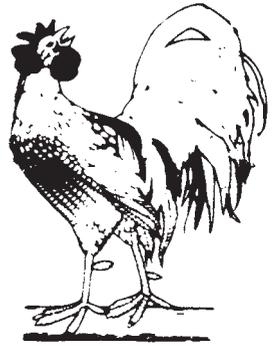


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

APRIL/MAY 2013

Issue No: 2



Tentative Spring signs Low Road, Bressingham

Editors' Notice Board



The Magic of Yoga

My first yoga teacher was a spritely 60 year old who could do impressive physical feats, but what struck me more was that she had more energy and vitality than me. I was 18 at the time. My teacher's enthusiasm inspired me to stick at it. I am so glad I did.

At first I was so stiff I could not touch my toes or really achieve any of the most basic yoga poses, but 'achieving' yoga poses is not the point! Having a go, doing the best you can in the present moment, with your current body, is what it's all about. It is also about having the discipline to keep getting back on your mat so you can make progress. Yoga is much more about having the mental strength and determination to do your best than physical prowess per se. There are some fantastic side effects to a regular yoga practice. After you have worked hard, you have the immediate benefit of feeling GREAT as the energy flows and you ease the body out. Over time the body does indeed become stronger and more flexible; it learns how to heal itself, it becomes easier to relax and you can achieve greater mental clarity and peace of mind.

After many years of practicing yoga with many different teachers, I decided to become one myself. There are several local community classes in South Norfolk, so come along and try one out. It is never too late to start practicing yoga and I would love to help you on your yoga path. Call me on 07866 442788 for more information.

Carol Wilkinson



Other items the Editors think you might like to know about

Council for the Protection of Rural England	16
Diss Bowls Club	2
Diss High School class of 83 reunion	2
Diss Library News	2
Lay Development Course	15
Park Radio – be part of it!	34
Red Feather Club/95th Bomb Group	13
Redgrave & Lopham Fen Events	6
SNDC Your Neighbourhood Your Choice	31

Diss Library

If you picked up a *Great Big Read Goes to the Movies* quiz sheet, don't forget to return the completed quiz to the library by 14th April for a chance to win a Blu-ray player!

Our local branch of the Red Hat Society have a display in the library during April. You may have seen them in the carnival parade last June; if you want to know more about them, drop in to look at the display.

If you belong to a group or club and you'd like to tell everyone what you do, gain new members or celebrate an achievement, we can offer a free space for displays, helpdesks, demonstrations or workshops.

Online Databases All Norfolk libraries have free access to a range of online resources including Which? and the family history website Ancestry via our library computers. Keen family history researchers will be pleased to know that Ancestry now has the 1911 census returns for Norfolk online, and that they can use the complete Ancestry database for free at all of our libraries.

Surf's Up Course We are now recruiting for our next Surf's Up course. This 7-week course is for older people who are new to the Internet and is a great way to start learning about computers, email and everything online in a friendly environment. The course is on Tuesday afternoons, starting on 28th May

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time continues on Fridays at 10.30am and new faces are assured of a welcome.

All libraries will be closed for Easter Bank Holiday on Monday 1st April, and the Spring Bank Holidays in May on Monday May 6th and Monday May 27th

For library opening times and more information on all our events and services visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries, or call Diss Library on 01379 642609

GOOD NEWS Do you want to play bowls?



Let us teach you!

The Diss & District Bowls Club is situated in Lower Denmark Street (Fair Green), behind The Cock Pub. The Club have over 300 members with indoor and outdoor greens. Any time from 13th April to the end of August you can join us for a six week beginners course. It runs on a Saturday from 10am to 12noon. It is free to juniors over 10 years old and £5 to all others per lesson. The lessons continue on at £2.20 for members and £3.20 for non-members up to late August. Bowls and flat footwear (bowls shoes) can be provided. For further information call 01379 642908 evenings only, or just turn up.

THE DISS & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

DISS HIGH SCHOOL Class of 83 Leavers Reunion

Park Hotel Diss
Sat 18th May
7.30pm till midnight
Disco and live band

Tickets £7.50 available from:
Mere Moments Coffee House
or email dissclassof83@gmail.com

Proceeds after costs to charity
Facebook page:
Diss High School Leavers of '83



‘Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord’

This is a quiet Easter statement for a collection of people who must have been amazed. These words do not suggest excitement but rather a quiet confidence, like that of a reunion between old friends. The first Christians were quietly confident rather than sensational.

As we celebrate Easter it is not always easy to reflect this quiet certainty, particularly when we find ourselves aware of so much tragedy and suffering. The question ‘Why?’ does not die away, it just gets asked with even greater aggression. We are constantly confronted by the dark, demonic dimensions of human nature which can, at times, cause even the most resilient spirit to quake and quiver. We can so easily be thus accused of not caring.

It is, therefore, good to remember who was glad on that first Easter day. The disciples of Jesus had much to feel ashamed about; they had betrayed, deserted and denied Christ, and yet it was to them that Jesus first appeared! Their first experience of Easter gladness was forgiveness – discovering that God still loved them and was never going to let them go ever again. His love was seen to be for the guilty, as it still is for today. On that first Easter day no one was confounded or proved to be in the wrong, or forced into faith. No one was pulled into line or convinced by some dramatic display of magical power. That day was a day when those who had least right to expect it were shown total love and forgiveness.

So may we, this Easter, know again that in spite of all our faults and failings we can never put ourselves out of the reach of God’s love, and so go on to grasp the fresh start that waits each of us every day.

May you all experience a very happy Easter.

Canon Tony Billett

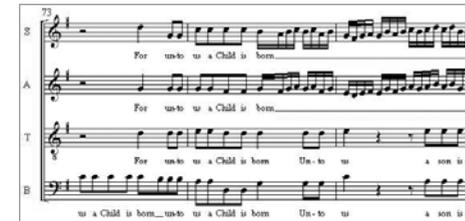
TEAM NEWS

Women’s World Day of Prayer

The annual service for the first Friday in March was held in the church room at Roydon. People from different parishes were joined by friends from the Baptist and Methodist Churches for a service devised by women from France. Sheila Warne led the proceedings, Jennifer Dennis made a very welcome return as guest speaker, and many of those present took on speaking roles as the service unfolded.

Easter Special Services

Holy Saturday Handel’s ‘Messiah’ professional performance at Diss, £12.



Easter Sunday Dawn Service in Diss; morning HCs; Easter Praise at 6pm

Easter Holy Communion, 9.30am at Fersfield

Family Easter Communion and Easter Egg hunt, 11am N Lopham

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

The APCMs for Bressingham, Fersfield, North Lopham and South Lopham will be on Wednesday 10th April at 7pm, in St Andrew’s School Hall at North Lopham. All those interested in the life of our churches, reports from last year and plans for the coming months are warmly invited to come along. Canon Tony Billett will chair the first part, of interest to everyone; then the individual parishes will have their own meetings to consider the Reports of 2012 and for those who are members of their church Electoral Roll to elect the PCC for the coming year.

BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

I hope by the time you read this the weather will have taken a turn for the better. All the snow and rain has made it a very difficult time for us all and apart from anything else has shown us just how many leaks we have in the church roof. The porch continues to be an ongoing problem but we are now, at last, at the stage of getting permission to replace the lead with some other kind of material which we all trust will not be so vulnerable.

Our rector, the Rev’d Canon Tony Billett remarked after the funeral of John Pretty on the 11th March that it just goes to show how important having a church in the village is. Almost 200 people gathered to pay their respects to a very popular and lovely man. We all send our deepest sympathy to Norma and all the family. John was buried as close as we could to their son Kevin (Ted) who tragically died aged 19 in 1981. One of the family wreaths was in the form of a lorry – with a green cab.

At the vestry meeting Rodger Aves and myself were re-elected as churchwardens. We all pray that Rodger will soon be able to resume his duties.

On Sunday 21st April at 6pm a very special service will be held. All the music will be provided by the barrel organ and played by Rodney Briscoe. Please come to this very rare event after which wine will be served and you can have the chance of playing the barrel organ too, should you so wish.

Diana

Many thanks to the 3 men and 5 ladies who all turned up for the annual ‘spring clean’ of the church on 16th March. What a difference it has made.



Stop Press – Urgent!

We have been advised that a little lorry was seen near the church car park on the main road (A1066) one evening in mid March. If you see anything suspicious which might be someone taking more lead from the roof or caravans moving on to this piece of land I have been advised by the Police to ask you to phone 999. Please try and get a description of any vehicles and number plate if at all possible.

Parish Council

Mr Cattermole acted as Chairman for the March meeting with 5 Councillors present, also Mr Spratt (NCC) and Mr Weeks (SNDC).

Mr Cattermole reported that the map of Fersfield churchyard had been found and was in safe keeping.

In his report Mr Spratt spoke of the effect of cuts in the budget from Central Government. Councillors were critical of the state of roads in the Parish and Mr Spratt said this reduced fund had to be shared between Children's Services, Adult Social Services and Highways and the share for roads was insufficient to deal with the backlog of problems. Mr Hewitt had carried out a survey of the roads in both villages showing the many dangerous potholes, areas of verge damage and problems left after poor work by Utility Companies. The Parish Council will send a letter detailing these problems to the Leader of the County Council.

On a positive note, Mr Spratt said the Government was putting money into the Hethel Enterprise which would lead to more jobs in technology.

Mr Weeks reported that there is a vacancy in Pipers Piece but stressed that residents in the parish or those with a close connection will be given priority for the house.

At the allotments work is in progress preparing the land and marking out the unused plots. It was agreed to fund the cost of markers for the footpaths.

A Charities update report was given. The Land Registration is going ahead but is a lengthy process.

Before the close of the meeting the site of the bottle bank was discussed. The area around it becomes slippery and dangerous in bad weather and inquiries into a safer surround will be made.

Village Hall

Bressingham and Fersfield

We are now having a quiz night every other month. The next one is due on Saturday 4th May. Details 01379 688375.

Eastern Angles Drama returns on Tuesday the 7th May. Details 01379 687729.

Dates for the Diary

Flower Show and Fete will be on Saturday 13th July. Details 01379 688360.

Sports Road Show will be on the Playing Field and Hall on Saturday 27th April, 10–2pm Details 01379 688375. All taster sports are FREE.

Inter Village Sports Sunday 9th June. If interested in sports please contact Brenda on 01379 688375

Drama Group We had another successful panto which raised a final net figure of £1,300. These profits all go back to the Village Hall Fund. The Group has other productions in the pipe line which will be advertised nearer the time.

Archery This still runs regularly in the Village Hall, if interested please call 01379 688375



Tennis Remember the Court is available and can be used by calling 01379 688375 for the access code after paying a yearly fee of £10.

If anyone would like to see anything else happening in the Village please contact Allan Byrne 01379 688452

Ladies Club

We all enjoyed our party in January, including a delicious buffet provided by members. Good food and good company was a perfect antidote to the cold weather, with the raffle raising just over £100 for Cancer Research.

FERSFIELD NEWS

Church News

Just two events to note in your diary. We are having a coffee morning in the Church on Saturday May 18th and the Fersfield gardening ladies are, once again, supporting us with a plant stall and, of course, there will be the usual tombola, raffle, etc.

Music Praise & Worship will be held in Church Meadow on 14th July at 4pm and it is hoped that Fersfield Friends will organise an event around this service. What this is will be revealed nearer the date.

Look forward to seeing you – everyone is welcome!

Maureen

www.bressinghamandfersfield.org for the latest news and updates at



Events at Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Tuesday 2 April, 2pm–4pm

Springtime magic family afternoon Spring at the Fen: outdoor activities, games and crafts. £2.50 per person, children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking a must: 01379 688333

Saturday 13 April, 10.30am–12.30pm

Wildlife Watch Group A club for 6–12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508

Sunday 14 April, 10am–4pm

Plant Sale Over 20 award-winning and specialist nurseries. Perennials, trees, shrubs, ferns, fruit bushes, herbs, seeds and lots more! Adults £1.50, children free. Refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome. 01379 688333

Saturday 27 April, 10am–4pm

Drawing and painting trees Join Rosemary Humphries, professional artist, and learn how to draw and paint trees. £25/£21.50 concessions. Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 11 May, 10.30am–12.30pm

Wildlife Watch Group A club for 6–12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508

Sunday 12 May, 10am–4pm

Spring birds at the Fen Spend a fascinating and informative day with local birder, Paul Holness, improving your observational skills and learning to recognise birds by sight and sound. For beginners/less experienced. £20/£17 concessions. Booking essential 01473 890089

Monday 13 May, 10am–1pm

Water voles Learn about them with Penny Hemphill. Aimed at beginners. £15/ £12.50 concessions. Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 18 May, 10am–3pm

Botanical illustration: all levels Join professional botanical illustrator, Christine Grey-Wilson. The emphasis will be on botanical accuracy using seasonal spring flowers. £20 Booking essential 01473 890089

Tuesday 28 May, 2pm – 4pm

Family pond dipping afternoon Fun for everyone. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £2.50 per person. Booking essential 01379 688333

The Lophams' Society

On a cold wet evening The Lophams 'Society's' 'Spring' quiz on the 15th of March was attended by over 60 people and it was heartening to see so many familiar faces amongst the teams. At the end of eight rounds of sometimes challenging questions only half a point separated the two top teams, a win and six bottles of wine for table eleven and a consoling Easter egg for each member of table two. During the interval a warming chilli supper was provided by Paddy Miller, ably assisted by Jan Tate while Bill Bedford manned the bar. Simon Dilloway, who devised and asked the questions, was assisted by Steve Reynolds as scorer. The chairman, Granville Horan, announced that the society would donate part of the proceeds of the raffle to Red Nose Day; all other profits from this evening's quiz would as usual go towards funding the free Christmas drop-in event in December.

The next Lophams' Society event is a (hopefully) summer BBQ on the 6th of July. If you would like to join the society and help out at any of the three events held during the year please contact the chairman on 01379 640355.

St Andrew's Primary School

St Andrew's has enjoyed a busy couple of months.

The start of the year saw heavy snow fall all over the Lophams, bringing much excitement to daily school life. When the school was able to safely open, pupils enjoyed coming on sledges and pulling each other around on them during playtimes!



To mark Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent, the Friends of St Andrew's School parents put on a pancake breakfast for all the

pupils. This was well attended and children enjoyed a number of pancakes with a range of toppings including strawberries and cream, syrup and traditional lemon and sugar.

Just before half term, over half of the school enjoyed an aspirational visit to London to see Shrek the Musical. Although a long day, it was a thoroughly enjoyable visit to Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Covent Garden. As one child said, 'we had the BEST time ever!' Children, parents and staff are now exploring what they would like to see next year.

Since returning from half term, St Andrew's pupils have enjoyed celebrating recent sporting achievements. Congratulations to Lucy Bernard who came ninth in the South Norfolk race and Aaron Frith who came eleventh. Also, well done to the netball team, who won against a local school team six goals to five! We wish them continued success with their future matches.

St Andrew's now looks forward to the eight weeks ahead. Plans to date include a Wacky Hair Day for Comic Relief, celebrating St Patricks Day, Easter breakfast, Bingo and the end of term Easter service.

If you would like to know more about St Andrew's then please contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail executivehead@schoolpartnership.org and come and look around. We would love to hear from you.

Louise Norgate: Executive Headteacher for All Saints and St Andrew's Partnership

St Andrew's Pre-school

A lot goes on behind the scenes at St Andrews Pre-School including funding, insurance, advertising – the list goes on. Our dedicated committee members and volunteers do a great job, but they can't do it alone. We are looking for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbours – who would be willing to help out with just one of those many jobs. Any contribution, big or small, would be greatly appreciated.

Numbers for the next term are looking good, but there are still a few places available. We welcome children from their second birthday, (nappies welcome) and are open Mondays 8.45–11.45 and Wednesdays/Thursdays 8.45–15.15.

If you think you can help out or would like to en-

quire about your child attending, please feel free to contact Tonya or Laura on 07962 219523 or pop in and see us when we are open.

No-one wants the pre-school to close, please help us to keep it going!

Lophams' Ladies

At our February meeting, Joyce Kimber kept us all enthralled and entertained as we heard about her life on the stage. She recalled acting alongside well known names of the stage and screen; whether working on the London stage or touring the country, Joyce certainly led a very interesting life. Now nearly 80, it is very evident that acting and singing is still very much part of her life.

In March Pip Wright was our speaker and his illustrated talk was entitled 'East Anglia by Bus Pass'. Whether a bus pass holder or not, there is a wealth of places to discover, and with a little planning (via www.traveline.org or armed with a timetable), many day's outings can be made throughout Essex Suffolk and Norfolk and further afield.

On April 2nd Janet Peachey will talk about preserves. We will also have our short AGM at this meeting. On May 7th David Hannant will talk on 'the Friends of Chernobyl Children' and On June 4th we have an afternoon visit to Jason and Katharine Salisbury's Farm and Shop (home of Suffolk Cheese).

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month; 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. New members and guests always welcome. Details Tel 01379 687337

Lophams' Garden Club

Meets at Blooms Garden Centre, 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, our February meeting was cancelled; however we hope that Elizabeth Browne from The Urban Jungle will come to give her presentation at a later date.

We held our AGM at our meeting on 6th March and this was followed by a fascinating presentation entitled 'Gleanings from Gertrude Jekyll' by Shelagh Ashe. Shelagh showed how, despite very poor eyesight, Gertrude Jekyll used colour, shape and form of plants to create a picture and still influences how we use plants in our gardens today.

On April 3rd Ric Staines will give a talk on 'Vegetable Growing' and looking further forward, on 1st May we shall welcome Ben Potterton who will give a presentation entitled 'Backyard Chickens'.



Visitors and new members are always very welcome to our meetings. Please telephone 01379 687833 for more information.

Village Games

On 28th January four teams of sportsmen/women from the Lophams took part in the alternate village games at the UEA in Norwich. In volleyball, captain Lily Nunn was inspirational as was Holly Fleming carrying the older members to finish runners-up to Diss (a village?). The Dodgeball team, captained by Paul Sturman and fielding new boys Jon Hewitt, Luke Owen and Nigel Fleming, was placed a very creditable 6th. Handball was open to the ladies led by Gillian Rednall and after three gruelling half hour matches finished fourth, lastly ultimate Frisbee was under the control of our eldest sportsman Mike Cox who with many others including the youngest Sam Bernard ended a enjoyable day in 7th place. At the presentation at the finale, 'The Lophams' picked up the 'fair play award' for Sportsmanship. Thanks to everyone who played/supported. Next event will be a netball tournament on April 28th; any female over 14yrs interested call Jim Pursehouse on 01379 687330. Facebook us at 'Lophams village games'

The Village Games Roadshow returns to Lopham on Sunday 19th May, from 2pm to 5pm. Everyone is invited to come along to the Hall and Playing Field and 'have a go' at any of the games on offer, inside or out. There will be refreshments, and lots of fun, so do please COME!

Lophams' Village Hall

When next you come to the hall, do make sure you look at the display of Sports achievements in the foyer. Congratulations to Jim and the Lophams Teams for keeping us on the map!

The Lottery fund for the next Bonanza draw has started – if you aren't yet 'in', do consider having a

go. It's a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize. January's 1st prize of £188 was won by L Perry; second prizes of £47.00 each went to P Woolerton and A Jacob. February's 1st prize of £190 went to M Birchall; second prizes of £47.50 went to D Hoyte and J Bush. Anyone who needs to renew, or who wishes to join is invited to make contact:-

Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, tel; 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, tel; 01379 687718, from other Village Hall Committee members (see the website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmers' Markets are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm. The March Market is on 23rd. For details, call Mike on 01379 687 235;

Judo is on Mondays and Wednesdays (Details from Howard on 01379 688 258)

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

Lopham Art Group meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £20 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact 01379 687718 for more details.

Yoga with P is a popular addition to the weekly programme. Sessions are on Thursdays, 7-8pm. Booking is essential, tel. 01379890955; or 07932010720; or e-mail pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com

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

Open Meeting and AGM

The annual Lophams' Village Open Meeting and AGM of the Lophams' Society will be held at the Lophams' village hall on Friday 12 April 2013. Doors

open 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Reports will be given by the Parish Councils, local groups and the Lophams' Society. All residents of North and South Lopham are invited. Light refreshments will be served and it is an ideal opportunity for you to find out what is going on in the villages and meet other residents. Representatives of local groups who would like to speak at the meeting are asked to contact the South Lopham Parish Clerk, Caroline Phillips on 01379 687950 or email: clerk@southlopham.co.uk

RED FEATHER CLUB

Quiz Night Saturday 4th May, at 7.30pm, admission is £5 per person including food, and you can contact John Kirkum 01379 384559 to book team tables

1940s Weekend Saturday/Sunday 18/19th May, with 1940s re-enactments on Sunday.

Open Days are on the last Sunday of every month from April to October (Sundays April 28th, May 26th, June 30th, July 29th, August 25th, September 29th & October 27th). The April and October events will include stalls and military vehicles. Sunday September 29th will include a vintage-style softball game between the 95th's own Wallopers and the 1285th Military Police Company re-enactors' Snowdrops who play in period dress.

The Red Feather Club, run by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association, is the official UK museum of the 95th Bomb Group. The award-winning museum houses only uniforms and memorabilia relating to the 95th Bomb Group who were based at Horham during WW2. The Red Feather Club is also the home to the 1285th Military Police Company re-enactors. The Red Feather Club, Horham, Suffolk, is four miles south-east of Eye off the B1117 (IP21 5DG). Tel (public enquiries): 01728 860930 (James Mutton, chairman of the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association); Email (public enquiries): jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net; Website: www.95thbg-horham.com.

95th BOMB GROUP HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council

13th March. All councillors and 9 members of the public attended.

Affordable housing and play area nothing new to report.

Road Safety a joint meeting with highways and police on 6th March was felt to have been helpful. Suggestions included flashing 20mph signs at school times, possible narrowing of the road to produce a single lane priority system, addressing 'overtaking points,' replacing the missing 30mph signs, cutting back overgrown hedges and dropping kerbs for disabled access. The school will be involved in a road safety day when the children will have the use of a radar speed detector and will write to those drivers whom they 'trap'.



Finance a breakdown of recent income/expenditure was presented including a refund of £250 from the now wound up Lophams Links.

Planning an update on the status of current applications was given. There followed an intense discussion involving members of the public and the applicant at 14a The Green which centred on development outside the settlement boundary. The discussion broadened to include another application which has been approved by Breckland and which is entirely outside the settlement boundary. A general dissatisfaction with the Breckland planning department over a long period of time was expressed coupled with disappointment that no one from Breckland would attend the meeting.

Roads and Footpaths 25 potholes and the damaged marker posts at Church Corner have been reported for repair. The partial blockage of the Letchmere drain needs to be investigated. Owners of nuisance hedges will be contacted.

Correspondence Councillor Bird was complimented for organising the 'village clean' by CPRE. A spring clean was suggested.

An objection to the adoption of the tracks to the west of The Street has been received. This now has to go to a local enquiry by a government inspector.

Repeated efforts to have the grit bins refilled have so far failed.

Vacancy Gratitude to Val Garnham for her 26 years of service on the PC was expressed, a vacancy now exists. Councillor Potter expressed a desire to step down as chairman. Anyone who would like to serve as a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk, Mike Cox, for more information.

Open meeting the annual joint opening meeting is on 12th April 7pm for 7.30 at the Village Hall.

Next Agenda Affordable housing and play area; on-going road safety matters.

Next meeting 8th May 2013 at The Mess, St Andrew's School.

The Lent Lunches

Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing on Tuesdays through Lent, were very happy, informal gatherings and look set to raise about £300 to help the two projects in Uganda which Bishop Graham chose as the focus for the diocesan Lent Appeal. World Shine Foundation is building a dormitory at a school in a poor part of west Uganda so children won't have to walk up to 6 dangerous miles to school. The Oasis of Life is building a medical centre in Northern Uganda aiming to bring hope, health and happiness to a people devastated by war. Both projects have leaders from our diocese. Grateful thanks go to all our hosts for making everyone so welcome.

The Lent Connect Course

Passionate Christianity, has been much valued by all who took part. We are very grateful to the members of the Ministry Team who came out to lead us.

Starters and Sweets

As the dull winter dragged on, church people organised a very enjoyable evening to lighten the mood, at the Village Hall on 15th February. A happy crowd tried two soups and a wide range of savoury choic-

es, followed by delicious puds – some quite healthy, others ‘naughty but extremely nice’ – and a cheese board. It was good to welcome people from other villages and organisations to get to know each other better. Many thanks go to all those who prepared the food, donated prizes for the raffle or who helped with the setting up and clearing away. Though money wasn’t the prime object, it was pleasing to add £262 to the funds!

St Nicholas’ Church

Mothering Sunday on 10th March was a very special day, as we were able to share the 90th Birthday Celebrations for our most senior church member – Joan Muncila – with her family and friends. It was wonderful to have them all at the Family Service, then share the delicious buffet lunch they provided. All the ladies present received a daffodil posy; others were delivered to those who were not well enough to come along.

Thanks must go to Jayne Hinds, David Summers and the Revd Maggie Swayze for helping to make both services that day very memorable.

This magazine may be with you in time for a reminder: On Good Friday, 29th March, in St Nicholas’ Church there will be a service to mark the Last Hour at the Cross from 2pm.

Flowers and foliage, or help with decorating the



church for Easter will be gratefully welcomed, from later that afternoon through to Saturday.

On Easter Day, 31st March, everyone is warmly invited to an All Age Easter Holy Communion

Service at 11am, led by the Revd Chris Davidson, followed by an Easter Egg hunt and refreshments.

Throughout April, the usual pattern of services will be followed, using the joyful Easter season service books.

May brings more special dates for your diaries: Rogation Sunday is on the 5th, so will be suitably marked at St Nicholas’ Church. Ascension Day is on Thursday 9th, and the celebrations will take place in Diss. Pentecost will be celebrated in our own Church at 11am on 19th May, with a very special Family Birthday Party Service for all to enjoy. As ever, there will be balloons, cake and fun to share as we celebrate the birth-day of the Christian Church.

Details of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting are set out on the Team News page. All are welcome to come along and hear about the work of the church during the last year; those on the new church Electoral Roll, which will have been compiled by then, can vote for the members of the Church Council for the next year. (Anyone not on that Roll who would like to be co-opted onto it for the future is asked to contact 01379 687679.)

Lay Development Course

CPAS Tuesday 23 April
The Costessey Centre
Norwich NR8 5AH

A Growing Leaders training day is a great way to explore how to develop leaders of all ages in your context.

We will: Consider key principles for growing leaders, identify why growing leaders is important, and explore how to grow leaders. We will also look at the Growing Leaders courses – how they work and how you can run them in your church or across a group of churches.

Cost: £12 Please book in advance.
Contact Caspar James, 01603 729815 or
caspar.james@norwich.anglican.org

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew’s Church News

On Wednesday 22nd May there will be a Coffee Morning at St Andrew’s Church from 10–12 noon. There will be tombola, a homemade cake stall, a ‘bring and buy’ stall plus a raffle; we hope you will be able to join us.



Forthcoming events: There will be a Craft Fair in the Church on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July. Would anyone interested in displaying their crafts at this event please contact Jill Brundell on 01379 687216

Friends of South Lopham Church

We held our Annual General Meeting in October and the following officers were elected. Evelyn Logsdail as Chairman, Marion Crisp as Secretary and David Huggins continuing as Treasurer.

We held a successful Ceilidh last year and hope to arrange more entertaining events this year.

Parish Council

At a meeting on 14 March the Parish Council approved the appointment of John Crisp as a co-opted member and welcomed him to the Council.

The Annual Village Meeting (North and South Lopham) will take place on 12 April in the Village Hall, 7.30pm. All village residents are invited to attend and local interest groups are encouraged to make brief presentations.

It was reported that the Emergency Services often find it very helpful to be given a Grid Reference for a property when attending a call-out. Householders are therefore urged to make a note of their own in-

dividual reference to quote in the event of an emergency. The website www.gridreferencefinder.com will provide this information.

Please remember that village news items and details of forthcoming events can be posted on the village website.

The Parish Council does not at present have an elected Chairperson. Members of the council are currently filling this role on a temporary rotational basis.



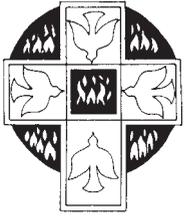
CPRE

Do your parish footpaths have a story to tell?

Countryside charity CPRE Norfolk has been given a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable three communities to research, publicise and celebrate the footpaths in their parish. The funding will pay for a range of activities and resources, including training in archive research, and also for a researcher from UEA’s Landscape Group to join community groups in walking their local footpaths, to explain why the footpaths are there and why they might be important. Participating parishes will also be given financial and practical help to publicise their research, perhaps through a local exhibition or film, or through printed maps and leaflets.

This project will be both enjoyable and valuable, explains CPRE Norfolk Branch manager Katy Jones. It will draw attention to the condition of our footpaths, and also, by involving whole community groups, will ensure the paths are understood, appreciated and ultimately, walked more!

Community groups who are interested in taking part should contact Katy Jones, Branch Manager at CPRE Norfolk, on 01603 761660, or email katyj@cprenorfolk.org.uk.



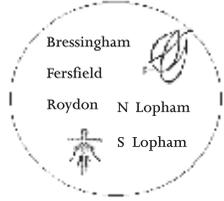
COCK CROW IS THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF THE WINFARTHING GROUPS OF CHURCHES AND THE UPPER WAVENEY BENEFICE

**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

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. To arrange Weddings or Baptisms, contact **Diss Parish Office 01379 643783**. For other pastoral matters requiring a priest, contact one of the churchwardens, who will put you in touch with the appropriate individual.



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
April 7	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
April 14	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	10.00 FS	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
April 21	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
April 28	3.00 4SS	11.00 MP	8.00 HC	(At Gissing)	9.30 MP
May 5	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 Rog	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
May 12	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	10.00 FS	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
May 19	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
May 26	6.00 4SS	11.00 MP	8.00 HC	(At Gissing)	9.30 HC
June 2	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP

HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer | MW Morning Worship | 5P Five Parish Service FS Family Service | 4SS Fourth Sunday Service | M Meditation | Rog Rogation | VC Village Church

THE COCK CROW TEAM

CORRESPONDENTS

EDITORS

Winfarthing Group: Vivienne Wheeler,
Jacks Barn, Common Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DR
01379 642622 Vivienne.wheeler@btinternet.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

Marie Hewitt, 68 Common Road, Bressingham IP22 2BB. 01379 687242. Cheques for donations payable to 'Cock Crow Committee' please

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

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

BRESSINGHAM Diana Burroughes, Burrowood, Wilney Green, Bressingham IP22 2AJ, 01379 688291, dianajb@btconnect.com

BURSTON Debbie Beck 3, Higdon Close, Diss Road, Burston IP22 5UG 01379 740834

FERSFIELD Maureen Webb Scoggins Farm, Dennington Rd, Laxfield, Suffolk IP13 8HJ 01986 798072 mbenziger@mac.com

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

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

WINFARTHING Alun Howkins, Holly Farm Barn, The Street, Winfarthing 01379 652202 alun.howkins@btinternet.com

Date	Bressingham St John the Baptist (BCP)	Fersfield St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)	N Lopham St Nicholas (BCP &) (C/W Order 1)	S Lopham St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)
Sun 7th April Easter 2	No Service	6pm EP	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sun 14th April Easter 3	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 6pm FS ES	4pm MPW
Sun 21st April Easter 4	6pm EP	No Service	11am Fam S	9.30am HC
Sun 28th April Easter 5	10.30am with Meth	9.30am HC	11am Fam S	6pm ES
Sun 5th May Easter 6 (Rogation)	No Service	6pm EP	9.30am 11am HC Fam S	No Service
Sun 12th May Post Ascension	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 6pm FS ES	No Service
Sun 19th May Pentecost	6pm EP	No Service	11am Pentecost Family Party Service	9.30am HC
Sun 26th May Trinity Sunday	10.30am with Meth	9.30am HC	11am FS	6pm ES
Sun 2nd June 1 after Trinity	No Service	6pm ES	9.30am 11am HC Fam S	No Service

MP Morning Prayers | 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

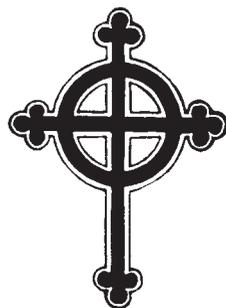
Morning Prayer: At present is at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday at North Lopham and Thursday at South Lopham in addition to the service held each weekday in St Mary's, Diss at 8.30am.

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

Fellowship/Country Connect Group: Meets on 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 R Aves 01379 687263
Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711 R Vere 01379 687679
North Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679
South Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 D Huggins 01379 687201



What's in a name?

How strange that within 48 hours Pope Francis was enthroned as the new Bishop of Rome, followed by Justin Welby being consecrated as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Both people of God called to fulfil a specific and prophetic ministry amongst the people of God. I had only been ordained a Deacon for 8 days when I realised that I was not on the fast track for high office. The reason being – Thomas Beckett went from being a lay person to being Archbishop of Canterbury in 8 days. Considering the outcome and eventual martyrdom of Thomas, I am glad that I am not a personal friend of the Monarch.

For me, the essence of Christian Ministry is in the service that we should have for one another. If Jesus was prepared to wash the dirty, dusty feet of his disciples, what should we be doing for others? I was impressed that the new Pontiff took the name of Francis of Assisi. Francis had a wayward and rebellious background until his encounter with Christ. He rejected the power and wealth granted to him via his father and led a very simple lifestyle. Even today he is well known for his love of creation and of animals; for his acts of giving to the poor. What I personally liked about Francis was his sense of fun and his sheer enjoyment of life. It is said of Francis that he suddenly and unexpectedly sung out God's praises. One of the best descriptions of Francis is that of a troubadour for Christ, taking the opportunities of life and continually living in the presence of his maker.

So what's in a name? Be it Pontiff, Pope, Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of Rome, priest, troubadour, Catholic, or Christian. It is how we commend our Saviour in our daily worship of sacrament and service, that is important. How we receive Him into our lives in His power and for His glory's sake. What we do for one of the least of our brethren, we do for Him.

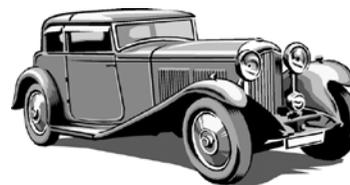
Rev David F Mills
Pax et Bonum

BURSTON NEWS

St Mary's Church

We are always trying to respond to the needs and preferences of people in Burston, as far as we can – both in terms of putting on fund-raising events and in planning services. As part of our St Mary's Development Plan, we are asking people about the kinds of church services they enjoy; which days of the week and times suit them best. If you would like to let us know your views, do please get in touch with me, and I'll add your points to our survey. One of our recent projects is the Burston Youth Café, which takes place in St Mary's after school on Thursdays. School children are invited into St Mary's for games and refreshments. If you would like more information, please contact Dorothy on 01379 741577.

The Friends of Burston Church has planned a number of events over the summer – for entertainment and to raise money for St Mary's. The biggest of these will be our Open Village on Sunday 30th June. As in previous years, village gardens will be open; there will be classic cars on the green, and refreshments in the church. This year we will also be having garage sales – £5 for a pitch. If you are able to open your garden or have a garage sale, please contact Norma Ajdukiewicz on 01379 740595.



Dates for your diary

20th April 2013 Spring Fling – supper with entertainment (tickets are £12, available from Anne Hyde on 07733 182525)

1st May 2013 Talk on Nigeria – talk, coffee and dessert (tickets available from Norma Ajdukiewicz on 01379 740595)

30th June 2013 Open Village – open gardens,

garage sale, classic cars on the green, ploughman's lunches and cream teas in the church.

Saturday 10th August Safari Supper – details to be confirmed.

Rachel Hobson 01379 741033

Parish Council

Endings and Beginnings

The above heading picks up on a T S Eliot theme which alludes nicely to the comings and goings associated with the Parish Council during the latter part of last year

We said farewell to Sheila Fitzpatrick who resigned due to her move to Harleston with husband, John. Living in Shimpling, Sheila took an active interest in issues affecting that part of our Parish. Notably her strenuous efforts to deal with the damage being caused by off-road vehicles to the Back Lane BOAT (Bridleway Open to All Traffic).

Sheila also ensured that Shimpling was involved in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June last year. She organised the 'best decorated house competition' and organised the barbeque at St George's Church which brought the long weekend of celebrations to a memorable end. We wish Sheila and John every happiness in their new home.

Last year also saw the retirement of our village caretaker, Peter Dade. The role of caretaker is a demanding and important one, and we thank Peter for his work on our behalf, and wish him and his wife Helen well for the future.

We did have someone join us however! Our new village caretaker, Simon Monksfield brings with him considerable knowledge as a horticulturalist and experience in land management. We look forward to having Simon as part of the Council team as he works to ensure that our local amenity retains all those qualities that we have come to value and enjoy. Thanks are due to Jim Howard who did such an excellent job as interim caretaker prior the appointment of Simon.

Your Parish Council needs you!

Sheila's resignation leaves a vacancy on Council. Would you consider joining us a co-opted Member?

As a councillor you can become a voice for our community and affect real change. It helps if you're a 'people person' who enjoys talking to other residents but, more importantly, you need to have the concerns and best interests of the Parish as a whole at heart. Councillors are community leaders and should represent the aspirations of the public that they serve.

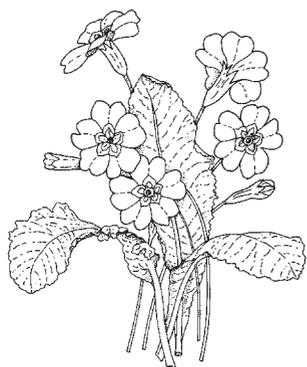
Parish councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. Why don't you offer yourself to be a co-opted member of the Parish Council and see what difference you can make to our local community?

How much time does it take up & when? On average, less than a couple of hours a week – obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this, and some less, but in the main being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work. Council meetings are always held in the evening – as are most meetings of the other groups which councillors attend on the Council's behalf.

Talking and listening to your fellow parishioners can be done at any time but you must be able to spend a couple of hours every month attending the Council meetings which take place every second Monday in the month at 7.30pm.

If you would like to be considered for co-option, please contact our Parish Clerk, Pam Anderson, on 01379 677044.

Len Hobson, Chairman



GISSING NEWS

St Mary's Church

Friends of Gissing Church

The Friends are now planning for their AGM which will be held in the church at 7pm on April 11th. The meeting will elect the committee office holders for the year, review progress over the last year, consider and approve the accounts and provide an opportunity for those who attend to contribute their views on how the Friends can continue to preserve and maintain the church and its grounds. All members of the Friends will have received, by late March, an invitation to attend and refreshments will be available on the night.

The Friends Committee, and I am sure the members of the Friends as well, would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda Steel who will be stepping down as the Friends' Treasurer at the AGM. Linda has worked very hard to establish a sound financial footing for the Friends over the last 2 years and we are all very grateful for her support.

Members of the Friends will also be taking part in a Litter Picking Day in early April. This is part of a South Norfolk scheme to encourage communities to clear litter from hedgerows, verges, footpaths and lanes, with a chance to be placed in a prize draw for a chance to win £250, which would be a welcome addition to the Friends' funds.

The Friends' fund also benefitted from a share of the donations raised from the Tractor Run held in March. Thank you to all those who organised, ran and took part in the Run.

Currently the Friends are looking forward to Saturday, June 15th when the Gissing Singers will be holding an evening concert in the church. The programme will include folk songs, sacred music and spirituals, and refreshments will be provided by the Friends' Committee members. Further information will be available nearer the date. We hope to see you there.

Anyone who is interested to find out more about the Friends and how they could help, can take an

information leaflet and membership form which can be found in the church itself on the card sale stand. If you would like to discuss this in person, then contact Fiona Turton on 01379 677811 or email her on fionaturton@btinternet.com

Heart of Gissing

The Heart of Gissing is a charity made up of local people with an interest in securing the future and the regeneration of the centre of Gissing including the proposed refurbishment and extension of the Old School building and site. The Trustees are keen to develop the potential of the site as a meeting place for local organisations, community and interest groups of all ages and as a venue for small scale 'one off' events of social, cultural and educational kinds. They see it as one of their main roles to promote and foster such 'sharing' activities. The Heart of Gissing very much works with Gissing Children's Centre which is, and will remain, the primary user of the site. Fundraising events are organised jointly to maximise effort and ensure the sustainability of both groups. If you are interested in becoming a member contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 or email admin@heartofgissing.org.uk for a membership form and/or further details. Please visit the new website at www.heartofgissing.org.uk for up to date information about groups, events and what is happening in the centre of the village.

Many thanks to all those people who helped make the Evening with Ray Hubbard on 22nd February a sell-out. The insight into his amazing life and work with Suffolk Horses followed by Norfolk Dialect songs and stories, together with a ploughman's supper, made for a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. Forthcoming fundraising events include:

An Auction of Promises is being planned for June; more details in due course.

An even bigger and better Summer Fayre, possibly including a weekend of music and flowers in the Church, is being planned for the August Bank Holiday weekend; more details in due course.



Groups running at present include:

Gissing Children's Centre (Pre-School and Play-scheme) Contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am to 3pm term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours or email to email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk.

Gissing Baby and Toddler Group runs in Gissing Village Hall, Rectory Road, Gissing every Monday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am. All parents, carers and their children (under school age) are welcome to come and have a chat while the children have fun. The group includes a designated safe 'baby area' within the main play area. For general information about the group, please contact Vicky on 01379 674437 or 07946 212779 or email at vhcullum@hotmail.com.

Gissing Youth Club for 8–13 year olds, runs every Tuesday 6.30–8pm (winter times) during term time at Gissing Children's Centre. Anyone interested in helping or who has ideas or skills to share, please contact Bernie on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email at berniecalton@talktalk.net.

Gissing Reading Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 pm at the Old School. Forthcoming books include: April: *Narrow Dog* to Carcassonne by Terry Darlington; May: *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen; June: *Harvest* by Jim Crace; July – a theatre trip. For further information about the group, please contact Jim Philip on 01379 677352 or just come along.

Gissing Gardening Group generally meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month at the Old School. For enquiries about the group, contact Joe Cromley on 01379 677817.

Gissing Singers meet every Monday at 7.30pm in Gissing Village Hall. Further information is available from Andrew Pierssené on 01379 674518.

Pilates continues to run every Wednesday evening at the Children's Centre (the Old School). Call Sharon Calton on 07979 411644 or email sharon@scalton.orangehome.co.uk for further details.

The *Hegarty School of Dance* offers ballet, tap, street dance and contemporary dance classes to children (from 3 years of age) and adults and runs from both the Children's Centre (the Old School) and from Gissing village hall. For details, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 by email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com or visit www.hegartyschoolofdance.co.uk.

Weekly Musical Theatre Class musical theatre classes run every Wednesday from 5 pm at Gissing Village Hall for anyone over 7 years of age. The class includes singing, dancing and acting, working on scripts from popular musicals. The group will then do recitals for family at the end of term. For further details, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or by email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com



Heart of Gissing Community Dance and Theatre Project any queries regarding this group can be directed to Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at rose@roseeddington.co.uk.

Stage HOGers is a local theatre group putting on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com for further information.

Friends of Gissing Church: contact Fiona Turton on 01379 677811 or email fionaturton@btinternet.com.

Over 60s Group: contact Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at rose@roseeddington.co.uk.

Gissing Carpet Bowls: contact Derek Dewey on 01379 677162.

Gissing Bowls Club: contact Kevin Lake on 01379 677525.

Bookings to use Gissing Village Hall: contact Helen Vallier on 07712 171187.

Bookings to use Gissing Children's Centre: contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am to 3pm Monday to Friday, term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours.

Gissing Children's Centre

This popular and successful Pre-School runs Monday to Friday during term time. From the Summer Term 2013 (after Easter) the Pre-school will be extending sessions to 3 hours when children will be able to attend from 9am to 12 noon and from 12 noon to 3pm each day. Early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions and the Pre-school has recently become an accredited setting able to offer a limited number of funded places for 2 year olds. Children can attend unaccompanied from 2½ years to 5 years old. Any families who wish to come and take a look are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am-3pm during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or email email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange a visit. Spaces are filling up quickly for this school year, but the Pre-school operates a working waiting list so will aim to meet your requirements, and reserve places, wherever possible.

The Children's Centre will be holding an Easter Playscheme on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th April from 9.30am to 3pm for children of primary school age. The cost is £10 per child, bookable and payable in advance, by ringing 07531 810704 or by contacting email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk. Children will need to bring a packed lunch and a small amount of money for tuck. A lovely range of Easter-themed craft, cookery and workshops, construction, sand and other play opportunities both indoors and outside will be on offer.

The Children's Centre will be holding a Nearly New Sale of children's clothes, toys and other items on Saturday 1st June. Sellers packs are available from Karen on 01379 742996 or on holmes.karen@rocketmail.com.



SHELFANGER NEWS

All Saints' Church

It has certainly seemed a long, long winter. Snow, wind and frost are again the order of the day, nearly two months after the last Shelfanger notes were written. So far, only one service has had to be cancelled – the 8am Holy Communion on 27th January – when, because of major flooding and thawing snow, hardly any of the congregation could get to the church.

Every effort is made to keep the church open, cheerful and warm.

The church's AGM was held on Tuesday 5th March. Peter Harries and Roger Challoner were again elected as churchwardens to serve for the coming year. The existing Church Council were re-elected 'en bloc' with Sheila Churchyard joining for the first time.

Heartfelt thanks were expressed to all those unsung heroes who keep the church going; those who manage the paperwork, those who manage the finances, those who clean, those who keep the interior decorated with flowers, those who carry out interior and exterior maintenance, those who produce and deliver the Cock Crow magazine and other leaflets, those who wind the clock and those who give specialist advice on practical issues. Thanks also to those who read lessons, assist in Home Team services, take collections, make items for specialist services, prepare refreshments, maintain fabrics and kneelers and those who ring the bells. My haart thas a wonderful job together!

Mothering Sunday

Reader Frank Paice battled through the snow and floods on 10th March to lead a lively service. A quiz, dramatic interpretations and also posies for each Mum present made it an 'all action' occasion. The service concluded with coffee and refreshments including delicious Simnel cake and chocolate buns baked by Pat Webster.



Village News

The All Saints' congregation was greatly saddened recently by the death of Mrs Joyce Fox, who lived in Heywood Road, Shelfanger. Joyce was a grand and feisty Christian lady, generous with her support for our church and a real character.

Only a short time before her death, whilst playing Scrabble with her neighbour Sally, Joyce converted 'act' like a flash to 'factotum' thus earning a substantial score.

She and her sense of fun will be much missed and our condolences go to her daughters, Wendy and Cheryl, coupled with our thanks for the wonderful care they gave her.

Village Fete

Two meetings of the Fete committee have been held. Plans for this July 20th event are shaping up nicely under the baton of Tig Ross.

Social Club

The social club committee are striving to maximise profits at the club whilst making every effort to keep prices down. Fruitful contact has been made with the new Greene King representative for the area who is doing much to help the club at present. Thanks to Ivan, Ray, Marilyn, Derek, Helen and Roger for their efforts. Cheers from the committee to all!

Village Hall

The village hall continues its busy life. On Mondays there is Dog Training and also meetings in the evening for Parish Council and Social Club. On Tuesdays there is Dog Training again with Gateway Club in the evening. On Wednesdays the Diss & Roydon Model Railway Club meet at the hall. On Thursdays there is a yoga class with meetings of the Village Hall committee and Shelwins in the evening.



On Fridays the Social club is open. On Saturdays it is available for functions and dances and the Social club again. On Sundays there are often functions and football matches.

It's all go. If you need to know anything about the Village Hall, give Ivan a call on 01379 644006.

Parish Council

This has been a relatively quiet period for the Council. The speed awareness camera is now booked for May, when it will operate on the B1077 through the village. Be warned!

Take part in this year's

Your Neighbourhood Your Choice

We've been improving the services that matter most to you in response to last year's innovative scheme, Your Neighbourhood Your Choice, and we need your help again.

Building on last year's success, this year more than £800,000 of New Homes Bonus money is being allocated to help improve services in your neighbourhood.

There are many ways you can get involved, from becoming a volunteer to helping deliver some of the improvements in your area, or simply by taking part in our survey to let us know what you think is really important in your community.

Your views really can make a difference – in response to last year's survey, we've been working with you to deliver projects such as our Handyperson Scheme, job clubs for young people and making our roads safer with Speed Awareness Machines (SAMs).

So get involved and have your say on what services matter to you most in your community.

For more details log on to: www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/neighbourhoods
or call 0808 168 2000

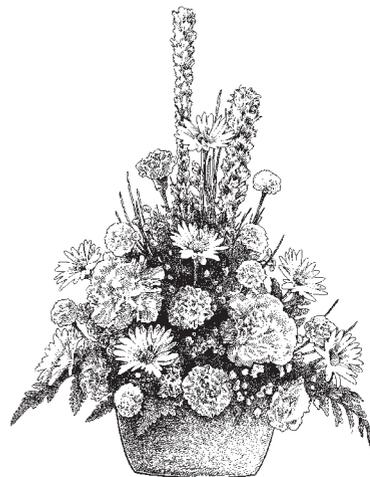
TIVETSHALL NEWS

St Margaret's Church

The AGM of the PCC is to be held on Sunday 7th April after a shortened service. All welcome.

Flowers for Easter

If anyone would like to decorate a window or put some flowers in the church for Easter. Please feel free to do so on Easter Saturday. Thank you.



Flower Festival

This is to be held in conjunction with Harvest Festival on the weekend of 14th/15th September. We shall be contacting those that have helped in the past but if anyone else would like to help either with an arrangement or refreshments please contact Maureen Drury on 01379 677541 or Maggie Rowan on 01379 674116. You really do not have to be a professional arranger to take part – many of us are certainly not. Why not give it a try? You may surprise yourself. All proceeds will go towards the restoration fund.

Barbara Helen Buckman (late of Tivetshall St Mary), died in her sleep at The Depperhaugh Nursing Home on 4th March 2013 aged 84 years.

Village Hall

Already at the end of March 2013 it seems like only yesterday when we had our annual General Meeting in December 2012. I wish to thank the members of public who attended our meeting and members of the committee who were re-elected and continue our commitment to keeping the hall open for the local community.

The annual question regarding hire rates was discussed and I am pleased to confirm that for the fifth year in a row no increase was levied on our hourly rates. This is only made possible by the fact that we are a very resourceful committee and have been able to maintain a good level of regular and one-off hirers over the year. Like any 'business' our overheads (with the exception of power, water and heat) are fixed so the more people we can encourage to hire the hall the smaller a percentage of the hourly rate the fixed costs become. Thus every extra 'hire' of the hall enables us to hold our rates at a very competitive level for the size of the facility we provide.

Currently we have regular availability on Monday and Thursday evenings and three Tuesday evenings a month, so if you are thinking about holding a club or regular activity please check out our rates on our website www.tivetshall.org.uk and contact our booking clerk on 07983 742784

This hall is your village hall and, as was demonstrated during the Jubilee celebration last year, is a wonderful central facility where parishioners of all ages can enjoy varying entertainment in pleasant surroundings.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have been or are currently involved with the upkeep of the hall, without your tireless efforts we would not have such a large and versatile facility in the small villages of the 'Tivetshalls', thank you.

David Evans

Community Primary School

It has been a rather quiet start to the new year with snow days and children suffering from coughs and

colds but February has seen us getting back to 'normal'. Class 1 enjoyed themselves at a Dance Festival at Diss High School joining other local primary schools for a morning of street dance. The children were very well-behaved and joined in confidently.

Thomas and Tia from Year 6 had a great time during a morning of Gifted and Talented ICT at Roydon, coming back to school full of excitement about what they had learned. Later that same day they manned a cake stall at which we raised £35.75 towards chicken food. Thank you to everyone who baked and bought cakes.

We enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with many exciting activities including cooking chow mein, fried rice and pineapple fritters; making lanterns; tangrams; learning the story of the Chinese zodiac; learning some Chinese New Year customs; and listening to Chinese New Year music.



The very next day was Shrove Tuesday so there was more cooking going on as every child cooked and ate pancakes – most with a variety of sugary toppings and fillings!

Years 3 and 4 began the new half-term with a cross country event at Diss Rugby Club. They were especially commended for their excellent behaviour and team spirit and came back to school full of enthusiasm. Later in the week the whole school took part in a Road and Rail Safety Day. An officer from the Transport Police explained how to keep safe around railway tracks and we did lots of work on railway vocabulary; rules for using pedestrian crossings; and seatbelts, car seats and booster seats. Class 1 also made road signs to use outside with the wheeled toys.

Sandra Potter, Class Teacher

WINFARTHING NEWS

Village Hall Update

As readers will remember we reported in the last issue that Winfarthing Village Hall Committee had secured a grant from Norfolk County Council Community Construction Fund for work on the Hall. The committee have now appointed local architect Nick Clarke to prepare preliminary drawings. Once these are passed they will be looking to find builders for the work. The first phase will be the roof, the second lowering the windows to give more light and thirdly (if the money lasts!), work on the toilets, especially those for the disabled.

The committee is seeking more grant aid for the hall, especially the third 'phase' but volunteers are always needed and very welcome whatever they can contribute to the project. If you can help in any way contact Granville Horan on 01379 640355 or Nick Griffiths on 01379 643718.

Village Church Service

This all age, informal and interactive monthly service is held every 3rd Sunday at 10am –11am, including hot drinks, squash and homemade cake at the end of the service. On 17th March 2013, we will be considering how we can grow through difficult times, when our theme will be 'Transformers – growing through tough times'. In a fun and lively way, on 21st April 2013 with the theme 'Fact or Fiction', we will be exploring the evidence for Jesus. As always, this is also a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends.

If you have never been to church before or would like to find out more, please contact either Jane Marchant on 01379 640502 or Ann Leitch on 07747 758308. We look forward to welcoming you to your village church celebration.

Growing Healthy Churches

The Diocese of Norwich is 'committed to growth'. As part of this, St Mary's Parish Church will be undertaking the 'Growing Healthy Churches' facilitated event on Saturday 20 April 2013 at Winfarthing Village Hall.

Anyone in Winfarthing parish who would like to contribute to this review of how our local church is equipped in prayer, service and discipleship is most welcome to attend. The framework for the review is based on Robert Warren's influential book 'The Healthy Churches Handbook'. The day will be highly enjoyable, celebrating our current strengths, identifying those areas which might benefit from more focus and agreeing how we want to move forward.

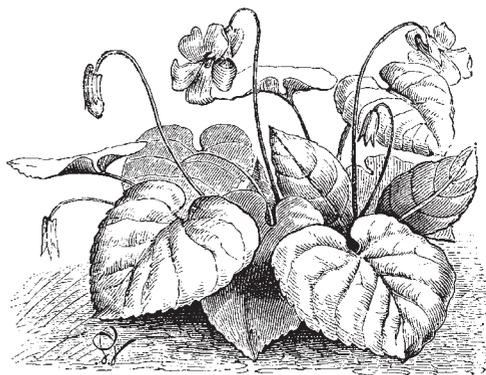
The day starts at 10am with coffee, and finishes mid afternoon. Please bring a packed lunch with you. Any queries, please contact either Jane Marchant on 01379 640502 or Ann Leitch on 07747 758308

Shelwins

Shelwins was formed in 2000 when, after the closure of first Winfarthing and then Shelfanger WI, there was felt to be a need for a ladies group. At our first get together, 26 ladies decided to meet every month, on the third Thursday at 7.30pm in Shelfanger Village Hall. Our next meeting is on the 21st March; our numbers remain steady, and we always welcome anyone from the villages.

Winfarthing Walkers

As Spring approaches the group continues its Wednesday morning rambles in the hope of sun, leaping lambs and bird song. If you would like to join them for a not too strenuous walk of 5-6 miles on the third Wednesday of the month contact Marion Williams on 01953 860535 or Ken and Di Barrell on 01379 642125.



Park Radio

Be part of it!

Park Radio, the local community radio station for Diss and the surrounding villages and towns returned to the airwaves from its studios at 18a Market Place in Diss on 26th November 2012 for its 4th 28 day broadcast on 87.7FM.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, including some well known local radio presenters, and funded by local advertisers and sponsors, Park Radio first took to the air at Christmas 2010. It provides local news, interviews, music including specialist evening music shows plus plenty of listener interaction. Also, programming time is allocated to the young people of the area to take a turn behind the microphone.

During its 4th 28 day broadcast last Christmas there were many ways for listeners to take part, enter the numerous on-air competitions as well as request music from its huge record library of over 10,000 tracks.

Response over the last 2 years from listeners and advertisers has been very positive. Over 4,000 people have signed the petition supporting a full time licence and Park Radio has been asked to attend many local events including Diss Town Carnival, Proms in the Park and Horham Steam Rally. Park Radio is also heavily involved in the Diss Town Christmas Lights switch-on.

Park Radio will be applying for a 5 year full-time license during 2013 with the support of the community - so that Diss can have its very own permanent radio station.

To get in touch, perhaps you would like us to attend an event you are organising, please email the station info@parkradio.co.uk visit the web site www.parkradio.co.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter @ParkRadioDiss

...and Footpaths

Readers may have seen in the EDP and Cock Crow a number of bits and pieces about footpaths around the county. This is because in 2028 the final footpaths maps will be created and fixed for ever. Anyone who walks round here will know, especially after this winter, ours are in a dreadful condition. If you might be interested in talking about this contact Alun Howkins as below. We need to stress this is not a matter of getting one person to take on the job; it needs a village effort

Contacts

Please don't hesitate to let me know of any thing happening in our village or parish. I am Alun Howkins and I can be found at Holly Farm Barn, The Street. For preference, material on e-mail alun.howkins@btinternet.com, phone 01379 652202 or just drop it round – I will type it and send it on. Copy before 8th May please



All Saints' Primary School

The school has enjoyed a busy couple of months. The start of the year saw heavy snow fall over Winfarthing, bringing much excitement to daily school life. Pupils worked collaboratively to make huge snowmen which remained on the school field for a considerable time due to the low temperatures.

Following the melting of the snow, pupils who won the competition to design a 'speeding' road sign enjoyed a press release with the EDP and with the Diss Mercury. Perhaps you have seen their signs as you drive through Winfarthing, encouraging you to maintain a maximum speed of 30mph!

To mark Shrove Tuesday, the Home School Association parents and the staff put on a pancake breakfast for every pupil. This was well attended and the children enjoyed a range of toppings including

strawberries and cream, syrup as well as the traditional lemon and sugar.

Just before half term, over half of the school enjoyed an inspirational visit to London to see *Shrek, the Musical*. Although a long day, it was a thoroughly enjoyable visit to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, to see this unique musical before it closes. Children, parents and staff are now exploring what they would like to see next year.

The half term finished with a Valentine theme. Children entered a cake competition and went to the school evening disco starring the DJ, Mr Moule.

Since returning from half term holidays, All Saints' pupils have enjoyed celebrating the Cross Country success of one of their pupils who came sixth in the South Norfolk race and twentieth in the County finals. Other sporting successes have included the netball team winning 11–3 against a local team and the football team winning 4–3. We wish them continued success with their future matches.

All Saints' now looks forward to the eight weeks ahead. Plans to date include a bake-off for Comic Relief, celebrating St Patrick's Day, and Easter egg lottery and the end of term Easter service.

If you would like to know more about All Saints' school, please contact us on 01379 642767 or by email executivehead@schoolpartnership.org and arrange to come and look around. We would love to hear from you.

Louise Norgate, Executive Head Teacher for All Saints' and St Andrew's Partnership

From the Registers

Bressingham Group

FUNERALS

Hilda Jessie Elizabeth James 30th January, South Lopham

Gladys Edith Knott 30th January, South Lopham

Margaret Joan West 6th February, North Lopham

John Sidney Musk 19th February, North Lopham

(Alphonso (Al) Torrance, lay reader
22nd February, Roydon)

Norman Edward Henderson 4th March, North Lopham

Albert (John) Pretty 12th March, Bressingham

Winfarthing Group

FUNERALS

Barbara Deakin 14th February, Burston

Joyce Fox 21st February, Shelfanger

Barbara Huggins 19th March, Gissing