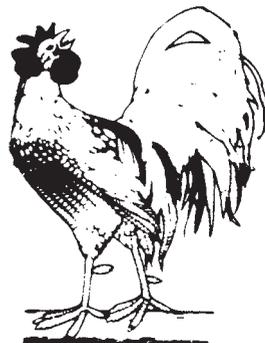


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

APRIL/MAY 2014

Issue No: 2



Modern crosses – radio antennae on a rig supply vessel

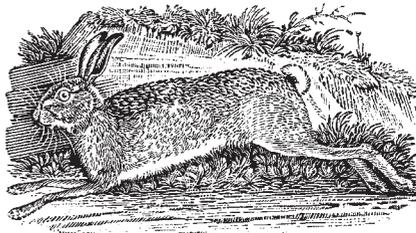
Editors' Notice Board

Murphy's Rambles

Hello folks! Well, I must confess I have had my fill of rain, mud and puddles. No, I haven't changed that much it's just the extra baths because I'm muddy and as for that smelly white foamy stuff she uses on me – yuk!

Anyway here are some of the things that have made my human smile despite the muddy paw prints:

- Walking in freezing fog and coming home white instead of black.
- Finding a mouse's nest and missing 3 mice escaping via the back whilst my nose was in the front door.
- Regularly sharing our morning walks with 3 deer, so close one day that we could see the colour differences in their coats. How do they keep their rumps so white?
- Being pelted with rain and hail one afternoon, but being rewarded with a complete double rainbow.
- Bushes full of catkins, pussy willow and hawthorn leaves coming out, cherry blossom, snowdrops, aconites, crocuses, violets, primroses & daffodils.
- The hares are back as well, busy 'boxing' so we pass unnoticed; but best of all we have seen the barn owl twice.



Well bye for now – please watch out for toads on the roads, they are just coming out and have no road sense at all!!!



Other items
the Editors think
you might like
to know about

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Saturday 5 April, 10.30am–1pm
Guided fen walk Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with naturalist John Hill. £3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Tuesday 8 April, 2pm–4pm
Spring and sunflowers family afternoon Celebrate spring with activities and crafts and make or decorate a pot to plant a sunflower. £2.50 per person Booking essential 01379 688333

Wednesday 9 April, 10am–2pm
Wild about art activity day For 6–10 year olds Use natural materials for a big outdoor creation and try printing, sculpting and painting. £6 each or 2 siblings for £10. Booking essential 01379 688333

Sunday 13 April, 10am–3pm

Plant Sale

Annual event with a wide variety of plants from over 20 award-winning and specialist nurseries. Plus second hand tools and donated plants. £1.50 adults, children free. Hot and cold refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome.



Tuesday 15 April, 2pm–4pm
Easter egg quest family afternoon Trail, crafts and egg activities for the family. £2.50 per person. Booking essential 01379 688333

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

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

Tuesday 27 May, 2pm–4pm
Flower power! family afternoon Flower spotting, folklore and a flower butterfly feeder to make. £2.50 per person. Booking essential 01379 688333

Journey Through the Ages

Vintage Rally & Country Fair

Goodrich Park, Palgrave

Saturday 21st June (10am–6pm)

Sunday 22nd June (10am–5pm)

Admission:

£6 adults, £4 for children (aged 4–16)
Free parking, and dogs are welcome

This years event will offer

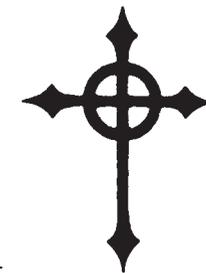
Viking re-enactment groups
Steam engines: full-size and model
Vintage vehicles • Countryside crafts
Donkey rides • an auto-jumble
Vintage fairground • Dog show with agility ring and a flyball course
Trade stands • fairground organs
Vintage & modern commercial vehicles
Car clubs • licensed bar



Anyone interested in either exhibiting a vintage vehicle or trading at *Journey Through The Ages* can contact the organisers at vintage.rally@gmail.com or thunderburst@hotmail.co.uk.

Further information can also be found on the Facebook page or website www.throughtheages.co.uk

Upper Waveney Benefice Canon Tony Billett writes...



The Dance of Easter Joy

Joy tickles the toes as well as the tongue. It's not just words and music that can express joy – dancing can be equally effective, and not just the physical sort. The heart is able to dance when joy is in the air, especially at Easter time. In Medieval times it was not unusual to think of the Christian life as a dance, and Jesus as the Lord of the Dance. Medieval people believed that Jesus of Nazareth entered the dance at Bethlehem in order to bring humankind back into the same dance rhythms that God moves by; showing people that the real dance called life must be about quick and slow moves but always within an ordered and rhythmical style. Some of course thought his 'moves' to be too much of a dance macabre, especially when it ended as it did on Good Friday, but others were more taken by the quickened tempo that took place three days later. These people came to understand the quickening of pace not only to be joyful but an invitation to the rest of us to join in.

At Easter time Christian people remember their Lord of the Dance and his invitation to join him in real living; they reflect upon where their own life has been going and see it in the shadow of his Dance Macabre and quickened tempo, and so face their own lives differently as a result. 'Christ danced through death' they cry, and with energy of heart, intelligence of mind, and suppleness of imagination they enter the dance with a new and exciting tempo. A dance, they quickly grasp, not for the 'go it alone', or for those worried about making mistakes in the footwork, but a dance for the joyful whose pains and sufferings have been turned into a purposeful rhythm of joy.

For the message of Easter is 'Dance, where ever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance said He, and I'll lead you all where ever you may be, and I'll lead you in the dance, said He.'

Happy Easter

Canon Tony Billett

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM for Bressingham, Fersfield and the Lophams will be held in Bressingham Primary School on Wednesday 9th April, at 7pm. At this meeting there will be reports on church life during the last twelve months, and the election of parochial church councils (PCCs) for the coming year.

Meetings to elect churchwardens are held in each church prior to the APCM, and most results will be reported next time.

Goings and Comings

Our curate, the Revd John Pares, leaves Diss at the end of April for Pokesdown near Bournemouth. We wish him well.

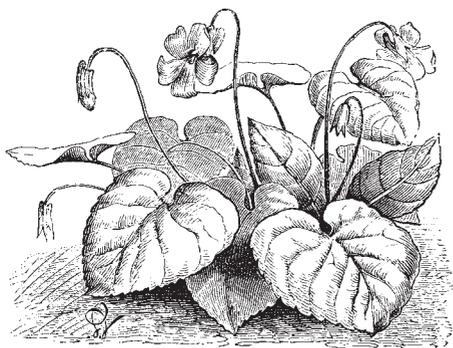
The new training curate Deborah Hamilton-Gray will be ordained in Norwich Cathedral on 5th July, after which we look forward to seeing her and Michael in the parishes and churches.

There was considerable interest in the post of team vicar designate for the six parish Team based round Diss. Three candidates were called for interview in March, but after a very thorough interview process no one was chosen to take up the post. Any further developments will be reported in due course.

Team Ministry Website

The address is printed under the Team logo, on the services page; do visit the website to see just what is on offer across The Team.

By now, there should be a link to Cock Crow!



Church News

Bressingham church was full for the funeral service for Millie Aves which took place on 16th January. The service was led by our rector the Rev'd Canon Tony Billett with the assistance of his wife the Rev'd Liz. Liz who is Team Vicar of the Hempnall group of churches, one of which is at Shelton where Millie was born and spent the first 16 years of her life before moving to Deal Farm. Rodger, Millie and her sister Blanche used to attend some services at Shelton and got to know Liz and therefore it was appropriate, in more ways than one, for Liz to take part. It was the first time Tony and Liz had taken a service together.

Please support the Concert in memory of Rodger and Millie at St Mary's Church, Diss on Friday 2nd May at 7.30pm when there will be a 40 strong choir from Gloucestershire performing. Tickets are £8 which includes refreshments. Just telephone me on 01379 688291 or email dianajb@btconnect.com or they are on sale at Bressingham Village Shop and the Parish Office at St Mary's Church, Diss. If you cannot come but would like to send a donation please contact me. All proceeds are going to the Porch Fund.

I am hopeful that the 'Big Clean' on 29th March will have gone well. As I write at the beginning of March I am pleased to say we have had several offers of help.

GOOD NEWS! From 1st April Bressingham Church will be open for visitors from 9.30am – 4pm every day. This will be extended to 6pm for closing in the summer. Entrance is via the north door – the A1066 road side of the church. Directions will be on the door to explain how to gain entrance.

Diana

Parish Council

All Councillors were present at the March meeting, also 12 members of the public.

After opening procedures were completed, County Councillor Spratt reported on the difficulties facing the Council with large cuts having to be made.

Road maintenance is facing difficulties. Children's services costs are increasing with more children in care than in any other County.

In his report, District Councillor Weeks said that a new officer had been taken on to promote trade in market towns which should be beneficial to the area.

Council Chairman Mr Cattermole introduced new councillor Tania Marshall the only applicant from Bressingham for the vacancy.

The next item on the agenda was Highways. Councillor Hewitt's most recent survey of the condition of the Parish roads showed serious damage in both Bressingham and Fersfield. Deep pot-holes made most of the roads dangerous and in many places verges and road edges were damaged. Concern was expressed for the safety of cyclists, particularly children, and serious damage was reported by motorists. The County is responsible for the upkeep of roads and Mr Overland has been informed. It was also agreed landowners should take more responsibility for ditches to prevent overflowing.

Following the earlier request from the Village Hall for help in funding new stackable staging, Mrs Webb provided a second quotation and more detail. After discussion as to what other grant and Village Hall money would be available, Councillors agreed to support the project to £2000.

The allotments: work was delayed on the ditches and hedges because of bad weather but will take place later this month. All allotments are now taken and Councillors are drawing up a tenancy lease.

The next meeting: 12th May in Fersfield Church.

Bressingham and District Ladies Club

Unfortunately our February meeting had to be abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances (a power cut). However, our intrepid chairman Christina Peachey soldiered on and managed to conduct the business part of the meeting by torch light!

On Monday, 17th March we are having an open meeting when the speaker will be Colin Hooper on the History of Magic, everyone welcome (including gents.) cost £3 to include refreshments. Later in March, we will hold the annual club party, which is a lovely social evening for members and partners.

Our AGM will be on 14th April, please do come along as Stella Taylor will be sharing with us her



fascinating local knowledge of Wild Flowers of Eastern England, which is certainly a most fitting subject for springtime. In May we will be visited by Meryl from 'Just Truffles' in Harleston (I wonder what makes me think this meeting will be well attended!)

Looking ahead, we have a most interesting programme lined up for the forthcoming year, including a visit to the Look East Studios at the Forum in June.

Our club currently has 36 members and provides a welcome opportunity for us all to meet up on a monthly basis. If you would like to come along, we meet at Bressingham Village Hall, 7.30 pm on the third Monday of the month, 'phone Sue (01379) 687541 for further details.

Friends Association Bressingham School

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Race night 5th April, Bressingham Village Hall; 7pm, first race 7.30

Bingo 25th April, Bressingham School; 6pm

Summer Fete 28th June, 11am – 4pm; Bressingham playing fields

Barn dance 12th July, 7.30pm – Midnight; Hill Farm, Fersfield

For info or tickets fabsofbressingham@gmail.com 07734 682490 or 01379 641633

'Cinders'

Last Thursday I spent a most enjoyable evening with friends watching the above mentioned pantomime. I have for many years enjoyed Bressingham and Fersfield Drama Group Productions and in my opinion they have become more and more professional.

I left the Village Hall with aching sides and a very uplifted heart, it was hilarious. I will not mention names because I feel they all deserve praise, from the youngest to the eldest of performers. We must not forget the front and background staff without which the superb production would not have been possible.

Thank you all for giving myself and friends a wonderful evening for the trifling sum of £5. Long may you all continue to entertain us as you do!

Many, many thanks to you all,

A well wisher

Diss Library

There's a lot going on in the library this Spring! We have a **Health & Safety** Information desk at the library on 11th April 10am–3pm provided by Hales.

On Friday 9th May we welcome the **Diss Spinners, Weavers and Dyers** to give their regular demonstration. There is usually an opportunity to have a go as well.

On Tuesday 20th May we will be holding the first of our **Reading Adventures workshops**. These are for adults who want to extend their reading and explore some new authors; places will be limited so ring the library to book.

If you enjoy poetry be sure to come to our **World War 1 Commemoration** on Friday 30th May at 5.30 when we will be reading some WW1 poetry; bring your own personal favourite along to read or have read aloud.

We're looking forward to hosting a **Dementia Friendly** session on Thursday 22nd May, again please ring the library for more details.

For more information on our events and services visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries, or call Diss library on 01379 642609. For **mobile library** dates and details call 01603 222267 or follow the links to mobile libraries on our website.

All libraries will close for the **Easter Bank Holidays on Good Friday and Easter Monday**.

OPENING HOURS

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 9–5

Tuesday, Saturday: 9–1

Wednesday: 9–1; 2–7.30.

FERSFIELD NEWS

Church News

For some time the heating in St Andrew's has been extremely inadequate. We have been fundraising for some time in order to install a new electrical system, and whilst we still need to continue to add to our financial resources, we have sufficient funds to put our plans into operation.

The old gas heaters have been retired, and we are currently using a space heater, kindly loaned by John Orford. Our upgrading is divided into two parts: (i) the upgrading of the electrical supply to the church and (ii) the installation of the proposed infra-red system. We are at the public notice stage of the faculty process for the new three-phase power supply, and hope to have the new connection soon. This done, we will be able to run some temporary electric heaters whilst the second part of the process is implemented. By next winter we hope for a well-heated church, both for the services and our expanding community use.

Get ready for Summer!

On Saturday, 10th May from 10am till noon at Fersfield, St Andrew, there is a great opportunity to buy your plants; geraniums, herbs, tomatoes, perennials and bedding.

There will be yummy cakes to buy, refreshments and lots more.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Local History Through Photographs

The Bressingham and Fersfield Community website (<http://www.bressinghamandfersfield.org/>) has started a series of interviews of the relatives of people who went to Bressingham School in the late 1920s. Please look at the photos which are and will be on the website and also in the Village Shop and get in touch with Liz Handy on 01379 687546 or mail@bressinghamandfersfield.org if you recognize any of the people. We are anxious to explore our community history through their stories.

LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's Primary School

St Andrew's pupils and staff are welcoming the warmer weather as they embark on a feast of learning opportunities.

Since Christmas, they have visited Theatre Royal twice, once to watch the pantomime Cinderella and once to see Horrible Histories. Both were fabulous events which really brought the learning to life.

Pupils have also been developing their sporting skills with Key Stage 2 taking part in South Norfolk Cross Country and Key Stage 1 in Diss Dance Festival. Pupils now look forward to taking part in the small school netball and football league.

Friends of St Andrew's have also been very active, organising a well-attended talent show, valentine breakfast and scavenger hunt.

Clubs this term include Running and Art!

If you would like further information about St Andrew's Primary, or wish to bring your child to visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Louise Norgate, Executive Headteacher for All Saints & St Andrew's Federation

St Andrew's Pre School

Despite the very wet weather, there is always something exciting for our children to do at Pre School. We are currently running sessions on Mondays 08.45–11.45, and Wed/Thurs 08.45–15.15. Do note that ALL 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free sessions each week.

We are sad to announce that we will soon be losing Tonya, our Pre School Manager. She will be dearly missed by all the children, but we wish her the greatest luck in her new venture.

We will be advertising for someone to take her place. If you or someone you know is interested in this role, please contact Jess Meek for more information and a full application pack, on 07955 726339 or 01379 687994 or email jlmeek@hotmail.co.uk.

We are always looking for parents and friends to join our voluntary Pre-School committee. All help is

appreciated, no matter how big or small. Right now we need someone with a flair for fundraising and a 'handy person' to help with odd jobs and repairs. Please contact the Pre School if you think this could be you!!

Please pop in or contact Jan and Tonya on 07962 219523 or attwood145@btinternet.com

Lophams' Ladies

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

At our afternoon meeting in February, we welcomed newcomers and visitors to hear Martin Fayers, a Tai Chi teacher, talk about this ancient art. Originally a martial art; nowadays Tai Chi is mainly practised for its health benefits. Martin demonstrated one of the training forms and led us all into 'having a go'. In March we resumed our evening time and welcomed Ken Samman from the 'Garden Enclosure' at Banham Zoo. Ken brought along a selection of plants and talked about ways to brighten up our gardens, not only for the coming season, but also to add year round interest. April 1st will be our AGM. The theme will be 'Nostalgia Time' and we ask members or visitors if they have a Family Tree



to bring it along for a display along with photos of our Weddings and 'Guess the Baby'. On May 6th we have an evening outing to 'Cocoa Mama' in Eye. We will meet in the Village Hall car park to share cars and the cost will be £5. On June 3rd, harpist Sarah Rochfort will be talking and playing for us.

Once again newcomers and visitors are always welcome, phone 01379 687337 for details.

Kate Briggs

Lophams' Garden Club

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

Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

We held our AGM on 5th March and this was followed by a presentation entitled 'Garden Antiques' by David Holmes. David brought along a number of old gardening implements and also showed slides of various lawn mowers, watering cans, shears and spades used over the past years. It was fascinating to see how things have changed and become so much easier for us modern day gardeners to use.

Our next meeting will be on 2nd April when Guy Barker will give a presentation entitled 'Spring Collection', and looking further forward, we will welcome John Tate on May 7th who will be giving us advice on 'Garden Ponds'.



Holy Bingo

The Spring sessions coincide with holidays from school, so younger people are very warmly invited to make an appearance at 2pm on Mondays 7th April and 5th May in Lophams' Village Hall. Come and give Bingo a try!

Lophams' Village Hall

The Village Hall AGM will be held on Friday 23rd May, in the hall at 7.30pm. It would be great to have at least one representative from each of the village organisations present, plus any new residents who would like to become involved with the hall and its activities. It is a resource for both Lophams and new ideas are always welcome - especially if there is a willingness to put them into practice!

A new venture in May will be a day for vintage bike enthusiasts, on Sunday 11th, Do look out for posters and flyers nearer the time.

The 13th Birthday of our Farmers' Market in February was celebrated in style with a free draw to win a bottle of champagne and bunch of red roses. Julie Crossley was the lucky winner. Winners of the Lottery draw were first prize of £178: D Blanchard and second prizes of £44.50: R Bassett and J Farren Bradley. In January, the winners were first prize £180: D & J Carr and second prizes of £45: A Loomes and J Doust.

The Lottery is a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize. Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, 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 the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm. Coming Markets are on 26th April & 24th May. (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)



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

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

Lopham Art Group meets on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am. The cost is £20 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687882 for more details.

Yoga with P: is a popular addition to the weekly programme. Sessions are on Thursdays, 7-8pm. Booking is essential, 01379 890955 or 07932 010720 or e-mail pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com (preferred).

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

NORTH LOPHAM

Parish Council

All councillors, a representative of AVIC, a representative of Richard Pike and approximately 50 members of the public were present.

Solar Farm The AVIC and RP reps addressed the meeting but refused to answer questions. All four sites are now being considered, not just Whitebread Farm. They offered another postponement and another consultation, details of both unconfirmed. The PC wants an impartially chaired public meeting involving Breckland Council, RP, AVIC and all affected PCs so that issues can be properly aired before the closing date for comments on the application.

Affordable Housing no real progress.

Drains in Tams Lane the broken cover has been temporarily made safe.

Highways Potholes have been repaired in Kings Head Lane and Common Road. Drains in The Street have been jetted, tree roots blamed for blockages. Speed awareness signs have been installed.

The mobility ramp in the school car park is often blocked by parked cars, please leave it clear!

War memorial needs to be cleaned, costs will be investigated.

VAS Application has been successful, 50% grant leaves PC to find £2,800. Contact was made with Crown Milling who indicated that they may find sponsorship for this sum. A resident pointed out that speeding vehicles close to the school are still commonplace.

Village Clean-up was set for Saturday 12th April.

Local Gov. Boundary Commission proposal that N Lopham joins Kenninghall for electoral purposes was rejected.

A Vacancy will exist on the Parish Council after the next meeting when Heather Potter stands down. Anyone who wishes to serve on the PC should contact the Parish Clerk on 01379 688298.

AOB A complaint was received about speeding motorbikes on the by-ways.

Next meeting 14th May 2014

North Lopham Methodist Church

The monthly informal service and Coffee Morning is becoming well established on the 4th Wednesday each month at 10.30 am and usually includes a short service of worship followed by a Coffee Morning from 11am till 12 noon. The next two are on April 23rd and May 28th.

Kings Head Carol and Auction event

Regulars at the pub in North Lopham raised £2,000 at their Christmas Carolling and Auction event and its associated efforts - a men's Cake bake and raffling a giant chocolate robin and a cake made and decorated by Chrissie Callow. The Carol and Auction event has been a regular feature on the Sunday before Christmas for about 35 years, and many thousands of pounds have been raised for charity - all with a link to local people.

George and Angie Estcourt, landlords of the King's Head and Richard Vere, the Christmas auctioneer were joined by representatives of the charities chosen by the regulars at the Kings Head, for a presentation in February - Peter Rose from the Stroke Association received £650, Jess Johnston for St Andrew's Pre School received £350, Rachel Francis received £650 for the Big C Cancer appeal and Howard Oates was given £350 for the Kumo Judo Club.



Lent Lunches

Bread and Cheese lunches, with tomatoes, fruit and pickle, are being held in homes round North Lopham on Tuesdays during Lent, between 12 noon and 2pm. People from all the villages are warmly invited to come along. All the funds raised will go towards the diocesan Lent project to buy bibles and books for young pastors in Papua New Guinea, our link diocese. See local posters for details of the venues. If you are uncertain where the venues are, or would like help with transport, just ring Jennie on 01379 687679 to make arrangements.

St Nicholas' Church

Starters & Sweets

The Village Hall was the venue for a delightful evening tasting soups, cold starters and an array of delicious sweets on 21st February.

The evening took on a new ambience when the lights went out just as all the soups were served, but everyone enjoyed continuing the tasting by candle and lamp-light! Raffle tickets were on sale while the puds were being eaten – luckily the ticket colours were very different. A very happy occasion raised over £300 for funds, so many thanks go to all those who contributed in any way.

Ash Wednesday was on 5th March. The special ceremonies for the day took place during in the Eucharist in St Mary's Church that evening.

A Lent Course 'Taking Risks – the hard sayings of Jesus' is being led by Canon Tony Billett & the Readers, at the Diss Connect sessions on Tuesdays at 7.30pm (89 Victoria Road) & Wednesdays at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. There is no need to book, just turn up, each week until 8th & 9th April.

On Mothering Sunday, 30th March, there will be a very special 11am Service for All, celebrating Families, especially Mothers. At the end of the proceedings there will be a gift for all the ladies present, and some for those who are unable to join us.

Holy Week begins with the Palm Sunday Evensong on 13th April, so there will be NO Evensong in North Lopham that day; we are all invited to St Mary's Diss at 6pm.

Services throughout the week continue in Diss church.

On Good Friday there will be a Last Hour at the Cross in N Lopham, starting at 2pm.

After the service and during Saturday we will decorate the church for Easter. Any gifts of flowers and foliage, or help with the arranging will be gratefully received.

Easter Day is 20th April. There will be an Easter Communion for all ages, at 11am, followed by an Easter Egg hunt. We hope lots of people will join the celebrations!



Ascension Day, when we celebrate the return of Jesus to heaven, is on 29th May. There will be a special service in Diss - details to be announced.

Friday Night is SNYSB Night on May 23rd in St Nicholas' Church at 7.30pm

The annual visit by Mike Booty and the youngsters of the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band is one of the social highlights of the early summer, with a feast of music from films and West End shows, plus music written especially for wind bands (i.e. no strings, but a super percussion department!) If you haven't heard them before, do come along and be sure of a good evening. While refreshments are served in the interval there is a chance to meet the band, and see some of their more unusual instruments.

Advance Notice: We hope to hold a special concert at the end of May or early June.

Ryan Lewis, whom many will remember from the days of the Super Six concerts, will be home from Malaysia so is planning a very special evening to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer Research and Support, in memory of his father Clive (and others well known to us in North Lopham). Details are still to be finalised, but the concert will be well publicised, so do watch for posters and then come along for a wonderful evening supporting a very important cause.

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church News

The Easter Service at St Andrew's Church will be Holy Communion at 9.30am on Easter Sunday the 20th April.

St Andrew's Church is taking part in the Diocese Easter Egg Hunt this year from the 1st to the 21st April.

Two dates for your diary with further details in next issue of *Cock Crow*: A Flower Festival will be held in St Andrew's Church on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th July.



Also, The Thursday Night Ladies Choir and Four Hands in Harmony return for a concert in the Church on Saturday 26th July in aid of Cancer Research.

Friends of South Lopham Church

The Friends continue to work towards funding the maintenance of the fabric of our beautiful Church and are always looking for volunteers to help in this worthwhile task. Anyone interested should contact Evelyn Logsdail 01379 687281.

South Lopham Parish Council

The council met on Thursday 13th March at Valley Farm with John Crisp in the Chair and Clerk Mrs Phillips. There were two apologies from Councillors and four members of the public were in attendance.

The Clerk gave a brief financial report and a statement of current balances. The budget for 2014–2015 was approved including a sum for the provision of grass cutting at St Andrews Church. Revised standing orders were approved. Brief individual reports were given by Councillors except for planning. This item was wholly occupied by the application submitted for a Solar Farm on the south of the A1066. A substantial majority of Councillors voted to reject this. It was reported that a great number of parishioners are extremely concerned about the proposal. Members of the public Messrs Briggs, Coster and Brown addressed the meeting on different aspects of the matter at length. Further developments are awaited.

The next South Lopham Parish Council meeting will be held at Valley Farm, Low Common on 8th May 2014 at 7.30pm.

Lophams' Society

1. Quiz in Village Hall 28th March.
2. Village AGM Friday 11th April to which all are encouraged to attend. Wine will be served beforehand and the meeting is particularly informative for all residents.

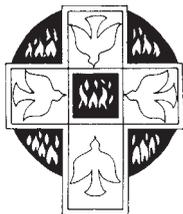
St Mary's Church, Diss
Friday 2nd May at 7.30pm

The Stuart Singers
from Gloucestershire

A concert
in memory of
Rodger & Millie Aves

Tickets £8
(includes refreshments) available from:
Parish Office at Diss Church;
Bressingham Village Shop;
Diana 01379 688291 or
dianajb@btconnect.com

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE
BRESSINGHAM CHURCH PORCH FUND



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
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Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

The four parishes and Roydon are now considered members of the Diss Team Ministry of all SIX parishes, led by **The Rev'd Canon Tony Billett**, Rector of Diss and also Rural Dean. 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 6	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
April 13 Palm S	8.00 HC	(Join Tivetshall)	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
April 18 G/Fri	2.00 M		10.30 MW	12.00 M	
April 20 E/Sun	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	10.00 HC	9.00 HC	Sat. 6.30 HC
April 27	6.00 P&P	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	(Join Gissing)	9.30 HC
May 4	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
May 11	8.00 HC	(Join Tivetshall)	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
May 18	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
May 25	6.00 P&P	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	(Join Gissing)	9.30 HC
June 1	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
Holy Week	Shelfanger 7.30pm April 14th, 15th, 16th Meditation, 17th Holy Communion				

EP Evening Prayer | HC Holy Communion | MW Morning Worship | 5/P Five Parish | PP Prayer & Praise | FS Family Service | FS/Chp Family Service in Chapel | 4SS Fourth Sunday Service |

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Date	Bressingham St John the Baptist (BCP)	Fersfield St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)	N Lopham St Nicholas (BCP &) (C/W Order 1)	S Lopham St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)
Sun 6th April Passion Sunday	No Service	4pm ES	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sun 13th April Palm Sunday	9.30am HC	No Service	11am FS	No Service
Friday 18th April Good Friday			2pm Last Hour Meditation	
Sun 20th April Easter Day	4pm EP	9.30am Easter FS	11am FHC	9.30am HC
Sun 27th April Easter 2	10.30am With Methodists	9.30am HC	11am FS	4pm ES
Sun 4th May Easter 3	No Service	4pm ES	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service
Sun 11th May Easter 4	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 4pm FS ES	No Service
Sun 18th May Easter 5	4pm ES	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 25th May Rogation Sunday	10.30am With Methodists	9.30am HC	11am FS	4pm ES
Sun 1st June Ascension Sun	No Service	4pm ES	9.30am 11am HC FS	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 on Thursday at South Lopham in addition to the service held each weekday in St Mary's, Diss at 8.30am.

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

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

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

Churchwardens Bressingham D Burroughes 01379 688291
Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711 R 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

Lent – what does it mean?



Lent is not simply a short period of time giving up something that we like – for instance, chocolate.

Properly understood, Lent includes a time for personal reflection of one life and lifestyle, a time of prayer and fasting, a time to deepen one's relationship with God and an opportunity to increase one's giving.

A time for Personal reflection; as an individual, where am I failing? What is it that I do, that I should not do? What should I do that I do not do? Do I love the Lord my God with all my heart? Do I love my neighbour as I love myself? These are not easy questions to answer truthfully and I am fully conscious of my shortcomings.

A time of Prayer and fasting; seeking out and spending time alone with God, praying for others, interceding for the world; praying that God's will be done here on earth. 'Not my will but your will be done'.

A time to deepen one's relationship with God; what is it that God requires from us? How do we walk humbly and obediently with him? How do we recognise and respond to the situations of life that surround us in His way?

An opportunity to increase one's giving; to review and respond one's charitable giving. Tithing is an acknowledgement that everything we have, everything we are, comes from God in the first place. This is why tithing should be proportionate, regular, freely given (also Gift Aided). Thanksgiving and love offerings are one off separate occasions.

Lent has never been an easy time for me, but at its best it helps me to question and improve my relationship with God and His great love for us all, as revealed in Jesus Christ and the considerable blessings of Easter Day. 'HE is risen, HE is risen indeed – HALLELUAH !

Rev David F Mills

BURSTON NEWS

The Great War: Burston Roll of Service

Eight of these brave men did not return home and their names are indicated there by a red star and listed here:

Frederick G Bryant; George W. Durbridge Junr; William E East; Herbert Garnham; Herbert W Johnson; Edward Potter; George W. Sandy; Gurney R Sandy

The commemorative plaques in the Church for two of these men aroused Peter Beales' curiosity and inspired him to find out more about their lives and those of the other six men who died in the service of their country.

He would be happy to share and discuss his findings with relatives or those with a particular interest in his research. He would welcome hearing from anyone who could provide more information on those called upon to make the Supreme Sacrifice from our village. Peter can be contacted on 01379 741522



2nd World War: A Posthumous Award

Those who knew Don Swanton will be glad to know that he has been posthumously awarded the Arctic Star, recognising his service in destroyers escorting convoy vessels to remote ports of Arctic Russia, bringing much needed supplies so vital to the war effort. At that time, the loss of ships and escort vessels were so high that orders had to be implemented, not to stop to pick up survivors.

Don suffered nightmares because of this for most of his life.

Obituaries

PATRICIA MAY PRETTY 1935-2014

Pat was born in Burston at Crossways Cottage, Mill Green and lived in Burston all her life. Pat married Colin Pretty from Roydon and they lived at Ivy Cottage together for 51 years. Their pet dogs were their

family, giving them both lots of pleasure. Quite a few dogs had a loving home with them.

Colin sadly passed away in 2009. With the help of neighbours Christine and George, Pat was able to live at Ivy Cottage for one more year. Pat, requiring full time care, moved to Yaxley House Nursing Home three years ago where, sadly, she passed away on 11th January.

Pat is remembered fondly by Christine and George

AN APOLOGY

We wish to apologise to Mrs Barbara Stevens and family for the error in the last issue. Instead of 'second wife' it should have read 'Barbara Garnham who was later to make him a wonderful wife.'

St Mary's Luncheon Club

For retired folk from Burston and surrounding villages meets in the Church on the fourth Thursday of every month. Contact Sybil Peck on 01379 741410

Youth Café

Is in full swing every Thursday during term time. If you are aged 11–14 come and join us for games, free pizza and milkshake from 3.45–5.15 in the Church.

Church Hire

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

Burston Chapel

Services: Sunday 11am and 6.30pm. *Prayer Meeting*: Tuesdays 8pm (call 741816 for details). *Jamie's Gang (school age club)*: Wednesday in term time

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

St Mary's Church

Lent has started, the young people at the Youth Café made pancakes! We hope to mark Lent in several ways, including a weekly group Lent course.

Mothers' Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, 30th March and we hope that lots of people will join us at 10.30 am. This will be a special service to celebrate this lovely day, and all mums and grans, aunts and sisters are presented with a posy of flowers with refreshments following the service.

On Good Friday (18th April) at 6.30pm, there will be a performance of Peter Creswell's musical oratorio 'Before Pilate'. The Redgrave singers will present this hour-long performance, which will be followed by refreshments (included in the £5 ticket price). Tickets from Len Hobson, 01379 741033.

St George's Night Supper

On Saturday 26th April at 7.30 pm, The Friends of Burston Church are organising a St George's Night Supper with entertainment (bring whatever you want to drink with you). Tickets are a modest £12 (unchanged from last year) – available from Anne Hyde, 07733 182525.

A longer-term date for your diary: we will be having a curry night on Saturday 19th July.

The Friends of Burston Church

The Friends is a charity raising money for the church building and the facilities (money raised by the Friends doesn't go towards the religious work of the church).

There are many people in the village who appreciate that St Mary's is a central resource for all – churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike, and the Friends' events are well supported. If you would like to join the Friends' committee to help us plan events, do get in touch; we meet 5 or 6 times a year.

Rachel Hobson 01379 741033

Parish Council News

Farewells... and an opportunity for you?

The Parish Council has accepted the resignations of two valued members of the team, Councillor Terry King and our Clerk to Council, Pam Anderson.

Terry was Chairman of the Playing Field Advisory Committee, overseeing the creation of the community/memorial garden and the uplift of the play equipment. He was instrumental in the design and

planning of the garden and in the recent planting of the trees and shrubs. He was an active member of the Council Team and his absence will be felt.

Pam has been an excellent Clerk to Council providing professional support and advice to Members enabling us to maintain our high level of service to the community while flat-lining the precept charge. Council has been complimented on its effectiveness and Pam's contribution has been a significant factor. Pam will remain in post until the end of March.

We all thank Terry and Pam for their considerable contribution and wish them well for the future.

Now, in this final year of the current Council cycle, we need to co-opt a new Councillor and appoint a new Clerk. If you were to be co-opted as a Councillor at this time you would have just one year to serve. Perhaps this could tempt you to 'give it a go'.

The Clerk is the 'engine' of an effective parish council; its principal executive and adviser and responsible for the administration of its financial affairs. Employed by the Parish Council, the Clerk is paid in accordance with a nationally agreed pay scale. If you feel that this could be for you, I would love to hear from you.

The Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 28th April at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Burston. This is not a council meeting, but a meeting of the parish electors and anyone can contribute to the agenda. These meetings often celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community.

Len Hobson, Chairman

Burston & Shimpling Community Action Team

Is busy rebuilding itself after committee numbers fell to just two. Recent recruitments have increased the number to four, but more volunteers are still being sought.

The Team is organising a do-it-yourself Murder Mystery supper evening in St Mary's Burston on Saturday 29th March. To reserve a place (£5) contact Nigel on 01379 644788 or Keith on 01379 640405. People who would be prepared to act (reading a script- no need to learn lines) will be welcome.

The Team's Annual Public meeting will be at St Mary's, Tuesday 29th April, 7.30. Come and hear about future plans, and contribute your own ideas.

A date for your diary: a Jazz Barbecue Evening on Saturday 6th September.

Community Primary School

Class 1's main topic is about school 100 years ago and thinking about what school lessons and equipment would have been like. In maths we are concentrating on subtraction. Children have been looking at information texts and the differences between fiction and non-fiction books. In Science we are going to be looking at growing plants.

Class 2 has been looking at poetry and, in particular, shape poems and calligrams. We are researching animals who were heroes in WW1. In literacy we are learning about explanation texts.

Year 3 and 4 all tried their best in a cross-country competition at Diss Rugby Club. In Science we are looking at life processes including food chains, classifications and plants. In RE we will be looking at Judaism and the Christian celebration of Easter.

This half term, along with the rest of the partnership, the children will be focusing on the Burston School Strike. Class 3 will also be looking at World War 1. We are researching what life was like for children back in the early 1900s as well as looking at the current stories including Alice in Wonderland.

We are looking forward to marking the anniversary of the Burston Strike on April 1st by walking along the candlestick mile, dressed in clothes from the period, as well as having a lesson taught in the old strike school.



Heart of Gissing

Forthcoming fundraising events include:

Easter Bingo at the Old School on Friday 4th April – doors open 7pm; eyes down 7.15pm. Raffle and free refreshments. Contact Kelly on 01379 674511.

Easter Egg Hunt at the Old School on Good Friday 18th April – £2 per child, start and finish at the Children's Centre (anytime between 10.30am and 2pm). Craft tables and egg decoration. Refreshments: hot dogs and cakes etc, produce stall and includes end of trail egg. Contact: admin@heartofgissing.org.uk. Tel: 01379 677790 or 674511.

Current Groups including two new

South Norfolk Time and Place a series of talks at Gissing Village Hall. April's event will feature Norfolk Wildlife Trust (formerly Norfolk Naturalist). Contact Kate Heath of 01379 677504 or email: admin@heartofgissing.org.uk.

Heart of Gissing Crafter's Cafe Do you enjoy crafts? Would you like to learn some new skills? Come and join a new group where you can work on your own project, or join in a tutorial/workshop. Meet in Gissing Village Hall between 10am–1pm on the second Tuesday each month. There will be a workshop or tutorial session each month with materials provided. Cost: £3 per session to include coffee, cakes and tutorial materials.

Workshop Programme: March 11th: Freehand Machine Embroidery; April 8th: Bias Binding Basics; May 13th: Rags into Rugs

Contact: Anne Reynolds 01379 674272 or Kate Heath 01379 677504

Gissing Baby and Toddler Group runs in Gissing Village Hall, Rectory Road every Monday morning from 10am– 12 noon. Contact Vicky on 01379 674437 or 07946 212779 or email at vhcullum@hotmail.com.

All Saints' Church

Easter Services

Lent is now under way and we are looking forward to the great festival of Easter.

Palm Sunday, the celebration of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, falls this year on Sunday 13th April. At Shelfanger we shall have morning worship with distribution of palm crosses at 11am.

Three short evening services of Compline and Meditation for Holy Week will follow on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th April – all at 7.30pm. This prepares our minds and spirits for the celebration of Good Friday and Easter.

On Good Friday (18th April), the Rector will take a short service of Morning Worship at 10.30am and on Easter Sunday (20th April) will celebrate Holy Communion at 10am. If anyone needs help (lifts etc) to attend this important service, please ring Roger on 01379 642286.

A very Happy Easter to you all.

Spring Concert

To further raise our spirits, a Spring Concert is planned for Friday 9th May. Entitled 'Springtime Journeys' the entertainment will comprise a variety of musical items, humour, poetry and prose. With a local cast including church members and friends, we hope you will thoroughly enjoy this light-hearted evening. Pre-concert drinks will be served from 7pm. and the concert begins at 7.30pm. Tickets (which include a glass of wine and refreshments) are £6 and are available from Peter Harries (01379 651524). Pre-booking is advisable!



and supporting documentation at the end of February and now wait patiently to see whether we make it through to the second stage of the process. An initial response from HLF is expected in June.

The membership has grown steadily and 20 members went to the Gissing Crown in early February for dinner and a very pleasant evening of conversation and fund raising ideas.

The presence of daffodils and snowdrops in the churchyard herald the approach of spring, so it was rather odd to be there in early March preparing to plant a Christmas tree. Our local source of trees is running low and with one eye on the future we have decided to plant our own; if we can nurture it through the summer and remember to water it regularly we should have a great asset for years to come.

The Friends will be holding their AGM on 10 April 2014 at 7pm in the church and all are welcome to attend. We hope to be able to share details about the HLF Bid with members and the wider community. Refreshments will be provided by members of the Friends.

If you would like to help secure the future of Gissing Church contact Fiona Turton at fionaturton@btinternet.com or Eddie Scoggins at eddie.scoggins@live.co.uk

Gissing Children's Centre

Our Pre-School runs Monday–Friday during term time, in two 3-hour sessions: 9am to 12 noon and/or 12 noon to 3pm each day. Children can attend unaccompanied from 2½ years to 5 years old. Contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am–3pm during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or email gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk. Spaces are filling up for the Summer Term and we are currently also reserving places from September 2014, but we operate a waiting list so will aim to meet your requirements, and hold places, wherever we can. Do visit our Facebook page to see what we have been up to.

We plan to run an Easter Playscheme for primary school age children on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th April, from 9.30am–3pm. The cost is £10 per child, bookable and payable in advance, by ringing 07531 810704 or by email as above. Children will need to bring a packed lunch and a small amount of money for tuck.

Bookings to use Gissing Village Hall: contact Bernie Calton on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email berniecalton@live.co.uk.

Bookings to use The Old School: contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours.

St Mary's Church

Friends of Gissing Church

Since Christmas we have been busy helping Gissing PCC with the completion of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid. The primary purpose of the bid is to seek funds to repair the fabric of the building, make it watertight again and in particular repair the South Chapel (Vestry) wall, but we would also like to add



some modern touches such as heating! Those of you with any experience of such bids will know that this is not a five minute job and we have certainly burnt the midnight oil! We are very grateful to everyone who helped with the process but special thanks go to George Hammond for his dedication and perseverance. We finally submitted the required form

Gissing Youth Club for 8–13 year olds runs every Tuesday 6.30–8pm (winter times) during term time at Gissing Children's Centre. Contact Bernie on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or at berniecalton@live.co.uk.

Gissing Reading Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm at the Old School. Contact Jim Philip on 01379 677352 or just come along. The book for April will be *Sunset Song* by Lewis Grassic Gibbon.

Gissing Gardening Group generally meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month at the Old School. Contact Joe Cromley on 01379 677817.

Gissing Singers meet every Monday at 7.30pm in Gissing Village Hall. Contact Andrew Pierssené on 01379 674518.

Pilates continues to run every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm at the Children's Centre (the Old School). Call Sharon Calton on 07979 411644 or email sharon@scalton.orangehome.co.uk

Performing Arts East offers a variety of dance classes. For further details, contact Sam on 07825 325100 by email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com

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

Heart of Gissing Community Arts Group: contact Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email rose@roseddington.co.uk.

Stage HOGers is a local theatre group puts on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, contact Sam, as above.

Gissing Carpet Bowls: contact Derek Dewey on 01379 677162.

Gissing Bowls Club: contact Kevin Lake on 01379 677525.



Churchyard Maintenance

As the sun warms and the ground dries, the church 'rotary club' is resuming its work to keep the churchyard and surrounding areas in good order. Real thanks to Ray, Des, Mike, Roy and the wardens.



Farewells

The church and village community have said farewell to a number of faithful servants in recent weeks.

In January Mercy Harmer of Regent House passed away peacefully at Walcot Hall.

A native of Wingfield, she retired to Shelfanger after a scholarly career in London. Mercy was active on the Parish Council, the WI, Shelwins and the Village Hall committee. Much loved and cared for by village friends, Mercy was laid to rest in the churchyard on Friday 24th January following a celebration of her life by family, neighbours and a goodly gathering of Shelfangarians.

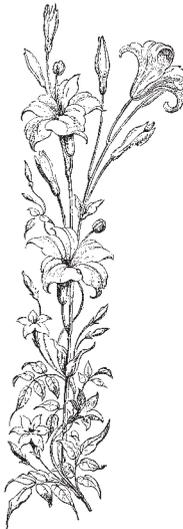
Three village organisations have got together to commemorate Mercy's love of the countryside and active involvement with village matters by the planting of a small stand of three birch trees on the western section of Boyland Common. A plaque to be placed next to the trees is in preparation.

The 'Friends of Boyland Common', Shelfanger Parish Council and Shelwins purchased the trees with the kind help of Vicci Day, and each was represented as the trees were planted on a beautiful February morning. The choice of species and the location in which they were planted would, we are certain, have met with Mercy's approval.

On 26th February, Heather Dunnett's life was celebrated at the Carlton Rode Baptist Church. Heather and her life-long friend Molly White lived for many years in Berridge, their bungalow in

Heywood Road. Heather and Molly were active in village affairs including the church and the WI. Heather partnered Molly in hosting the celebrated 'Tuesday at Two' meetings at their home which are still fondly remembered by churchgoers today. Our love and good wishes go to Molly, now living in Diss.

On Thursday 6th March, the ashes of Mrs Helen Huggins (née Gardiner) were interred in the Shelfanger churchyard. Helen, sister to Tony, will be remembered for her help in flower arranging at various Shelfanger church festivals.



Shelfanger Village Hall

At a full meeting on Thursday 6th March committee members discussed tenders; the chosen contractors will refurbish and redecorate the kitchen, lobby and gents toilets over the Easter period when there is a break in the intensive bookings.

Planning for the 2014 Grand Village Fete which takes place on Saturday 19th July (book this date now!) resumes on Monday 28th April with a meeting at 7pm.

Social Club

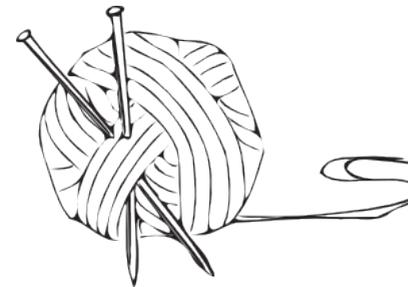
The recent resurgence of activity continues at the club. On the last Friday in each month, we are now joined by our Winfarthing friends for a darts spectacular. On these evenings a guest real ale is on tap. So far, Adnams and Woodfordes bitters have proved popular and short-lived!

Village news

We continue to remember all those in our village family who are not very well; Janet Bowman and Paul, Julie Goodwin and Pip. David Lond is now continuing his care and convalescence in the Dep-perhauigh in Hoxne and Mrs Betty Chiles in the All Hallows' Nursing Home in Bungay.

Shelfanger Stitchers

Shelfanger Stitchers has got off to a great start; we are always pleased to welcome new members to this cheerful, all-ability group. Meeting fortnightly on Thursdays at 2pm at the Village Hall, some members work on their own projects and come to meet like-minded people, whilst others turn their hands to knitting for local charities. Currently, Trauma Teddies for the police traffic division and the Norfolk Fire Service are proving popular while baby blankets for the neonatal unit at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital are keeping some knitters busy. Any donations of wool for these worthwhile projects will be very much appreciated. Contact Helen on 01379 652199.



Parish Council

The Parish Council has made a successful bid to the Norfolk Parish Partnership Scheme to finance a second Vehicle Activated Sign for the southern approach to the village. The Council hopes that the pair of signs will assist in speed reduction on the B1077.

South Norfolk Community Awards Evening was well attended. It was a great way to thank the many volunteers in the district and awards were given to deserving people who spend many hours helping to keep our district running smoothly. Amongst groups thanked were the First Responders, SAM operators from many villages and the Long Stratton Football Club.

PS Aunt Agatha she say; she'll pass up on bathing in the morning dew on May day this year. She say, at 74, she ha'nt got neither the figure nor the knee joints for it!

St Margaret's & St Mary's

It is with great sadness we report the death of Horace (Horry) Self, a great character and Tivetshall man through and through.

Horry was born at The Cottage, Ram Lane where he lived all his life apart from his many years in the Navy starting at HMS Ganges. He was involved in The Cod war 1971/2 and had many interesting stories to tell of his life at sea. Also during his working life he worked for Chitty's of Diss, Howard Rotovators, Bux Box and The Old Ram until his retirement.

Horry was a member of The Royal British Legion (Dickleburgh branch) and instrumental in assuring their attendance at the Armistice Day service at St Mary's church each year. He also helped form 'Friends of St Mary's Church Tivetshall' and helped raise funds for the WW1 Memorial to be refurbished. Horry regularly tended the area around the War Memorial. He also helped to keep the whole area litter free and assisted with the planting of new hedging and trees.

He was a rapacious letter writer; his musings and thoughts often seen on the letter pages of the EDP.

Horry, as a God fearing man, attended church and obtained comfort from his faith. He will be sadly missed at The Royal British Legion and in Tivetshall. We will miss him cycling around the village on 'his old iron horse'.

Church Quota

This annual payment has yet again risen – this year to over £4000. It is highly unlikely that we shall reach this target. Added to this we have the additional burden of contributing to the benefice payment of £3,500. Sadly our congregation is too small and other income from e.g. weddings, funerals, donations and rent are simply not enough.

Would anyone be interested in tithing a small amount each month? This would be Gift Aided and obviously help greatly. For further details please contact Frana Dack on 01379 676463.

Easter at St Margaret's

Easter Day falls on April 20th this year. If anyone would like to donate flowers for decoration of the church please drop them off on the Saturday. Alternatively if anyone feels they would like to put their own arrangement on a window sill please feel free, again on the Saturday after Good Friday.



Village Hall

The sheer variety of events that take place in the hall never ceases to amaze me, we have our regular and very popular Yoga classes (Wednesday), Short Mat Bowls (Friday), Pilate's (Tuesday), Rainbows (Thursday) and of course the Monday club. Then we have the public elections, Jubilee celebrations, Schools Christmas play, family celebrations for Weddings, Christenings, Birthdays etc. and the many quiz nights and other fund raising activities organised by various local groups. Finally we have had the slightly more unusual Sumo Wrestling (this was a private function, but by all accounts great fun), street dance practice sessions by LKs School of Dance, where they teach and practice Hip Hop, Street, Disco Freestyle and Rock and Roll, and perform at such venues as the O2 arena (if you are a parent with youngsters with lots of spare energy check out) and the last Saturday in May we have a group of cyclists descending on Tivetshall (not quite the Tour De France!) to use the hall as a rest and refreshments stop.

The halls committee continue to manage the day

to day running of the hall and are proud of our record and the fact that hire fees have not increased for nearly five years so please if you want to know what is going on at the hall or wish to hire the venue take a look at our web site www.tivetshallvillagehall.org.uk. If you would like to organise a regular club, fundraiser then please contact us for details and availability.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to the committee who keep the hall running, the hall does not maintain itself, clean itself, keep up to date with Health and Safety or take bookings/payments without its dedicated team of volunteers, thank you.

Tivetshall Primary School

January was a busy month with lots of whole school activities. We went to the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth as part of our whole school project on life 100 years ago and learnt about houses, homes and the fishing industry a century ago. We are studying this era in part because we are celebrating the centenary of the Burston Strike School. If you have any information, documents or artefacts from that time we would love to see them.

Two days later we held our first Children Takeover Day. The children had some very good ideas about how they could improve their experience of school life, especially the physical environment. We look forward to the school council putting the ideas into practice.

A week later we all enjoyed Design Technology Day. The children in Class 1 investigated local play equipment and then made their own junk models while class 2 investigated, designed and made a variety of bridges.

February has been sportier with class 1 attending their annual dance festival at Diss High School and the Year 5 and 6s making a brilliant effort over a long and very muddy cross country circuit. Special congratulations to Jess Nixon who ran especially well. Not to be outdone, years 3 and 4 also enjoyed a cross country run, this time in Diss, and also did very well.

Sandra Potter, Senior Teacher

WINFARTHING NEWS

Friends of Winfarthing Church

At nearly 1,000 years old, I, your Village Church and Ancient Building, am in need of care and attention.

Are there folks in Winfarthing willing to form a group – to help care for my future – maybe I could stand for another thousand years?

The band of helpers who have worked tirelessly to keep me dry and in good order over the years, are an ageing group, who are now finding fund raising a little beyond them. My expensive roof and walls cost an average of £3000 a year to maintain.

If you feel you can help me by being part of a group to become Friends of Winfarthing Church, please phone David on 01379 640440 or Geoff on 01379 640445.

Flower Arrangers

Marion Williams has kindly volunteered to take over the flower rota for Winfarthing Church; many thanks Marion.



Wanted

A person to take notes at our Parochial Church Meetings, usually held in the home of Church Warden David Mitchell 3 or 4 evenings a year; friendly meetings, tea or coffee included.

Phone David on 01379 640440, if you can help us.

Piano

Many thanks to Jane and John Marchant, for not only supplying the Church with a piano, but also having it tuned after delivery – much appreciated.

Winfarthing PCC.

Village Service

Services continue on the third Sunday of each month from 10-11am with refreshments served after the service. Please join us or call Jane Marchant on 01379 640502 or Brian Dent on 01953 86053

Winfarthing Prayer Group

If you would like to join us to ask for God's blessing on our village or pray for specific situations or people, contact Richard or Mary Livermore on 01379 652951 or email rdlivermore@btinternet.com

Village Hall

Bookings on the village Hall have increased since the refurbishment so it was well worth while. If you would like to book the Hall for an event please contact Paula McQue on 01379 650843. The twice monthly Whist Drives continue to be a real success and have raised in the region of £600 which is divided between the Church and the Hall. Tom and Joyce Blake send thanks to everyone who has donated prizes or helped in anyway in the last year. All of us who use the Church or the Hall owe Tom and Joyce a vote of thanks for their efforts.

Building on the success of the Quiz and Supper evening last November, village resident Anne Shaw has arranged a similar event at 7.30pm, Friday 25 April.

Anne and 4 other ladies have formed Team TASHA to Walk the Walk on 10 May by participating in the MoonWalk in London. The world-famous event raises funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, with 17,000 participants power-walking a full marathon distance of 26.2 miles overnight through London in wildly-decorated bras! Visit <https://moonwalklondon2014.everydayhero.com/uk/team-tasha-2014>

TASHA held their first event at the Hall on 7th February. Six teams participated in a great evening, raising a wonderful £219.50. We would love to smash that record and look forward to seeing you there! Booking is not essential, but if you would like to reserve a table for your team of 4-6 please call 01953 860598 and leave a message. Entry is £7 per head to include your casserole supper (including a veggie option), but please bring your own drinks and plenty of change for the raffle – all proceeds will go to the charity.

Winfarthing Footpaths Group

The February walk was a success although we have revealed some problems which are being looked into to the South of the village. We will not meet in April

so the next meeting will be May 3rd at 10am. You can park on the Church/school car park and drink in 'The Fighting Cocks' afterwards if so minded. Note this is not an exclusive group and we would love more people to come along. Our aim is simple – to explore the paths in our parish, see their condition and keep them open. Contacts Nic Griffiths on 01379 643718 or Ken Barrell on 01379 642125



Please don't hesitate to let me know of anything happening in our village or parish. I am Alun Howkins, 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 May 8th please.

All Saints' Primary School

All Saints' pupils and staff are grateful for the warmer weather, assisting contractors with the significant building work on site. The school hopes the new Sports Hall will be ready shortly after Easter.

Since Christmas, pupils have visited Theatre Royal twice, once to watch the pantomime Cinderella and once to see Horrible Histories. Both were fabulous events which brought the learning to life.

Pupils have also been developing their sporting skills with Key Stage 2 taking part in South Norfolk Cross Country and Key Stage 1 in Diss Dance Festival. Pupils now look forward to taking part in the small school netball and football league.

The choir has also been busy rehearsing their contribution to the Village Church Service in March.

The Home School Association continues to be active, organising a wonderful Valentine disco and Pancake breakfast. They are now planning their next event: Family Bingo!

Clubs this term include football, softball, choir and Boomerang After School club.

For information about All Saints' Primary contact the school: email head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk or 01379 642767, We would love to hear from you!

Louise Norgate, Executive Head Teacher

From the Registers

Winfarthing Group

FUNERALS

Brian Duncan 6th February, Tivetshall

Pat Yarham 21st February, Winfarthing

Molly Breed 26th February, Gissing

David 'Nibby' Chapman 6th March, Shelfanger

Horry Self 20th March, Tivetshall

Gislingham Variety Club

presents



A Musical Fable of Broadway

Based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon

Gislingham Village Hall
Weds 2nd to Sat 5th April

Tickets Adult £8, Child £6

Box office **01379 788411**

Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York