199.

Club). This was a national event with Scouts from as far away as Hartlepool and other corners of the UK. 1st Dickleburgh Sea Scouts Morgan Manly competed and won the Under 15's single-handed slow-handicap race and brought home to South Norfolk the winners trophy. All members of the Scout Group did extremely well and a Leaders team came third place in the fast-handicap race. Next year the event is being held at Warwick and hopefully Dickleburgh Sea Scouts will be there to hold on to the trophy and gain others.

The group has members from over ten villages surrounding Dickleburgh: For information on joining the group please contact the Group Scout Leader on 01379 608596 or paul.playford@btconnect.com

The group has many leaders/helpers but because of its activities still needs leaders in Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts. If you are interested please contact: 01379 608596/paul.playford@btconnect.com

TIVETSHALL NEWS

St Margaret's Church

Graveyard maintenance

For many years Maurice Webstell has maintained the churchyard to a very high standard but sadly for health reasons has decided that this year will be the last that he is able to do so. I am sure you are all very appreciative of his hard work over the years. We are looking for either a person or team of people that would be willing to fill his place. If you are interested and would be willing to help, please ring Bryan Fletcher on 01379 676697 or Maggie Rowan 01379 674116.



Christmas Carols by Candlelight

This will be held on Sunday 20th December at 3pm. If anyone would like to read a lesson either as an individual or to represent a village group please contact one of the numbers above.

Remembrance Day Service

A short service will, as usual, be held at St Mary's church on November 11th at 10.50am. The British Legion will be in attendance and all are welcome.

Tivetshall Primary School

We had a very warm day for Burston and Tivetshall Sports Day but children and spectators coped very well. The children took part in a carousel of six ac-

tivities – football dribbling, skipping, an obstacle course, target throwing, javelin and long jump – followed by running races. Well done to the victorious Green team and thank you to Mrs Tully and Mr Henson for serving refreshments and to Glover Brothers for donating ice-pops.

The sporting theme continued with an outing to Diss for the award ceremony for coming second in the small schools' netball league. This was an excellent achievement for the smallest school in the league. Thank you to Mrs Kidd for her excellent coaching and giving her time and effort so generously and, of course, to the netball team themselves.

The last full week of term was taken up with Activity Week and this year the children chose the theme of Nature. During a very busy week the children took part in nature walks, a visit to the Sealife Centre, an afternoon on the beach, a talk on dinosaurs and fossils by a UEA professor, willow weaving, clay work, building an insect hotel and a visit to a wild meadow. We also enjoyed a delicious leavers' lunch cooked for us by Year 6 and the excitement of adults and staff joining the children for netball club. This was topped off by camp night when everyone had a great time and a very late night!

We said a final goodbye to Year 6 at leavers' assembly on the last afternoon of term.

May we say a big thank you to all of the drivers who are so courteous and careful when they meet us out on the roads?

Sandra Potter, Head of School



WINFARTHING NEWS

Village Hall AGM

This will be held on Friday 23rd October at 7.30pm in the hall.

All welcome. Please come! We desperately need some new ideas on raising money to keep the hall open.

WINFARTHING VILLAGE HALL

Annual Quiz Night

Friday 27 November at 7.30pm
Doors open 7pm

Entrance for the quiz is £7 which includes a casserole and cheese and biscuit supper

As usual please bring your own drinks and glasses

There will also be a Christmas raffle
Tables can be booked, please ring
Nick & Jennie on 01379 643718

Success for Rifle Club

Winfarthing Rifle Club has completed a successful Winter season of smallbore rifle shooting by winning division 1 of the Norfolk County 25 yard Team League Competition.

Congratulations to the team members, A Bul-
len, C Greenhough, R Hill, J Mitchell and T Webster. In addition, three members of the club who, as members of the County reserve team winning their division of the National League, were presented with County Colours by Norfolk Shooting Captain Peter Rand. Winfarthing Club Captain was also

presented with a National Smallbore Rifle Association medal for the highest average in the division. Summer competitions are underway and results so far look promising.

Winfarthing Rifle Club is a small and friendly rifle club, shooting .22 Match Rifle in the prone position using paper targets. As well as holding its own club competitions the club enters teams and individuals in competitions run by the Norfolk County Rifle Association with some members being picked to shoot for county teams in national competitions. This is an Olympic Sport and the club has the facilities for shooting at the Olympic range of 50 metres as well as the more traditional British 25 yards.

The club welcomes new and experienced shooters of all ages although juniors (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will become an associate member.

For more information on becoming a member or to arrange to visit the club, contact the Club Secretary, Jonah Mitchell on 07748 494961 or visit the Club website: winfarthingrc.weebly.com

All Saints' Primary School

Following a pleasurable summer break, All Saints' pupils, staff and governors are enjoying being back in the routine of school.

We are thrilled to welcome nine new pupils into Reception. They are settling in fast and embarking on their theme for learning 'Ourselves'.

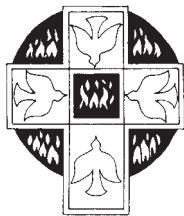
Year 1 and 2 are taught by Mr Moule and are enjoying the theme Dinosaurs. They are looking forward to a visit from an expert about fossils, later on in the term.

We are pleased to welcome Mr MacNeice as Teacher to Year 3 and 4. Their topic for learning is Romans and they are already looking forward to a visit to Norwich Castle for a Romans Day.

Year 5 and 6, taught by Mr Doherty are focusing on Anglo Saxons.

In addition to this, All Saints' is planning to celebrate Harvest through a series of whole school activities and a service in the church.

If you 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!



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

BURSTON
GISSING
SHELFANGER
TIVETSHALL
WINFARTHING

The Rector of the Winfarthing Group
The Revd David F Mills
Winfarthing Rectory
Church Lane, Winfarthing, Norfolk IP22 2EA
Tel: 01379 643646
E-mail: revdfmills1812@gmail.com

Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

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
October 4	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
October 11	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 H	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
October 18	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
October 25	3.00 Taize	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
November 1	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
November 8	8.00 HC/R	10.50 MP/R	10.55 MW/R	10.40 MP/R	9.30 MP/R
November 15	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
November 22	3.00 P&P	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
November 29	10.30 5/P HC				
December 6	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 | R Remembrance

THE COCK CROW TEAM & CORRESPONDENTS

EDITORS

Winfarthing Group: Vivienne Wheeler,
Jacks Barn, Common Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DR
01379 642622 viviennewheeler@gmail.com

Bressingham Group: Tim Colyer, 'Bermick', Tanns
Lane, North Lopham, IP22 2LZ
01379 687718 timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk

SECRETARY

Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham,
Diss, Norfolk.
01379 687679 jennyvere@btinternet.com

TREASURER Cheques payable to 'Cock Crow Committee' please
Mrs Alison Bannon, 4 Millway Avenue, Roydon, Diss
IP22 4QL 01379 652093 ajbannon@btinternet.com

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

Lynda Sullivan, Rosario Cottage, Rectory Road,
Tivetshall St Mary NR15 2AL 01379 676713
copyforcrow@keme.co.uk Further details page 36

CORRESPONDENTS

BRESSINGHAM Linda Waterman-Holly, The Highlands,
High Road, Bressingham IP22 2AT, 01379 687729
hollyjl@btinternet.com

BURSTON Elizabeth Mceniff, Orchard House,
Crown Green, Burston, IP22 5TZ
01379 742583 elizabeth.mceniff@yahoo.co.uk

FERSFIELD Richard Hewitt, The Cottage, The Common,
Fersfield IP22 2BP 01379 687355
rjhewitt@hotmail.co.uk

GISSING Joe Cromley, The Chequers, Upper Street,
Gissing. 01379 677817

NORTH LOPHAM Mrs Jennie Vere,
Southlands, North Lopham. 01379 687679

SOUTH LOPHAM Jackie Brown, Bottle Cottage,
Redgrave Rd, S Lopham IP22 2HL. 01379 687260
jackiebrown1@btinternet.com

SHELFANGER Roger Challoner, Old Post Office,
Church Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DG,
01379 642286 opoc@electramail.co.uk

TIVETSHALL Maggie Rowan, The Thatched House,
Green Lane, Tivetshall NR15 2BJ
01379 674116 maggiearowan@gmail.com

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 4th October Trinity 18	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am FS	No Service
Sun 11th October Trinity 19	9.30am Harvest	9.30am MS	11am Harvest FS	No Service
Sun 18th October Trinity 20	9.30am MS	4pm Harvest	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 25th October Trinity 21	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 1st November All Saints	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am FS	No Service
Sun 8th November Remembrance	11.55am Remembrance	3pm Remembrance	11am FS + Remembrance	11am Remembrance
Sun 15th November 2 before Advent	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 22nd November Christ King	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 29th November Advent Sunday	Fifth Sunday – Team Holy Communion at Diss at 10.30am Advent Service at Diss at 6pm			
			3.30pm Crib Festival Ends	
Sun 6th December Advent 2	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11.30am Toy Service	No Service

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

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

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

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

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

Churchwardens

Bressingham D Burroughes 01379 688291

Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989

S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273

R Hewitt 01379 687355

R Vere 01379 687679

J Brundell 01379 687216; D Huggins (emeritus)

All Are Welcome?



Dear Everyone,

I'm writing this on my patron saint, St Aidan's Day. I was nurtured at St Aidan's Church, Leeds and began a lifetime of pilgrimages at age 6, travelling to Lindisfarne where St Aidan established his monastery and helped evangelise much of Northern England.

Throughout August I have enjoyed being a 'priest in the pews' at St Mary's. Tony, our Rector, coined that phrase five years ago when he invited Midge and I to join the Church Family in Diss. Then, it seemed a strange description; however, we have grown to love our involvement in this developing Minster, in the pews of St Mary's and in the villages.

Yesterday, at St Mary's, while singing the hymn about welcoming people, I was struck by the tragedies of mass migration, the plight of refugees and our pathetic response.

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place!*

With Tony's permission I invite everyone in the Benefice – Yes YOU! – to St Mary's, on Saturday 10th October to join me in prayer for all refugees and displaced persons.

We could respond in various ways to the current situation but surely the most important is that we request God's help.

I'll be doing that between 9am and 5pm on Saturday 10th October in St Mary's Church, Diss. I invite you to join me for some, maybe just five minutes, or all of that time. As a reminder of something many refugees don't have, all will receive a cup of water to sustain them while in Church.

We will say Morning Prayer at 9.30 and close the day with Evening Prayer at 4.30. A Midday Service will be followed by a Simple Celebration Eucharist at 12.30.

I hope, twice during the day, a short talk about the current situation will be given.

The focus is prayer for all refugees and refugee workers but there will be an opportunity to support a Refugee charity.

It would be a precious thing if everyone in the six parishes could take part in the Day of Prayer for Refugees.

God Bless

Chris (Priest in retirement ministry based at St Mary's Diss)

TEAM ITEMS

Team Harvest Event

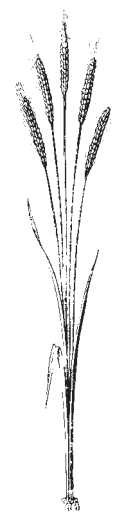
Friday 2nd October in Lophams' Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets are just £2.50 to cover costs; the meal is Shepherd's Pie or veggie alternative, followed by apple pie and ice cream. Fruit juice and hot drinks are provided; please bring your own supply and glasses if you wish for alcohol. This is a chance to get to know church folk from all six parishes, so do please order a ticket from a churchwarden, or Jennie on 01379 687679, and come along. There will be a Raffle, with the proceeds for charity.

Advent Sunday

This is on 29th November – a fifth Sunday. The morning Communion services will both be in St Mary's, Diss, at 8am and 10.30am, where there will also be an Advent Carol Service at 6pm.

Recycling continues

Newspaper and magazines at the store on the edge of Fersfield Airfield, just off The Common, benefit church funds; used stamps at Diss and North Lopham Churches support the Leprosy Mission; and soft bottle tops via Diss, North Lopham and Roydon churches raise funds for the Matthew Project, combating drug abuse by Norwich youngsters. Please help!



BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Malcolm Jolly, husband of Ellen. On Thursday, 10th September, almost one hundred attended his funeral taken by the Rector, Rev. Canon Tony Billet. Following the meaningful service, many then joined Ellen and her daughters at the White Hart in Roydon and gave their fond recollections of Malcolm, which Ellen said was deeply comforting. Malcolm had worked for Blooms for many years and had a wealth of knowledge about plants. Ellen and her daughters had been visiting him in a care home for almost four years but his passing still came as a shock. They have been a wonderful family in very difficult circumstances and we send our deepest sympathy and love to them all.

Otherwise, August and September were relatively quiet months at St John the Baptist. If you have not visited the church, it is open during daylight hours. You are always most welcome. Visitors, including travellers from far and wide (the most recent came from Singapore and Germany) enjoy viewing the late medieval hammer beam roof, carved pew ends and various artefacts in the church.

Dates for your diary

Harvest celebrations will soon be here. A six-parish Group Harvest Supper will be held on Friday, 2nd October at 7.30pm at Lophams' Village Hall. Tickets (£2.50 per person) for the Shepherd's Pie (or vegetarian option) and Apple Tart supper are available from Diana 01379 688291 and Linda 687729. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

If you would like to help decorate the church in readiness for Bressingham Primary School's Harvest Service (Wednesday, 7 October at 09.00) and our church Harvest Service (the following Sunday, 11 October at 09.30), please join us on Tuesday, 6 October at 10.30am in the church. Materials and refreshments will be provided.

All Friends of St John the Baptist are invited to

the annual meeting on Tuesday, 10 November at 7pm at The Highlands, High Road, Bressingham. Tel: 687729. Wine and nibbles will be served.

Finally, a reminder that Bressingham and Fersfield are jointly holding a 'Blooming Bressingham and Fragrant Fersfield, Open Gardens weekend on 25–26 June, 2016. The next planning meeting will be this Wednesday, 14 October at 6.30pm at The Highlands, High Road, Bressingham. If you would like to participate and/or help out on the day, please come along.

Tribute to Sheila Curson

A quarter peal of Plain Bob and Stedman Doubles was rung by local ringers in

Bressingham church on Friday 10th of July to honour Sheila Curson's sixty year contribution to bell ringing.

Sheila rang regularly on Sundays and was a member for many years of the First Tuesday group of Norfolk ringers. She met her husband, Edward, in a local tower in 1955, they married in 1959. She was mother to two girls and a boy, and grandmother to seven grandsons.

Professionally, Sheila worked mainly with the very young, but also the visually impaired. A founder member of the 'Breckland Talking Newspaper for the Blind', she was a reader for thirty years.

Sheila died, aged 81, on 11th of June. Fellow ringers rang the half-muffled bells at her funeral in Bressingham church on 24th June.

Sheila's last request, to be buried in Bressingham churchyard, was fulfilled.

Bressingham & Fersfield PC

June 1st 2015. Six Parish Councillors met at Fersfield Church with one apology.

Co-option Richard Hewitt was unanimously co-opted to the Parish Council. He will continue to monitor Highways issues in the Parish villages.

Recorder The Parish Council expressed appreciation for the long and conscientious service that Jean Harvey has provided as Recorder of Parish Council meetings for many years. Jean retired from the role from May 2015 and is replaced by Leonora Pearce.

Notice Boards The new village notice boards have now arrived and will shortly be seen opposite the Village Shop, at Fersfield Church Meadow and in Common Road adjacent to the telephone box. There may be a short delay in setting up the Common Road board while permissions are awaited.

Planning Item 2015/1081 Crown Farm Barn, Wood Lane insulation improvements were approved.

Item 2015/0564 72 Common Road Bressingham is going to South Norfolk Planning Committee on 3rd June 2015 with a recommendation to refuse.

'Meet your Parish Councillors' meetings The Parish Council plans to provide opportunities for Councillors and villagers to meet. These will start in the Autumn and will be advertised by leaflets, posters and on the village website.

Bressingham & District Ladies Club

We were very lucky to have chosen one of those rare sunny afternoons in August for our garden party at Willow Farm. A big 'thank you' goes to Sharon and Dave for their generous hospitality and the use of their beautiful garden, also to our members and friends for providing such a superb afternoon tea. It was like a local version of 'The Great British Bake Off', we even had a marquee!

On Monday 19th October, Helen Frazer, actress, will be visiting us for what promises to be an interesting and entertaining evening.

On 16th November Anita Morton will be giving us a cookery demonstration, which seems appropriate for the run-up to Christmas and we hope will give some inspiration.

We meet on the third Monday of the month, 7.30pm at Bressingham Village Hall. Visitors welcome (£3 to include refreshments).

Village Hall

'Murder Mystery' with a hot two-course meal, plus coffee and mints. Saturday 10th October 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets, £12.50, must be purchased in advance. Available from the village shop or call 01379 688375 to book a table.

Our next event is a QUIZ on Saturday 17th October 7.30 for 8pm £2.50 per person to include nibbles. Bar Opens at 7.15pm.

As this is our 60th Anniversary of the opening of the Village Hall we are having an 'Evening of Nostalgia' on Saturday 14th November with Mike Bowen doing a presentation of 'Musical Memories' this is an opportunity to come along and share your own memories with others. You can arrive in dress appropriate to the era or not. We are having a Buffet in the style of the time. The tickets will be £6.00 per person Available from the village shop or 01379 688375 Bar Opens 7pm for 7.30 start.

Diss Library News

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

October is Black History Month and we are pleased to welcome Patience Unazi to Diss library for an afternoon of songs and stories 'All About Africa' in the half term. This free event is on Thursday 29th October 2pm–4pm and is suitable for families with children of all ages. Please book in advance.

Also in October we will be supporting Stoptober Smoke-free month with a display of books and leaflets to help you quit.

Regular Events

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time every Friday in term time at 10.30am; these short sessions of rhymes and songs are for babies from birth to 3 and new faces are assured of a welcome.

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

The library hosts Book Groups for children, adults and adults with a visual impairment. Please contact the library for more information.

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.



FERSFIELD NEWS

Most of us seem to be finding it difficult to understand where the summer of 2015 has gone. There were some warm days, but they now seem to be quite difficult to recall. August itself started well in Fersfield with a 'Coffee, Chat and Cake' (not necessarily in that order) Morning on Saturday 1st August. A good gathering enjoyed itself, and £300 was raised towards the chancel restoration. We give a big 'thank-you' to everyone who took part.



The season of four Friday evening summer film-shows, spanning July and August, concluded on 14th August. This was a really wonderful project, when so many people (there was a footfall/ticket take-up which delighted us all) came to enjoy four very different films, enjoy a glass of something interesting... and sample the terrific home-made popcorn. Sophie Gosman is to be loudly congratulated for the success she worked so hard to achieve, and to her and her splendid team: 'well done and please do it again!' Indeed, we all hope to see the venture repeated next year: Sophie raised enough revenue to prime next year's calendar.

At his funeral on 24 August, we said 'goodbye' to Kenneth Wix. The Rector presided over a moving service, and Ken is buried in St Andrew's churchyard. We send our love and support to his family.

We now turn our attentions to the Autumn season and planning for the shorter days.

October/November diaries include:

Saturday 19th September, afternoon: Village Picnic on the Church Meadow;

Friday 2 October, 7.30pm Diss Team Ministry Harvest Event, Lophams Village Hall; Tickets: £2.50;

Monday 12th October, 5.30pm in St Andrew's: meeting for those willing to help with Fersfield's Harvest Thanksgiving and Supper on 18th October (see page 27);

Wednesday 14th October: Bressingham and Fersfield 'Open Gardens' meeting, 6.30pm, 'The Highlands', Bressingham;

Sunday 18th October: Fersfield's Harvest Thanksgiving in St Andrew's: Festival Service at 4pm, and a light(ish) early supper at 5.30. Please come to both or either of these. The organisation will be similar to that used for last year. Shepherd's Pie, Dessert and soft drinks (inc. tea/coffee) provided: please bring 'other beverages' to suit your taste. Tickets are £5 ('phone 687355 or 687711) any profit is going to the Chancel Restoration Fund.

Sunday 8th November: Fersfield's Annual Remembrance Service, 3pm at St Andrew's and the War Memorial.



Don't Forget in December

Monday 21st December, Christmas Carol Service at 7.30pm, with seasonal refreshments afterwards. Be there early to be sure of a seat!

Friday 25th December: Christmas Day Family Service 10.30am.

Brian Haward, our Architect, is hoping to supervise the installation of new guttering and rainwater goods to the Chancel very shortly. Once this has ensured the rain stays on the outside, we may proceed with other construction and decoration work as funds permit.

A big 'thank-you' to Richard Vere who has been our Treasurer (and a Churchwarden) for many years. He has done so much for Fersfield (and, of course, N. Lopham) that expressing appropriate gratitude becomes impossible. He remains as our 'banking officer' and very active member of the PCC.

And congratulations to Jan and Paul who celebrate their Ruby Wedding on 11th October.

Richard

LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's Primary School

St Andrew's pupils, staff and governors are enjoying being back in the routine of school.

St Andrew's is thrilled to welcome fifteen new pupils into Reception and two in year one. They are settling in fast into Discovery Class and embarking on their theme for learning, 'Dinosaurs'.

They are looking forward to a visit from an expert about fossils, later on in the term.

St Andrew's is pleased to welcome Miss Wood as Teacher to Year 2, 3 and 4. Their topic for learning is Romans.

Year 5 and 6, taught by Miss Mitchell are focusing on Anglo Saxons.

In addition to this, St Andrew's is planning to celebrate Harvest through a series of whole school activities and a service in the church.

If you wish to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Norgate, on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

St Andrew's Pre School

Summer term was full of special events – a very active Sports Day, a Barbecue in the sunshine and a great Leavers' Party on our last day. The oldest children then are now happily settled in 'big' schools.

We are enjoying getting to know the new, younger members of Pre-School, and do invite any new residents with children approaching their 2nd birthday, or a bit older, 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 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays during school term time, between 9.15am and 3.15pm to view the setting and meet our team. Please note our contact number is 07854 091257.

Lophams' Ladies

August meeting: Robert Maidstone gave an illustrated talk on 'Our Little Lodgers'; the mammals and insects that find a place to feed and breed in and around our homes. We may live in a modern home that will have deterred many species – but have encouraged others by our 'modern way of living'!

In September, Gabi from 'Gabriel's Garden' came to talk about her homegrown flower business in Gissing; bringing with her a colourful selection of her flowers which she made into a tied bouquet. Another inspirational talk of how one person's dream became a successful enterprise.

As the planned visit to Mervyn Lambert's garden this summer was cancelled because of unfavourable weather, Jean Barnbrook invited members to visit her home. We had a fascinating time looking at a huge variety of quilts, followed by a delicious afternoon tea. We were bowled over by the colours used and Jean's expertise in many different techniques.

On 6th October, Celia Stevens; a female racing driver, will talk to us and on 3rd November Mary Miller will talk about the 'Windmill Ringers'.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Village hall. New members and visitors always welcome, phone 01379 687337 for details.

Lophams' Garden Club

We spent a very enjoyable day at Beth Chatto's Garden and Nursery on 1st August. The weather was kind to us and there were many plants to admire and buy. The cakes in the tea-shop were very good too!!

On 3rd September we welcomed Sarah Cook and Jim Marshall to our meeting. Sarah has a National Collection of Irises at her garden in Shelley and Jim is well-known for growing Malmaison carnations. They are both involved with the Suffolk Heritage Garden at the Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley and described how the garden was established. All the plants and trees have a connection to Suffolk, for example the grower being born there. We were also able to buy Jim's carnations or Sarah's irises.

Our next meeting is on 1st October when Simon White will talk on Chrysanthemum Growing and looking further forward, on 5th November Gabby Reid will demonstrate Wreath Making.

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

Holy Bingo

Continues in the Village Hall on the first Monday each month at 2pm. New faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. Forthcoming sessions are on 5th October and 2nd November.

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

Lophams Society

On Saturday the 18th of July The Lophams' Village Hall was once again filled with the sound of smooth classics when the jazz trio Pork Pie Hat paid a return visit. An appreciative audience were treated to an evening of standards such as 'Stranger On The Shore' and 'Ain't Misbehaving' and once again we were blessed with a perfect summer evening allowing those patrons who wished, the opportunity to enjoy the music in the cooler surroundings of the verandah. We were pleased to be able to welcome a number of new faces especially those who had travelled in from beyond the Lophams to be with us for the evening. We hope that having had an enjoyable time they will continue to come along and support future Lophams' Society events.

The Lophams' Society Autumn Quiz

Lophams' Village Hall
Friday 9th October at 7.30pm

Entrance: £6 per person, includes
a cheese ploughmans

Bar

Teams of six players per table

Single players and couples
are especially welcome

For further info telephone 01379 688408

Lophams' Village Hall

Judo Star The hall was the setting for a recent feature on Look East, about North Lopham's own Colin Oates, as he showed his book about Judo, and spoke of his aim to represent Britain at the Olympics in Rio in 2016. We'll all be rooting for him in the coming months as he takes part in qualifying events round the world. After a short summer break Judo returned to the hall in September.

Now that the new capping edges have been installed round the veranda and the hall and surroundings look smart and cared for, the committee is keen to keep it that way, so please, no tipping in the enlarged parking area.

As the Autumn approaches, and the attendant tree and shrub pruning takes place, we plan to have a bonfire on 7th November. So that residents can dispose of all their garden refuse easily during October; the gates to the field will be open between 10am and 2pm on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the month. Your burnables can be brought right to the site of the fire, for a nominal charge of £1 per load, to offset firework costs. As ever, please DO NOT bring metal or plastic, or any other material that could cause Environmental Health officials to ban the bonfire.

Our Grand Bonfire and Fireworks event will be on Saturday 7th November; the gates open at 6pm and the fireworks will start about 7.30pm. Tickets have been kept at last year's level: £7 adult, £3 child under 16, and a family ticket (2 adults, 2+ children) at £20, so represent excellent value. There will be soup, hot food and drinks inside the hall and on the site, plus stalls, so do tell your friends and come for a great evening out!

The Lottery It is great to have a full complement of 100 members again, with a corresponding monthly first prize of £200. We do want to maintain this situation, so please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new vacancy occurs. Please ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw in December for those then current members who have been 'in' for at least three

months. The Lottery winners for July were: first prize £200 M & D Tipple; second prizes of £50 each, D Blanchard and J Bernard. In August the winners were: first prize £200 N & J Williams; and second prizes of £50 each J Keylock and S Dilloway.

In addition to the Lottery draw, there is a monthly Farmers' Market raffle 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 24th October and 28th November (Details from Mike on 01379687235)

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

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

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



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

Lophams' Autumn Luncheon We plan to have a special Sunday lunch at the Village Hall on 1st November for friends from both Lophams, gathering at 1pm for a 1.15pm start. More details will be available in the villages during early October, when tickets will be available from PCC members, so look out for posters, then get your tickets in good time.

NORTH LOPHAM

North Lopham Parish Council

9th September 2015. Present: all councillors, Parish Clerk, Cllr M Chapman-Allen (BDC), Cllr S Askew (NCC), four members of public.

Solar Farms: NLPC was informed that new plans for two solar farms are to be submitted to BDC. One is to the north of Thetford Road and the other South-West of Kings Head Lane. Applicants' details and precise locations are not yet known.

Speed Watch is now operational, after 5 sessions the drivers of 24 cars and one lorry will receive warning letters, highest speed so far recorded, 47mph.

Further traffic calming measures to be introduced at the north end of the village, a SLOW sign on the road, 'North Lopham' sign to be moved a bit further away from the village, new 30mph reflective signs with 'Think' signs and upgrades to the 30mph repeater signs throughout the village.

Proposed footpath between 'The Bull' and Cherry Tree Close, revised estimate £11,500. Half would have to be raised by the PC. S106 money is not available for this type of project.

Neighbourhood Plan: £57.60 for official map and permission to apply. Expenditure approved.

Telephone Box refurbishment is almost complete. Defibrillator has been purchased; installation cost has yet to be covered. Further fundraising is taking place at the KH pub.

Grit bin at junction of High Common Road and Church Road has been requested, turned down on grounds of cost.

Council Vacancies: 3 applicants for 2 places, interviews will be held.

Jubilee Lane: In response to NCC enquiry, NLPC is unanimously against upgrade to restricted byway.

Precept: consider raising it next year, costs are rising and fewer volunteers mean more money will be required to pay for essential work.

Next meeting 11th Nov 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. The dates for October and November are 28th and 25th.

Samaritans Purse: Shoe Box Appeal

Once again, we are planning to help very deprived children in Eastern Europe and beyond to feel loved at Christmas. If you would like to help, please cover a shoe box in Christmas paper, then fill it with little gifts – toiletries, stationery, a woolly hat and mitts and a small cuddly toy, and bring it to Southlands, North Lopham by 9th November, to be sure of getting it to its destination in time. Our boxes went to Serbia in 2014, after two years when their destination was Belarus. (Two of the children who came from that area with Friends of Chernobyl Children told us with great excitement that their village had received boxes from one of those consignments!!)

St Nicholas' Church, North Lopham

The Hymn Marathon – We had a fantastic day on 8th August. The first visitor came at 8.31am, and there was a nonstop stream of people thereafter, some from previous such events, but several groups of brand new residents in North Lopham.

By 5.10pm the number on the hymn board was 608; everyone present then stood to sing the last two – traditionally they are 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' and 'The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended', making the final total 610.

Top of the pops this time was 'All Things Bright & Beautiful', with 19 requests, followed by 'Jerusalem' on 12; 'How great Thou art' and 'Morning has broken' tied for third place with 10 requests each.

So far, sponsorship and donations have raised over £2,500. Most of this has come from residents and friends of local residents - showing how much they value the church presence in the community, for all sorts of reasons. Thank you all!

The Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride, was on Saturday 12th September. If you took part, thank you!

Biggest Coffee Morning in the World: Friday 25th September, if you came to help Thank you, too!

The Harvest Thanksgiving is on Sunday 11th October. There will be a presentation of token gifts at the



Events at Redgrave & Lopham Fen

Guided fen walks

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

Wildlife Watch Group

Sat: 10 Oct, 14 Nov 10.30am–12.30pm. A club for 6–12yr olds, £2. Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333



Apple Day & Autumn Plant Sale

Sun 18 Oct, 10.30am–3pm. Fruit identification and tasting, plants, tools and crafts for sale, family games, plus refreshments. £3 adults, £2 children. No booking required. Dogs on leads welcome. 01379 688333

October half term

Children's activity: Autumn antics

Tues 27 Oct, 10am–2pm. For unaccompanied 6–10 year olds, £6 per child, please book redgrave.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org 01379 688333.

Family activity: All about owls

Wed 28 Oct, 6.30pm–8.30pm. Dissect a pellet and go on a night walk, £2.50 per person, please book redgrave.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org 01379 688333.

Young naturalists

Thur 29 Oct, 10am–2pm, for 11–15 year olds. Wildlife detecting & practical conservation work, £6 each, please book, 01379 688333 redgrave.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Adult courses

Introduction to low relief sculpture in clay

Thurs 19 Nov, 10am–4pm. Hands-on, suitable for beginners. Tutor Glenn Holman. £35, inc materials. Booking essential 01473 890089

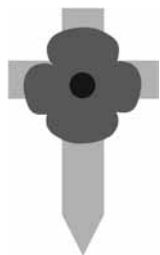
Botanical Illustration

Sat 28 Nov 10am–3pm. Illustration techniques with the emphasis on botanical accuracy using autumn leaves, bulbs and plant material. With botanical illustrator, Christine Grey-Wilson. £25/£21.50. Booking essential 01473 890089

All Age service at 11am, with seasonal refreshments afterwards, and everyone is welcome – it would be lovely to have new residents joining us.

We would be very grateful for any offers of flowers, foliage and produce to decorate the church for Harvest, plus help with arranging everything, so that St Nicholas' looks its festive best.

Remembrance Sunday is 8th November. There will be a special act of remembrance at the 11am Family Service, when the names of all those from the village who gave their lives in the two world wars will be read.



Armistice Day 11th November. The Annual Ceremony will be held at the War Memorial at 11am, with juniors from St Andrew's School joining veterans, local residents and representatives of the American Air Force. 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the air crash over Lopham, when 18 American airmen lost their lives so a special US Colour Party hope to be on parade.

North Lopham Crib Festival: The fifth Crib Festival will run from Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th November between 11am and 5pm and on Sunday 29th November from 12 noon until 4pm, when Mary, Joseph and the donkey will set out on their journey round the area seeking a night's shelter with willing hosts Posada before they return to the church for the Crib service on Christmas Eve.

There will be a great number of Crib scenes to view, plus the interactive corner, refreshments and a stall with seasonal items, plus this year YOU are invited to create a crib scene or a Christmas Carol scene, using your own ideas... peg dolls, paper crafts, or... and bring it along on Tuesday 24th. Interested in having a go? Just contact Jennie on 01379 687679 for more information.

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church News

Remembrance Service On Sunday 8th November the Service of Remembrance will take place in St Andrew's Church at 11am.

Coffee Morning On Saturday 28th November there will be a Coffee Morning in the Church 10am–12noon, Cake Stall, Bring and Buy, Tombola and Raffle. Please come and join us, we look forward to welcoming you.

Autumn Lunch The Lophams are hoping to hold an Autumn Lunch on Sunday 1st November.

South Lopham Parish Council

Report from South Lopham Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2015 at Valley Farm, Low Common.

Present: Councillors J Crisp, Mrs S Martin, D Huggins, T Frizzell, J Pursehouse, County Councillor Mr S Askew and Mrs C Phillips (Clerk).

Financial: The Clerk provided updated bank balances and the meeting approved payments towards Lophams News, the Clerk's salary and election expenses invoiced by Breckland Council. The Clerk also confirmed approval of the Council's accounts by the auditors.

Reports:

a) Planning. The applications in respect of the Old Post Office had been granted, the marquee attached to the White Horse and the application at Bridge Farm were undecided. The small barn at Low Common and the application at Noddle Farm were subject to appeal.

b) Highways. Mr Askew discussed with Councillors their growing dissatisfaction with the lack of action on the part of the County Council in respect of proposals by the Parish Council to re-site road signs on the A1066, at both east and west ends of the village.

Councillors also expressed their concern over the standard of road repairs carried out by the County Councils contractors. Mr Askew promised to inves-

tigate these concerns with the responsible officers and report back to the Council.

c) Works: John Crisp is investigating refurbishment of the village sign and rubbish behind the bus shelter, Rob Webb the clearance of foot path on land owned by Mr Alston and Tim Frizzell cleaning of the bench behind the War Memorial.

d) General: Risk management policy agreed, donation to St Andrews discussed and a report on the continued use of phone box provided.

Next Meeting: 5th November 7.30pm at Valley Farm.

Friends of South Lopham Church

The Friends will be holding a Slide Show entitled Lophams through the 20th Century on Friday 30th October 2015 in Lophams Village Hall at 7.30pm. Refreshments of cake and coffee, tickets £6 per person. We look forward to seeing you there.

From the Registers

Bressingham Group

BAPTISM

Jasmine Louise Baker 16th August, South Lopham

FUNERALS

Philip Talbot 2nd July, West Suffolk Crematorium and Waveney Chapel

Margaret Holding 27th July, Bressingham (and burial)

Mary Mann 13th August, Earlham Crematorium

Kenneth Wix 24th August, Fersfield Church (and burial)

Malcolm John Jolly 10th September, Bressingham Church (and burial)



Murphy's Rambles

Some folks ask why we walk so early in the mornings – we love it and sometimes with the light and dew just right, you see so many different things. Walking through a field of 'bottle brush' grass that was so ripe with pollen that every step producing a smoke machine effect; walking a field path, looking into the rising sun we saw so many strands of cobwebs strung between grasses and plantain stems that it made us feel like giants in a Lilliputian shipyard, but look behind and it's just grass. At this time of year it's the hot air balloon season, we always give them a wave just in case they can see us and envy the fabulous views they are seeing. This morning we were even lucky enough to see a kingfisher!

It's been a funny old summer, either way too hot or cloudy and dull and now it's rain and more rain. The harvests were going so well, barley in

a flash and then the oil seed rape gone, giving back our lovely views across the fields. Just as the wheat harvest is underway along comes the rain and stays! Wednesday 26th, we even had monsoon style rain, human kept opening the door to look at the deepening flood outside but I stayed well back!

We had a shock the next day when we found an oak tree whose trunk had been snapped off by a mini tornado that brushed past the village. The next morning we saw further traces of its path as a mature hedge bordering a footpath looked as if it had had chunks torn from it by a petulant child; just lets you know how dangerous the weather can be sometimes.

Have you noticed how the berries and nuts are ripening in the hedgerows, the haws seem to turn red overnight and it will soon be time to go black-berrying!

Take care, folks. Get out there and have fun!

