

Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

Issue No: 4



Hollyhocks in a South Norfolk summer garden



Editors' Notice Board

Murphy's Rambles

Hello there, Murphy here again.

Well, frosts are long gone and the sea of dandelions has been replaced by daisies, buttercups and clover; in the hedges, cascades of hawthorn have given way to elderflower and wild roses.

We love going for walks when the sun shines on the dew and every blade of grass sparkles. We saw a mother water-hen escort her gangly legged brood to the safety of the ditch and then watched for our lone Muntjak. We marvelled at how the once spindly sugar beet soldiers marching across the fields get bigger every day. The hares no longer have to crouch to pretend they are clods of earth.

As soon as my lead is off my human counted the different wild flowers; 18 so far

and then a new one, a Bee Orchid. Nice, but can I have my breakfast before you look it up?

Onwards with the skylarks scolding us and cheeky Yellow Hammers demonstrating their amazing acrobatics; I bet we don't see the stoat again though.

Nearly home and just the Water Vole to check on; he's not worried by us at all.

Well folks, that's all for now. Remember, my doggy friends, keep taking your humans for lots of walks; it keeps them so healthy.



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the Editors think
you might like
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Friends of Boyland Common



More than a year has gone by since our official launch on 21st April 2012 and Boyland Common is regenerating well and looking lovely.

For those of you who have not yet found time to spend an hour or so up there, I would urge you to go and experience the peace and beauty for

yourselves. The Friends are trying to encourage people to explore the Common by cutting narrow pathways between the pedestrian access bridges and the log seating invites a quiet sit-down, just to enjoy the peace.

On September 7th 2013 we shall be holding our second Family Picnic event on the Common. We invite everyone to come along, with a picnic, to enjoy trying your hand at Archery, Kite Flying, Spinning Wool and other activities.

If you would like to know more about the Friends, or would like to become involved in some small way, ring Pam Ross on 01379 643563.

Would you like to give Morris Dancing a Try?

Wednesday, 11 September, 7.15 till 10pm in St Edmunds Hall, Hoxne, IP21 5AR

This is the date and the venue to mark in your diary if you would. We practice every Wednesday between September and the end of April. During the summer months we dance out in kit at a pub every Wednesday evening, and at various fetes and festivals and dance weekends.

During the year Hoxon Hundred Morris Dancers hold several of their own events. Shortly after Christmas you will see adverts for our very popular ceilidh in Hoxne Village Hall together with a feast of food, next will be the Hoxon Ale for Cotswold teams, May Day you will find our huge Cotswold team dancing on Fair Green to welcome in the dawn, the Mystery Tour is always fun on the first Bank Holiday in May, and our most successful event every year is the very popular Hoxon Weekend of Dance where up to 120 dancers meet for a gigantic event organised by Hoxon.

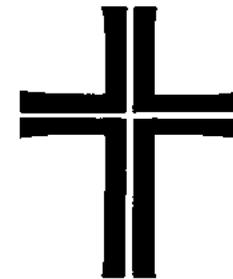
If you feel that keeping fit is a priority come along and have a go at Morris dancing. We dance several traditions. Clog step, Cotswold, Garland, and North West so there's plenty of choice.



Musicians are also welcome.

For more details of dancing, or if you would like to book us for an event please go to our website www.hoxonhundred.co.uk, or ring Jan 07799 225722 or Bunny 01379 650551.

The Diss Team Ministry writes...



Looking to the Future

One advantage of being a retired priest is that you can stand back and see the bigger picture of what is going on. When I was incumbent and rural dean I was so often caught up in day to day ministry that there was no time to sit back and just think about the overall picture.

Now we have six churches in this benefice and an excellent ministry team to provide for them it seems to me that a problem could just be around the corner. Curates leave, retired clergy may want to give up, illness is always possible so the team could be reduced by a third, or more, in a very short time. It raises the question that do we need so many services each Sunday? Do they have to be in so many churches? Sunday services take time to prepare, baptisms, weddings and funerals take much time, effort and pastoral care. Are we stretching our full time ministers too far?

The solution may well be that we only need one early Communion, one Evensong and those services could rotate around the churches. Is it necessary to have so many mid-morning services? We have to ask ourselves what is God's plan for this benefice and how do we discern that and have to grace to follow it – even if we have to give up what we like, what we are used to and having that in our 'own' church. There is great benefit in worshipping together.

We need to look at the bigger picture and pray to discern God's will for us and be prepared to make sacrifices – maybe it is your church or my church that is prepared to lead the way.

Rev John Curtis

Team Ministry Page

Rodger Aves People from all the churches send sincere sympathy to Millie Aves, on the untimely death of Rodger. We have all appreciated his kindly good humour and his contribution to all the other parishes as well as Bressingham.

Churchwardens' names are listed on the services page – thank you to all those who have been re-elected, and welcome to Millie Aves, who has taken on Rodger's role, and Jill Brundell who has joined the South Lopham team.

Evening Services Please look carefully at the times of Evening Services from mid-September. As the Harvest season gets under way, the 'country' parishes will move to 4pm for Evensong, so will be before the darkest part of the evening in the winter months; the Diss service will still be at 6pm.

Team Churches' Walk

Wednesday, 7th August, 2013, with Bishop Alan Winton (Bishop of Thetford)

Bishop Alan will be walking from South Lopham and visiting North Lopham, Fersfield, Bressingham, Roydon and Diss.

All are invited to join him for all or part of the journey either on foot or by car.

At each church, there will be a short act of worship and a variety of refreshments to keep you going.

- 09.00 South Lopham, 'The Gathering' – cold drinks – depart for N. Lopham (0.7m).
- 10.00 North Lopham, 'Penitence' – tea/coffee/cake – depart for Fersfield (2.00m).
- 11.30 Fersfield, Readings – Tea/coffee/cake – depart for Bressingham (2.2m)
- 13.00 Bressingham, Prayers – Lunch – depart for Roydon (1.9m)
- 15.00 Roydon, 'The Peace' – Tea/coffee/cake – depart for Diss (1.5m)
- 16.15 Diss, Eucharistic Prayer (Communion) – Tea/coffee

*Please note that walks from SL to NL, NL to F and F to B are across country, there are styles and possibly rough going, please wear appropriate footwear. Toilet facilities are available.

BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

Having reported on the loss of Rodger Aves in the last edition of Cock Crow it seems unbelievable that we are now mourning as a village the sad death of Barbara Brooke. Barbara died peacefully in Walcot Hall Nursing Home where she lived with her husband Paul. Barbara was a very well known face in Bressingham where many families will remember her with great affection for the kindness she showed to their loved ones. Her legendary Coffee Mornings raised money for the church and other good causes. Barbara served as churchwarden for many years, as did Paul, and did a tremendous amount to keep the church going, she was also a school governor and did amazing work for the Royal British Legion over decades. Her funeral service on 5th July was taken by Richard Hewitt.

On the 22nd June we welcomed a most unusual group of volunteers to the church. They came from the Waveney Archaeological Group to learn about Medieval Graffiti, which our church has in abundance, and were given instruction and an illuminating discourse by Matthew Champion. It is hoped that later in the year Matthew will hold a talk in the church to explain the history behind the graffiti and its meaning.

The work on the porch is on hold at the moment as the DAC have decided that by bringing forward our Quinquennial Report by a year, to this year, we can get a free survey of all the work needed on the whole of the building. This could result in major work being done – eventually – in order to preserve the building for generations to come. Watch this space.

This year's Harvest Supper, which we hold with Fersfield, will be in the Village Hall on Friday 27th September at 7.30pm. A two course meal will be provided and the tickets are priced at £6 each. Please bring your own drinks. Tickets are available from members of both churches and the Village Shop.

Does anyone have time on their hands, and more especially a hedge cutter? We are looking for some-

one to give the internal hedges a trim. Please contact either Millie Aves on 01379 687263 or me on 01379 688291 if you can help. We would be pleased to help with the expenses for this work.

Lastly, there is to be a Team Church Walk on Wednesday 7th August beginning at South Lopham church and ending at Diss. No one is expected to walk the whole route, although Bishop Alan Winton, Bishop of Thetford and Rev'd John Pares, Curate at Diss, do plan to! Refreshments will be available at every church and the approximate starting times from each church are as follows. South Lopham 9am, North Lopham 10am, Fersfield 11.30am, Bressingham 1pm, Roydon 3pm and hope to arrive at Diss at about 4.15pm. Please contact me if you want more details.

Diana – 01379 688291 or 0787 9692461

Village Hall

Family Evening is a new venture for Fridays. It's starting on Friday 26th July at 7.30pm for a couple of hours and will continue each Friday for the following few weeks as a trial. It is aimed at all the family including grandparents etc. but no young children on their own please. We will have some games to play if you wish or just sit and have a chat. There will be a bar and tea and coffee available. There will be no entrance fee. Just turn up. If this event proves popular we will continue with it.

Our next Quiz Night will be on the Saturday 14th September 7.30pm Bar open for 8pm start. £2.50 per person nibbles included. Tables of four. To book, call 01379 688375

Murder Mystery Supper 'Death by Chocolate' 21st September 7pm Bar open for 7.30pm Start. The food theme for the evening will be Chocolate. Entrance by Tickets only. Price £10 per person, please telephone 01379 688375 to book.

Archery There will be another 6 week session starting in September dates will be on the Bressingham and Fersfield website or details 01379 688375

Brenda Webb

FERSFIELD NEWS

On 18th May, the plant and flower ladies held a 'Spring Fair' in the church which raised £420 for the heating fund. Thank you Jan H and Pam O for your splendid plant and cake stalls and thanks also go to the ladies who manned the raffle, table top, tombola and to Jan S our very own indefatigable 'Teasmade'. Well done everyone!

There were two big events in the village in June.

On the 7th, Dorothy Montague celebrated her 80th Birthday at a garden party given by Richard and Jan Hewitt and held in their garden; party day was just perfect; delicious food, sunshine and friends, birthday cake and champagne. What more could be asked?

Then, on 22nd, Sophy Thompson and Douglas Johnston were married at St Andrew's. See Jan's report below.

On Sunday 30th June, all services for the six churches were held in St Mary's, Diss. The morning service was a very enjoyable sung Eucharist, taken by Rev. John Pares. You should try to attend a service at St Mary's; the choir is a real treat. For service times, ring the St Mary's office on 01379 643785.

Have an enjoyable summer,

Maureen



In June Sophie Thomson and Douglas Johnston were married in a packed St Andrew's amidst a sea of blue, white and cream flowers. The moving ceremony was performed by their friend, the Reverend Luke Foster, and – during the signing of the register – Amelia sang the Ave Maria and Gershwin's Summertime. The congregation then spilled out into the churchyard where photographs were taken

prior to Sophie and Doug leaving for the Reception in a horse-drawn carriage. The PCC is enormously grateful to the Thomson family for organising a retiring collection which has been donated to the heating fund.

Sir Robert du Bois is temporarily absent from St Andrew's while on loan to the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich for their exhibition 'Masterpieces : Art and East Anglia' which runs from 14th September until 24th February 2014.

The wood-floored area of the Church is currently our 'community space'. The Book Club runs there on the first Saturday of every month at 10.30am at least until 4th October; then it depends on the temperature! We are selling donated good-condition paperbacks/reference books/CDs for about 50p each; proceeds are added to the heating fund. Please, do come and browse, for a small donation there are cups of tea or coffee and biscuits too!

This year's Harvest celebration will be a joint Harvest Supper with Bressingham in the Village Hall on Friday, 27th September, at 7.30 pm, bring your own drink please. Tickets, at £6 for a two-course hot supper plus tea/coffee, will be available from Church members or the Village Shop. Harvest Festival in the Church will be on Sunday, 6th October, at 4 pm. At present, we believe this will be taken by Richard Hewitt and our Team Rector, the Rev. Tony Billett. More details nearer the time.

Jan

Parachute Jump for RNIB

In 2011, I was registered blind after being diagnosed with Retinal Pigmentosa or RP. This was a life-changing period for me and I was helped through it by the invaluable support and advice given by RNIB.

As a way of saying thank you to them, on 17th August, with my daughter Gemma, I shall be doing a sponsored parachute jump to raise funds for this fantastic charity.

If you would care to sponsor me, I would be very grateful. To make a donation, please visit my Just Giving page. <http://justgiving.com/Tracy-Brunelli>

Alternatively, you can ring Jan Sumpter on 687711 with any pledge of support.

Thanks, Tracy Brunelli

LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's Primary School

Finally, the sun has arrived and St Andrew's pupils are enjoying the summer term feast of activities.

Thank you to FOSTA, for organising a wonderful summer fayre! Despite the two o'clock down pour the event was successful, with parents enjoying 'Pimm's' and a barbeque and children ice-creams and cakes! The afternoon flew by with face painting, tattoos and a popular tug of war! Over £400 was raised!

Children have also enjoyed a wide range of enrichment activities this term. Years 5 and 6 enthused about their three day residential to Kingswood, all of Key Stage 2 about their trip to Great Yarmouth to further their learning about Nelson and Reception, year 1 and 2 a trip to Gressenhall to find out about farming and homes in the past.

The warmer weather has also enabled pupils to appreciate a number of sporting events. Year 5 and 6 took part in cluster athletics, while Reception, year 1 and 2 participated in the cluster sports day! This was in addition to the annual school sports day which included competitive and non competitive activities followed by a family barbeque or picnic.

All of the children in year 6 who took their cycling proficiency successfully passed, whilst talented year 4's attended an enjoyable poetry day at Diss High School.

St Andrew's now looks forward to hosting the partnership production of Shrek and taking part in the end of term leaver's service.

If you would like to know more about St Andrew's then please contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk and come and look around. We would love to hear from you.

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

FOSTA

Annual Lophams yard Sales

The Friends of St Andrew's School (FOSTA) are planning the annual yard sale on the 15th September 2013. Please have a clear out and have your own yard sale, raising some money for St Andrew's primary school and also for yourselves. FOSTA asks that 10% of any profit is donated to them.

There will be refreshments for sale at Bumble Cottage with the proceeds being donated to the Lopham Pre-school.

In the past year FOSTA's fundraising has allowed the purchase of 5 'ipads' for St Andrew's as well as new tables and chairs for discovery class.

St Andrew's Pre School

We welcome Jan Feaver as our new Pre School Assistant. She brings with her an extensive background in childcare, coming from Winfarthing Pre School. The children have taken to her instantly and we are really pleased to have Jan on board. We are looking forward to Summer fundraising events such as The Annual Lophams' Yard sale in September, with 'Bumble Cottage' serving bacon rolls and refreshments. We will report on the summer BBQ, 'GRILL and GAMES' at The Kings Head PH 21st July next time.

We have a number of free spaces coming up in September and remember we take children from age 2 (in nappies) up to school age. We plan to open Mondays to Thursdays 08.45-11.45, continuing until 15.15 on Thursdays. Do call in for a visit and chat with our friendly staff or contact Tonya direct on 07962 219523 or attwood145@btinternet.com

Lophams' Ladies

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

On a lovely sunny afternoon in June we were given a warm welcome when we visited Katharine and Jason's Suffolk Cheese Farm on the A140 at Creeping St Mary. We toured the farm, met all the family and finished off in the Farm Shop sampling and buying their delicious cheese and meat.

In early July we were given a very warm welcome at the home of Sylvia and Peter Coster where we all

enjoyed seeing their beautiful garden.

Many thanks go to all who baked cakes and helped man the stall at the May Farmer's Market. We made a profit of over £70. Also thanks to all who contributed in any way at the Jumble and Car Boot Sale where we made a profit of over £170.

On August 6th we look forward to Jennie telling us about the History of Lopham Linen. There will be a Bring and Buy table at this meeting. On September 3rd we have an Open Evening when the talk will be on 'The Mid Norfolk Railway'. Looking ahead into the early Autumn, on October 1st we have a talk on Bhutan entitled 'Thunder Dragon' given by Chris Parfitt.

We always welcome visitors and new members - please phone 01379 687337 for further details.

Lophams' Garden Club

Meets at Blooms Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

On July 3rd we were very pleased to welcome Tina and Ian Rimmer from Peter Beales Roses, who gave a presentation 'Taste the Roses'. They brought with them many varieties of roses to illustrate their different perfume, colour and shape, together with rose flavoured cordials, cookies, turkish delight and even vodka that Tina had made for us all to sample.

We are looking forward to our trip on Saturday August 10th when we shall spend the day at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens. The charge for this trip is £14.50 and for tickets and more information please telephone 01953 681989.

Our next meeting is on 4th September when we shall welcome Andy Bailey from Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre and on 2nd October our speaker will be Martyn Davey.

Lophams Society

On May 20th The Lophams' Society committee hosted a very enjoyable 'Meet and Greet' evening at The White Horse in South Lopham. All new residents of North and South Lopham were invited to a social get-together to meet up with other new residents and to find out what goes on in the Lophams. The atmosphere was relaxed and informal allowing plenty of time to chat and during the evening

we were joined by representatives from other local groups including The Lophams' Ladies and The Village Hall committee. It was also an opportunity to introduce new residents to The Lophams' Society and hopefully encourage them to come along to future events where they can now meet up with some familiar faces. Many thanks go to all at The White Horse who helped to make the evening a success and for providing a tasty buffet which was enjoyed by all.

A fine summer evening on the 6th July provided the perfect backdrop to this year's summer BBQ which had all the elements for an enjoyable village get-together. Bill Bedford and Mark Miller manned the BBQ and were ably assisted by a crack team of choppers, slicers and servers. The bar team were kept busy keeping thirsty villagers' vocal chords lubricated enabling them to join in with a mixture of music supplied throughout the evening by two local bands, Captain Kirk's Mandolins and Burning Indifference. For those with a little more energy Jim Pursehouse organised an impromptu rounders match (extra practice for the village games maybe). Despite the fact that several of the committee were unable to attend due to holiday commitments, sterling work on behalf of the other members and helpers both old and new, ensured that the evening went ahead as usual. At the end it was agreed that it had been a thoroughly enjoyable evening and thanks were due to all of those who gave their time and energy to make the evening happen and to all those villagers who turned up to support it.

Village Games

Many, many congratulations to the Lophams' team who retained their Breckland Village Games trophy at the competition in Watton in June, fighting off a strong challenge from Sporle, and a larger number of entrants overall, compared with 2012. They take best wishes from both communities as they go to the County finals in mid July. Special thanks go to Jim Pursehouse, chief encourager and the one who holds everyone together.

Holy Bingo continues through the holidays – first Monday of the month at 2pm in the village hall. Everyone is welcome – it would be great to have some extra young faces!

Lophams' Village Hall

We welcomed representatives from the Lophams' Society to the AGM in May, and hope to work a bit more closely with them in future. Any residents from either village with ideas for events they would like to hold at the hall are warmly invited to get in touch with any of the officers, who all remain in post (details on the website, or via Eileen on 01379 687608)

The Lottery is a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a big Bonanza draw in December. The May 1st prize of £192 was won by C Watson; second prizes of £48 each went to E Logsdail and K Wood. In June, the winners were: 1st Prize of £194, J Brown and 2nd prizes of £48.50 each, P Clark and L Quinn.

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, Coming Markets are 27th July & 24th August. 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 will provide information 07845 776110.

Lopham Art Group: meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £20 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from a tutor 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 01379 890955; or 07932 010720; 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 generally, visit the web-site at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk.

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council 10th July 2013

Apologies from Councillor Bird – six members of the public were present.

Co-option of councillor – two candidates applied – Mrs E Birchall and Mr D Hammond. Mr D Hammond was selected by a majority decision.

Replacement Parish Clerk the position will be advertised locally from 15th – 29th July 2013.

Rights of way tribunal will take place at the village hall on 3rd and 4th September 2013 plus a route walk on 5th if required.

Affordable housing – no progress.

Neighbourhood plan – fears expressed about cost/benefit. Planning applications may still be forced through. Information DVD will be circulated around councillors plus discussion with Mrs. J Farren-Bradley who has specialist knowledge.

20mph speed limit around school – N Lopham is on the list – await progress.

Letchmere drain has still not been cleared after further reminder to NCC.

Income from Bottle Bank - £254.72.

Highways and footpaths - Road surface redressing has been completed. A door to door approach to residents whose hedges impinge on footpaths will be adopted. A proposal to allow a remote area of the burial ground to become a conservation area will be investigated – report at next meeting. Dog fouling is worse again – signage to be renewed with threat of possible prosecution.

Highway Rangers – Anyone who has suggestions about tasks the HRs might tackle should contact the Parish Clerk.

Risk Assessment – Headstones inspected and deemed safe, pond fence sound.

Federation of St Andrew's school with All Saints, Winfarthing – process continues.

Speed Watch – one more volunteer required to get the scheme launched - anyone interested in being involved, please apply to Parish Clerk for details.

Correspondence – Breckland Council are recruiting canvassers; the advert will be placed on the village notice board. Two letters of complaint about

the state of maintenance of the burial ground were wrongly addressed to Mrs Vere. The burial ground, as opposed to the churchyard, is the PC's responsibility, its maintenance is ongoing and a major expense.

The Village Games sports team were congratulated on their recent success in retaining their title as 'Breckland Small Village' champions.

Next meeting – Wednesday 11th Sept. The Mess, St Andrew's School, 7.30pm.

North Lopham Methodist Church

A Project Group has been formed to preserve and continue to use this important Lopham building – the second oldest Methodist Chapel still in use in Norfolk!

On the 4th Wednesday each month at 10.30am (ie 28th Aug & 25th Sept) there will be a short service of worship followed by a Coffee Morning from 11.am till 12 noon with items for sale to raise money to support the ongoing activities planned for this building. All are welcome to join us for all or part of the morning. We look forward to seeing you.

St Nicholas' Church

Friday Night is SNYSB Night was a lovely evening full of Music and Fun with Mike Booty and the members of the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band on 7th June. It was great to have younger folk in the audience - Ben H. was surprised to be given the baton to conduct the final encore; Sam B. was so enthused that he is now SNYSB's youngest playing member! The event raised just over £200 for church funds, and we were able to send £30 to help the Band funds too.

Jean's Grand Summer Coffee Morning on Wednesday 3rd July, at Brecklands, was another happy occasion, using the bungalow and grounds to site all the stalls. There were excellent sales plus lots of happy chatter as the delicious eats were enjoyed. We are very grateful to everyone who helped in any way to make the morning such a success - the donors of plants, crafts and fashion items to sell, or of wonderful prizes in the Raffle, those who erected and dismantled the marquee and furniture, and those

who helped behind the scenes in the kitchen. Almost £600 was raised on the day, and the total has since grown to an amazing £620! Thank you especially to Jean and Chris.

The latest Hymn Marathon will take place on Saturday 3rd August, between 8.30am and around 5.15pm. There is still time to sponsor a hymn, in memory of a loved one or just because it's a favourite, right up to the actual day! All are welcome to come and sing along, especially in the afternoon, when favourites can be requested. Refreshments will be available throughout the day, thanks to our wonderful local helpers. See YOU there?

Teddy Bears' Picnic It has been wonderful to welcome new members to the church family during recent years, as children and babies have been brought along for Baptism

We would like to invite them all to come and meet each other at a very informal Teddy Bears' Picnic on Saturday 10th August between 2pm and 4pm. Mums, Dads and children are all invited – the only thing you need to bring is your Teddy (or other soft toy) and a rug to sit on. If the weather is kind, we'll play, chat and eat outside, but if not, we will use the back part of the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Holiday Club: After six years of holding two Clubs during the summer holidays, we have decided to combine forces with Roydon this time. The Club will meet each afternoon between 3pm and 5pm on Monday to Friday 19th to 23rd August. All those of primary ages from our villages will be made very welcome; there will be a whole team of adults on duty, and different activities to enjoy each day. To find out more, just ring 01379 687679 or 643599.

Services continue as normal during the summer months, but we are all invited to Diss Church on Sunday 11th August at 6pm for the BIG SING, when a packed church will raise the roof (and funds for charity too!) We hope all visitors to the region will come into the churches and find our traditional warm welcome. To those who are going away – safe travelling, and have a good time!

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church News

Coffee Morning Thank you to all who came to support the Coffee Morning on the 22nd May, we are pleased to report a total of £235.65 was raised.

Concert for the Organ Fund We were delighted to welcome the 'Thursday Night Ladies Choir' from Thetford again for a concert in the Church on Saturday 22nd June directed by Mary Rolton. The piano duets as last time with Trish Halliwell and Pip Jepson were outstanding as was the performance by Flautist Alan Howard who delighted us with the Carnival of Venice. The vocal duets of Melanie Settle and Polina Sosnina who sang the Flower Duet and Barcarolle were extremely beautiful as was the solo by Katie Howard, with the choir bringing a lovely evening to a close with Gershwin for Girls, It don't mean a thing and Evening Prayer. Refreshments were served in the interval and our thanks go to Cynthia for her help with this. Our thanks also go to Archie for arranging the concert and to the choir, the performers and to everyone who came to support this event. We are pleased to say £500.00 was raised for the Organ Cleaning Fund.

South Lopham Parish Council

South Lopham Parish Council met at Valley Farm, South Lopham on Thursday 11th July 2013. The Parish Council is amongst 5% selected at random for a more detailed spot-check of our procedures by the external auditors appointed by Norfolk CC. There were no planning matters of note however the Parish Council is trying to establish what impact intended central Government changes to the planning laws may have and what steps need to be taken to ensure that development within the parish takes into account need and the views of the community. The intended temporary closure of the A1066 to large vehicles and resurfacing of the pavement in the centre of the village due to have commenced in mid-June has not started. We are following up with NCC Highways to find out what is going on. Subsidence of Church road at the site of previous work by Anglian Water has been reported. It appears survey work

has been carried out so repairs should be imminent. Flooding at the South Lopham end of Primrose Lane has now been resolved by installation of a new drainpipe with co-operation from local landowners. The Breckland Community Rangers have carried out various works in the village including temporary pot-hole repairs, cleaning of signs and trimming of overgrown verges. Any resident who sees similar works that needs carrying out should please let the Parish Clerk know on 687950 or email clerk@southlopham.co.uk. Residents in more remote areas are encouraged to have the Grid Reference of their property near the phone to assist the emergency services in finding them. More information is on the Parish Website www.southlopham.co.uk. The Lophams' Village Sports team were Champions in

the Breckland District this year and on Sunday 14th July 2013 are challenging in the Norfolk County village games trying to better their position of 9th overall last year. Anybody who plays a sport such as badminton, rounders, carpet bowls, archery, football etc and would like to get involved contact jim.pursehouse@southlopham.co.uk Next meeting will be Thursday 12th September 2013 at 19:30hrs.

Friends of South Lopham Church

The Friends of South Lopham Church held a Slide Show at the Village Hall in May. Interesting slides of North and South Lophams' past were shown and coffee and cake was enjoyed by all.

The Friends hope to hold a Barn Dance in the autumn; please look out for further information.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen



Saturday 3 August 10.30am–1pm

Guided fen walk Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Saturday 10 August 10.30am–12.30pm
Wildlife Watch Group A club for 6–12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508

Sunday 11 August, 2pm–4.30pm
Summer at the Fen Guided walks, pond dipping, raft spider viewing, family trail and refreshments. £3 adults, £2 children

Saturday 17 August, 10am–3pm
Introduction to Wildlife Photography From wildlife photographer Kevin Sawford. £40 Booking essential 01473 890089

Sat 24, Sun 25 & Mon 26 August, 10am–4pm
Art Exhibition Art-work by local artists inspired by nature. Free entry. Refreshments available.



Summer holiday activities

Family events, Tuesdays, £2.50 per person
6 August, 2–4pm, Secrets of the sea
13 August, 10am–12noon, Butterflies & moths
20 August, 2–4pm, Treasure hunt.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Booking essential 01379 688333

Activity days, Wednesdays, £6 per child, £10 for 2 siblings

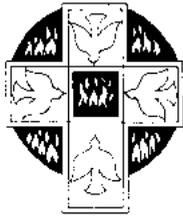
7 August, 10am–2pm, Bushcraft
14 August, 10am–2pm, Wetland adventure
Booking essential 01379 688333

Saturday 7 September 10.30am–1pm
Guided fen walk Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Saturday 14 September 10.30am–12.30pm
Wildlife Watch Group A club for 6–12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508

Saturday 21 September, 10am–4pm
Weave a willow tension tray Jane Jennifer, local professional basketmaker, using English willow. £35, plus £5 for materials on the day
Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 28 September, 10am–3pm
Botanical Illustration Looking at a range of illustration techniques with Christine Grey-Wilson. £25, £21.50 concessions. Booking essential 01473 890089



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

**BURSTON
GISSING
SHELFANGER
TIVETSHALL
WINFARTHING**

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

	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
August 4	9.30 MP	9.30 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
August 11	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 MW	(Join Gissing)	9.30 MP
August 18	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
August 25	6.00 4SS	(join Tivetshall)	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	9.30 HC
September 1	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
September 8	8.00 HC	(join Tivetshall)	11.00 MW	11.00 HC	9.30 MP
September 15	9.30 MP	9.30 HC	8.00 HC	11.00 Fl. Fest	10.00 VC H.
September 22	3.00 H	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	(join Gissing)	9.30 HC
September 29	10.30 HC 5/P				
October 6	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 H	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

EP Evening Prayer | HC Holy Communion | MW Morning Worship | 5/P Five Parish | FS Family Service | H Harvest | FS/Chp Family Service in Chapel | VC Village Church | MP Morning Prayer | Fl Fest Flower Festival

THE COCK CROW TEAM

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

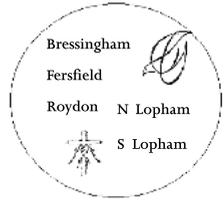
ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR
Lynda Sullivan, Rosario Cottage, Rectory Road,
Tivetshall St Mary NR15 2AL 01379 676713
copyforcrow@keme.co.uk Further details page 36

CORRESPONDENTS

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, Denning-
ton 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

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.



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 Aug 10 after Trinity	No Service	6pm ES	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service	
Sun 11th Aug 11 after Trinity	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 6pm FS ES	No Service	
Sun 18th Aug 12 after Trinity	6pm EP	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC	
Sun 25th Aug 13 after Trinity	10.30am With Meth	9.30am HC	11am FS	6pm ES	
Sun 1st Sept 14 after Trinity	No Service	6pm ES	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service	
Sun 8th Sept 15 after Trinity	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 6pm FS ES	No Service	
Sun 15th Sept 16 after Trinity	6pm ES	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC	
Sun 22nd Sept 17 after Trinity	10.30am with Meth	9.30 HC	11am FS	4pm? Harvest? TBC*	
Sun 29th Sept 18 after Trinity	Fifth Sunday – United Holy Communion at Diss at 10.30am for Harvest				
Sun 6th Oct 19 after Trinity	No Service	4pm Harvest	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service	

*Please Note that Harvest arrangements are still to be confirmed, so please check local notices from mid September. From Harvest onwards, Evening Services will be at 4pm

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

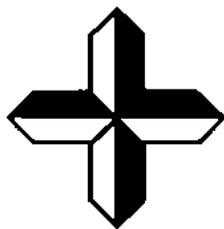
Morning Prayer: At present is at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday at North Lopham and Thursday at South Lopham in addition to the service held each weekday in St Mary's, Diss at 8.30am.

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 Millie Aves
Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711 R Vere 01379 687679
N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679
S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 D Huggins 01379 687201 J Brundell



‘Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path’

Psalm 119: verses 10–51

Inside the vestry to Newton Linford Church, in the County of Leicester, you will find a copy of a letter written by Lady Jane Grey to her sister, just before her execution. Newton Linford Church is the local Church for her family. In the letter, she writes to her sister that together with the letter she leaves to her the greatest gift that she possesses, her bible. Although young when she died, Lady Jane Grey was qualified in Greek, Hebrew and Latin, and was held in high regard as an up and coming Theologian in her own right. I have often pondered what would have happened if she had been allowed to be Queen for years as opposed to nine days; and Bloody Mary had not ascended to the throne?

I first read the scriptures in my late teens, and have always found them to be a constant and unchanging reflection upon life in all its fullness, its joys, pitfalls and hardships which have been ever present. No other book claims to be one God breathed upon (2 Timothy: chapter 3 and verse 16) and then backs it up with Christ’s death and achievements which stem from the cross. The more I understand from the scriptures and what they teach me about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the easier I find it to understand about human conflict, wars, greed and myself; how far I have travelled and how far I still need to go.

If you wanted to read the scriptures for yourself, you will find it easier to read first of all the New Testament, starting with the Gospels of Mark and Luke, followed by Matthew and John. Ask yourself the simple question, what does this passage say about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? How does it apply today in my situation? Read a small section and reflect upon it. But beware, the scriptures are God breathed upon, anything could happen, your life could even be transformed. Be open to God and the promptings of his Holy Spirit.

Rev David F Mills

BURSTON NEWS

St Mary’s Burston

On Sunday 30th June, Burston was an open village. The Friends of Burston Church organised a big village event, which included 15 gardens open to visitors, a dozen garage sales and an eco-house. There was an impressive display of classic cars on the green, and a steady stream of refreshments in the church. The Strike School was open and many of the 158 visitors enjoyed the video showing the history of the strike. We made over £800, which will go towards the upkeep of the church building. Very many people were involved in making this so successful, and thanks go to all, but in particular to Norma for co-ordinating everything.

The next renovation work in the church is lime-washing the walls – this will be taking place in July (and should really make our lovely building look much smarter). We hire out the church for events, and our crockery, cutlery, tables etc are also available to hire, for a small charge – Anne Hyde is the contact person for this: 07733 182525.

If you would like to be more involved in helping us organise Friends’ events, do get in touch.

Rachel Hobson 01379 741033

We are having our annual Gift Day in St Mary’s on Saturday 24th August from 10 am to 4 pm. We are very grateful for all the money raised by the Friends of Burston Church, but of course this does not in any way go towards the church’s ministry. The Friends do a wonderful job in fund-raising – but everything they raise goes towards the upkeep of the building (including expensive insurance). Money donated on Gift Day goes towards maintaining St Mary’s as a ‘live’ church. Thank you, in anticipation of your generous support. May you be blessed in your giving.

Dorothy Swanton

PS You will soon be getting a letter from the church which will go into more detail about our financial situation.

The start of a new Parish Council year...

We have four significant projects under-way with two of them being based on the playing field for

which Christine Stevens is our lead Member. We are fortunate to have the playing field as an amenity under our control, and for use by all, and the current development projects will keep it that way.

The first project aims to create a community garden and is under the control of Terry King. A committee reporting to Council has been created to manage this project with inputs from non-members and an officer from South Norfolk Council. The planning for this project is at an early stage and great care will be taken in its design to ensure that it is both sympathetic to, and adds value to this much loved amenity.

As part of the project we are looking at a proposal to embody within the community garden an aspect which will align with the nation-wide movement to commemorate the 1914 anniversary of the start of the First World War. External funding will be sought for the project.

The second playing field project is aimed at reviewing the condition and suitability of the play equipment with a view to its development. This project is being led by Nigel Frankland and will include the use of external experts on play equipment to ensure that we make the right decisions and protect the interests of our local children well into the future. Again, external funding will be sought.

The third project sets-out to protect our local network of bridleways and footpaths. This project has particular importance at this time due to the cessation of maintenance work formerly delivered by Norfolk County Council. This project, under the leadership of Keith Lankester, will entail a mapping exercise, the identification of local land owners, an assessment of the condition of our network of public rights of way and plans to address the issues. Do please let Keith know of any problems that you are aware of so that he can record them for attention.

Due to the size of the problem and Council’s resources, we need to prioritise the actions we take.

The poor and deteriorating state of our highways and verges is giving much cause for concern, and together with Nigel Frankland, I will be meeting with BOCM Pauls and Norfolk County Council Highways soon to discuss the problems and agree solutions. This is our fourth key project.

Len Hobson, Chairman

Community Primary School

It has been another busy half term in class 1. Our theme has been fantasy worlds so we have been creating work about dragons, princesses, superheroes, aliens and so on. We are about to take part in our first whole school 'Activity week', the theme of which has been chosen by the children. We will spend the week learning more about 'spies, machines and gadgets'. This week will include a trip to the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation museum in Flixton.

We have been talking a lot about changes and preparing the children for their transition to the next year group. This means we have also been joined, on some afternoons, by the pre-school children who will be welcomed into our Reception class in September.

In Class 2 this term we have all been working very hard. We have continued to learn about the Ancient Greeks focusing on Greek soldiers and battles, home and school life for boys and girls and Greek Theatre. We have used our Greek costumes during drama and performed on the outdoor stage. We have created Greek pottery Art and Greek urns. We have also planted our own sunflower seeds and tracked their progress over the last few weeks. We looked at the 'Sunflowers' painting by Vincent Van Gogh and painted our own versions. They look great! We have been continuing to work hard every week on our literacy and maths and are learning our times tables every day. We all loved taking part in Sports day at our partnership school even though it was a very damp day! In particular we are looking forward to taking part in our Spies and Gadgets activity week. It's going to be lots of fun!

Our year 5 and 6 children took part in a rounders tournament at Diss High school recently and came away with medals after winning every match! A few children attended the Norfolk book festival in Norwich last week. They had a lovely day and listened to some interesting authors. Most of the children have been helping to design the Friendship area, and making daisy chains to decorate and to promote friendship. They have been busy planting flowers and growing vegetables, and even managed to harvest the radishes and were able to have a taste too. Class 3 have been learning about WW2, and as part of this they acted out the whole class being evacuated and being sent to live with complete strangers.

Borderhoppa



Are you missing out?

Stuck at home in the sunshine, wishing you had some somewhere nice to go?

Why not come on one (or more) of the Borderhoppa outings?

This year our members have enjoyed trips to Gt Yarmouth, Stowmarket, Lowestoft, Gorleston, Pulham Garden Centre and lunches at The White Horse, Stoke Ash and The Half Moon, Rushall. Outings to look forward to, with trips to Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, Wroxham, Rushall Gardens, Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Beccles, Ely, boat trips on the Broads and pub lunches.

Why not become a member, join the others and make some new friends, on one or more days out?

Membership is free, all you pay for is the trip. For an application form, call our office Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm on 01379 854800. Or email: borderhoppa@btconnect.com

If you don't fancy a day out but would just like to book a trip for shopping, doctors etc, then give us a call. We also hire our mini buses for private hire days, evenings and weekends.

Our next outings are:

- Mon 5th Aug Rushall Gardens, £23 (includes entrance to the garden, lunch, tea & cake)
- Mon 12th Aug Southwold, £15
- Mon 19th Aug Yarmouth, £17
- Mon 2nd Sept Beccles, £12
- Mon 9th Sept Waveney Stardust, Ludham, £23 (includes boat trip)
- Mon 16th Sep Pulham Garden Centre and lunch at Jolly Farmers, £12 (lunch extra)
- Mon 23rd Sept Norwich, £14
- Mon 30th Sept Wroxham, £16

GISSING NEWS

Farewell to Beryl

Villagers gathered in Church on 5 July to say a final goodbye to Beryl Handley, a popular lady with a sunny personality and a great sense of humour, who will be much missed. She and her husband, Arnold (known as Tom), moved here from Essex on their retirement in 1984 and participated wholeheartedly in village events. Beryl was involved with the Church where she would often arrange flowers or take part in the service. She was a member of the WI, NAD-FAS and Diss Luncheon Club. She loved her garden, theatre and ballet, and was never happier than when entertaining her many friends. She was kind, caring and devoted to her family, looking after Tom when his health failed and helping her daughter, Clare, to get back on track after a serious illness. When her own health began to decline she dealt with it in a positive way and showed great courage, remaining more interested in others than in her own difficulties. Looking back on recent years and seeing how Beryl kept things together, I'm sure that all her family, of whom she was very proud, would join me in saying 'Job well done'.

GH

Friends of Gissing Church

On 15th June the Friends were delighted to welcome the Gissing Singers to the Church for their first public concert. The event was well supported and the audience was treated to a wide selection of music from folk to classical to pop. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and the singers really rose to the occasion. The Friends thank the group, and in particular their conductor Andrew Pierssene, for their support and also thank all those who contributed refreshments. The concert also raised over £200 for Church funds.

The Group has a number of ambitions, but a key one remains the provision of adequate heating to allow us to make full use of the space during the colder months. The Group is currently exploring a number of options and whilst at the moment electric heating looks like the clear favourite all ideas would be

welcome, especially from anyone with experience of heating a large space like this. The Group plans to hold a meeting later in the year specifically to discuss this issue.

The Friends are planning to have a bottle stall at the Gissing Fete – donations for this stall would be most welcome together with any further ideas on fund raising that we could undertake as part of this event: donations or ideas to Fiona Turton, Moat Meadow Farm or Eddie Scoggins, The Old Bakery.

Eddie Scoggins (*Hon Sec*)

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. The charity 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, please contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 or email admin@heartofgissing.org.uk. Please visit the new Heart of Gissing website at www.heartofgissing.org.uk for up to date information about groups, events and what is happening in the centre of the village. Please note – our AGM will now be held at 7.45 pm on Monday 9th September 2013 at the Heart of Gissing Community building (The Old School). Please do come along and find out what has been happening over the last year and forthcoming plans. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome.

Forthcoming fundraising events include:

The Gissing Country Fayre on August 25th from 2 pm to 5 pm will have a rural life theme this year and be another fun-filled afternoon for all the family with free admission. Special features will include the Raptor Trust flying display, live music, scarecrows,

traditional fete games, children's games, tombola, burgers and hot dogs, teas, cakes and ice-cream, garden produce and herbs, bric-a-brac. Rural theme competitions will include: best scarecrow, best rural dress, best rural design cake and bumper raffle prizes.

For further information, please contact Kelly on 01379 674511.



A three day event is proposed in August, with a flower festival, including cake stall, in the Church spanning the long weekend. The church will be open on Saturday 24th from 11am to 4pm, on Sunday 25th from 2pm to 5pm and on Monday 26th from 11am to 4pm.

Groups running at present include

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

Gissing Baby and Toddler Group Group runs in Gissing Village Hall, Rectory Road, Gissing every Monday morning from 10am to 12 noon (new times). For information about the group, 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 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 berniecalton@live.co.uk

Gissing Reading Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm at the Old School. For further information about the group, please contact Jim Philip on 01379 677352 or just come along.

Gissing Gardening Group On Wednesday, 18th September, at 7:30pm, the Gissing Garden Group will be hosting a programme on Commonwealth War Graves around the world. The programme will be presented by Chris Heath, Gissing resident, who worked with the war graves commission for many years. Admission will be £2.50 (as for all Garden Group meetings and events). This will be a special programme, expected to attract a large audience, and advance booking may be necessary. More details will appear in local media nearer the time of the event. Questions regarding the evening may be addressed to Joe Cromley, on 01379 677817.

Gissing Singers meet every Monday at 7.30pm in Gissing Village Hall; further information 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 various dance classes to children (from 3yrs of age) and adults at the Children's Centre (the Old School) and from Gissing village hall. Contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email samiwatt@rocketmail.com or visit www.hegartyschoolofdance.co.uk

Weekly Musical Theatre Class runs every Wednesday from 5 pm at Gissing Village Hall for anyone over 7 years of age. Contact Sam as above.

Heart of Gissing Community Arts Group Queries about this group can be directed to Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or rose@roseeddington.co.uk.

Stage HOGers This local theatre group puts on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email samiwatt@rocketmail.com

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

Over 60s Group contact Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email 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 01379 677300 (9am–3pm Monday to Friday term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours.

Gissing Children's Centre

This popular and successful Pre-School, with its very special family ethos, runs Monday to Friday during term time. The Pre-school runs two, 3 hour long sessions per day where children can attend from 9 am to 12 noon and/or from 12 noon to 3 pm each day. Early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions and the Pre-school is now an accredited setting able to offer a limited number of funded places for eligible 2 year olds. Children can attend unaccompanied from 2½ years to 5 years old. Any families wishing to bring their children and come and have a look, are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9 am - 3 pm during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or to send enquiries to email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange a visit at a time of your choice. We start back on 5th September – but enquiries are welcome over the summer holidays by email or to the out of hours mobile. Please note that spaces are filling up for the 2013/2014 school year, but the Pre-school operates a working waiting list so will aim to meet your requirements, and reserve places, wherever we can.

Finally, we send our love and good wishes with all 27 of the children from the Pre-school, who will be starting school in September 2013.

SHELFANGER NEWS

All Saints' Church

The period just past and the period to come have been and will be extremely busy at your Church.

Sunday 9th June saw the final service to be taken by Reader, Frank Paice in the Winfarthing benefice after his move to Norwich with his wife, Sue. At this service they had to endure a role reversal as they were subjected to a fun quiz. The 5 parish choir sang an imaginative version of 'Thank you for the music'. Frank was able to choose and play his 3 favourite hymns; the lesson from the Epistle to Timothy was also Frank's choice.

The service was followed by a hog-roast and get-together at the village hall, providing not only good food but also a real chance to talk and reminisce.

We thank all who helped to organise these events which left Frank and Sue really overcome and moved.

See below for Frank and Sue's letter to you all.

Now to the period to come – as well as the usual weekly services of worship, Saturday 14th September sees the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride. This event raises funds for all types of churches and is a lifeline for those in need of repair. If you would like to know more – or even to get on your bike, please contact Roger Challoner on 01379 642286.

On Sunday 6th October at 11am we shall have a glorious service of Harvest Festival, followed on Monday 7th with a sale of produce from the bus shelter starting at 2pm.

Friday 11th October is the date to keep free for the next of Shelfanger's Church Concerts.

Village Hall

Preparations are in full swing for the Shelfanger Village Fete with Tig and Jane Ross enthusing us all – well done them. Results and more news in the next issue.

The annual Flower and Vegetable, Homecraft and Handicraft Show will be held on Saturday 24th August. If you have not had a schedule, or would like more details, contact Colin Mobbs on 01379 644859.



The organisers of the Monthly Dances are sad to say that they have come to an end, partly due to falling attendance but mainly due to the increasing age of the organising team to whom 1.30am finishes after clearing up are no longer appealing. The last in a long line was held on Saturday 23rd June.

Real, real thanks to the core team of Ivan Cotton(77), Derek Lord(84) and Ray Leeder(80) who have helped to provide much pleasure to many from the local area. Thanks also to Jill, Vicci, Graham and all those who have manned the bar at these dances.

Perhaps the dances could arise again – with another team?

Village News

Congratulations to Ray Leeder on having just passed the great 'Eight-Oh' milestone.

The Great Shelfanger Garage/Yard Sale

To be held on Sunday 15th September. If you wish to join in, email Keith Day on keith@kfd-architects.co.uk

Parish Council

We have been successful in securing some of the Norfolk County Council's 'Parish Partnership' funding.

Following the accidents in the village earlier in the year, a bid was put in for a Vehicle Activate Sign (VAS) to be placed on the northern approach to the village. 75% of the cost will be met from this fund while the rest has to be found by the Parish Council.

If anyone wishes to make a donation towards this, please contact any of the Parish Councillors.

It is hoped that this will make motorists more aware of their speed when entering the village. During the recent trial, when motorists saw the mobile Speed Awareness Machine (SAM) on the B1077 roadside, almost all reduced their speed significantly so it is hoped that the VAS will have the same impact.

Our warmest thanks....

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who came to bid us 'farewell' at All Saints' Shelfanger and the village hall on Sunday 9th June, and for the wonderful gifts we have received.

For more than thirty years we have lived in Shelfanger. Mary and Samuel grew up there and we progressed from being a 'young couple' to what we hope is a reasonably dear pair of old things (to borrow a phrase from Henry Blofeld!)

At the heart of our family's life in the village has been the parish church, providing us with a worshipping community, a fellowship of very special friends and even quite a lot of hard work! In the wider village, we have benefitted from having wonderful neighbours; we have found friendship, support and encouragement and a rich vein of experience down through the years. There could not have been a better place to bring up our children, or for thirteen years to care for Frank's parents, and our many friends and relatives visiting us from far and near have always felt the welcome and warmth of both church and village.

We have moved to Norwich for both work and leisure reasons, and because it was time for us to begin a new chapter. In the near future, we expect to be making a decision about settling in a city church. Meanwhile, 13 Alexandra Road, NR2 3EB will always have a cup or a glass of something ready for any from Shelfanger and the benefice who care to drop in. Drop us an email on s.paice@btinternet.com or give us a ring on 01603 623009 first, and we'll tell you how to find us.

For now, thank you for the service, the wonderful party, the cards, the signed football and Norwich City tour and the truly generous cheque, which is set to buy us a really de-luxe freezer.

TIVETSHALL NEWS

St Margaret's Church

Flower Festival

There is still time to be involved in the flower festival to be held in the church on the weekend of 14th and 15th September. Apart from those who have volunteered to do an arrangement we also need parishioners to man the church and refreshments over the weekend. Donations for the raffle and homemade/home grown stall would be most welcome. Any books you would like to donate would be appreciated. If you would like them to be collected, or can help in any way, please ring Maggie on 01379 674116 or Maureen on 01379 677541.

On the Sunday both the Harvest Festival produce and any donations from the arrangements will be sold and proceeds divided between the church and Tear Fund.

Christmas Quiz

This will be held on December 7th in the village hall. More details to follow later, please keep the date free.

Village Hall

At our last Committee meeting we agreed to fund a number of projects in and around the hall, some are essential maintenance and others are improvements that we have been 'saving up' for. We invited some user groups to a meeting to get their feedback on one of the improvements, which is to be a controlled sound system. The discussion was extremely useful in guiding us to the sort of system we would require and we are extremely grateful to those who attended especially to Simeon Playford for his technical expertise.

The resulting system will be designed to provide a hearing loop within the hall combined with a means of projecting voices of those attending public meetings, question masters at quiz nights, bingo callers, dance callers and actors in school plays. It

will also be able to play music for the children's play groups, soundtracks from films, music for the various groups that hire the hall from relaxing tracks for yoga to modern music for dance groups. It is hoped that this will improve the sound quality for these groups and mean they do not have to rely on small portable CD players or hiring sound systems and setting them up every year as the school does for their nativity play.

There are a number of other projects that the committee would like to undertake to improve the hall's facilities (one of them being improvements to the catering facilities) and we would be interested to hear from any hirers or potential hirers as to improvements they would like to see.

There is potential to gain funding for certain projects and we have had discussions with our local council officer who believes we have a good case to make considerable improvements to our village hall.

Of particular interest to the committee would be any one who has good organisational and communication skills and a wish to do something to assist in improving the facilities for the village. If you are that person and can spare a few hours a month to join our current group of volunteers, please contact David Evans on 01379 676723 with your help and enthusiasm we can make it happen.

Community Primary School

We began May with another ICT morning at Roydon, this time for Year 1 where we were represented by Aidan and Lewis. They learned a lot and came back using long words like algorithm! Their behaviour was also a credit to the school.

The netball team continued their very successful season with another victory, this time with an 8-6 victory against Pulham. Two days later we enjoyed a brilliant post-SATs party organised by Year 6. There was lots of food, great party games and very smart party clothes.

Despite the miserable weather we still enjoyed our annual Teddy Bears' Picnic, with many families, and teddies, attending. This special event welcomes

our new intake of children before they begin formal induction. If you were unable to attend but may be looking for a school for your child please ring the school on 01379 677350.

Class 1 will now know exactly what to do when it comes to electrical safety, having spent an exciting day learning about what uses electricity; how to make circuits and earning their electrical safety badge. The following week they went on a coach to Burston school to pass on everything that they had learned.

Diss librarian, Sally Blows, came in to talk to us about The Summer Reading Challenge which this year has a very creepy theme. We like to support this initiative as children can fall back a little in reading over the summer and this is an enjoyable and inexpensive way to keep 'reading muscles' working!

The theme of the flower arranging competition this year was 'My Dad'. All of the children did exceptionally well and the overall standard was very high. Age group winners were Milly Chamberlain, Kieran Parkinson and Holly King with the silver cup for overall winner going to Holly. This cup has been awarded every year for 63 years and is engraved with many names that will be familiar to people from the village.

The whole school walked down to the site of the new housing development as we have been chosen to name the road. After much thought, discussion and a vote they chose to name it Queen Elizabeth Road.

Despite terrible weather we still persevered with some parts of Sports' Day. The children from both schools took part in activities including javelin, netball, football skills, target shooting and standing long jump and had time for egg and spoon races for all children, toddlers and parents before moving on to rather soggy picnics and an afternoon of stalls and other activities including a concert by Archbishop Sancroft Band; many thanks to them for making the day extra special. We estimate that we made around £130 for school activities.

We completed the netball season with a 15-5 victory against Bressingham. We are sorry to say goodbye to Thomas and Tia but congratulations to Year 3's Leah and Vikki who played so well in their first match.

Sandra Potter

WINFARTHING NEWS

Village Hall

No news at present on the work but we are still seeking more grant aid for the hall, especially the third 'phase'; volunteers are always needed and very welcome, whatever they can contribute to the project. If you can help in anyway contact Granville Horan on 01379 640355 or Nick Griffiths on 01379 643718.

Winfarthing Walkers

Summer has finally arrived and the group continues its Wednesday morning rambles in search of sun and fitness. 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.

...and Footpaths (again)

I said in the last issue (and before) that 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 that, especially after this winter, ours are in a dreadful condition. A couple of people have now contacted me, so my offer in the last issue still stands. If you might be interested in talking about the state of footpaths etc contact Alun Howkins below. We need to stress this is not a matter of getting one person to take on the job – it needs a village effort... BUT it needs more than TWO.

Winfarthing PCC

Many thanks to our retiring PCC Secretary, Merle Darnell, who has for many years taken note of our meetings in short hand. You will be sorely missed Merle. Every good wish for your future projects.

Cockney Sing-a-Long

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our September 28th sing-a-long has had to be postponed.

We hope to hold this at a later date.

Contacts

Please don't hesitate to let me know of anything 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 7th September please.

All Saints' Primary School

Thank you to the Home School Association, for organising a super vintage summer fayre! The event was a great success with families enjoying three legged and wheel barrow races and a friendly tug of war! Pulled pork or Mediterranean pittas were consumed by many along with ice-creams and scones – made by the children! Over £600 was raised!

Children have also enjoyed a wide range of enrichment activities this term. Years 5 and 6 enthused about their three day residential to Kingswood, year 3 and 4 about a visit to Strangers Hall to enhance their Tudor learning and Reception, year 1 and 2 a trip to Gressenhall to find out about farming and homes in the past.

The warmer weather has also enabled pupils to appreciate a number of sporting events. Year 5 and 6 took part in cluster rounders and athletics, while Reception, year 1 and 2 participated in the cluster sports day! This was in addition to the annual sports day which included competitive and non competitive activities followed by a family barbeque or picnic.

Proudly All Saints' hosted the partnership cycling proficiency, with a continued high success rate for year 6 children, whilst talented year 4's attended an enjoyable poetry day at Diss High School.

All Saints' now looks forward to being part of the partnership production of Shrek and taking part in the end of term leaver's service at St Mary's Winfarthing.

If you would like to know more about All Saints' then please contact the school on 01379 642767 or by e-mail head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk and come and look around. We would love to hear from you.

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

Diss Library



The library Summer Holiday Reading Challenge for children

This is well under way, but there's still time to join and complete the challenge of reading 6 books. The theme this year is 'Creepy House' with a poster and top trump cards for everyone who joins and stickers to win as you read the books. Many of our local schools, including High Schools, have targets for the number of books pupils read and this is one way of getting a head start for the Autumn term

Clubs

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.

Bank Holiday

All Norfolk libraries will be closed for the August Bank Holiday on Monday 26th August. 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

From the Registers

Winfarthing Group

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Paul Vincent 21st June, Tivetshall

FUNERAL

Beryl Handley 5th July, Gissing

Bressingham Group

BAPTISMS

Tyler Tony Henderson 7th July, North Lopham

Anaya Rose Lister 14th July, North Lopham

WEDDING

Sophie Thomson & Douglas Johston
22nd June, Fersfield

FUNERALS

Barbara Brooke 4th July, Bressingham

Margaret (Peggy) Hogg 16th July, North Lopham

David Hamilton 18th July, Fersfield

Wendy Sabina Burrows 19th July, Fersfield

Betty Cartwright 23rd July, North Lopham
