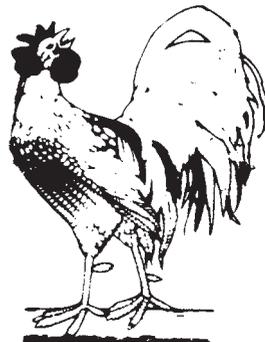


Cock Crow

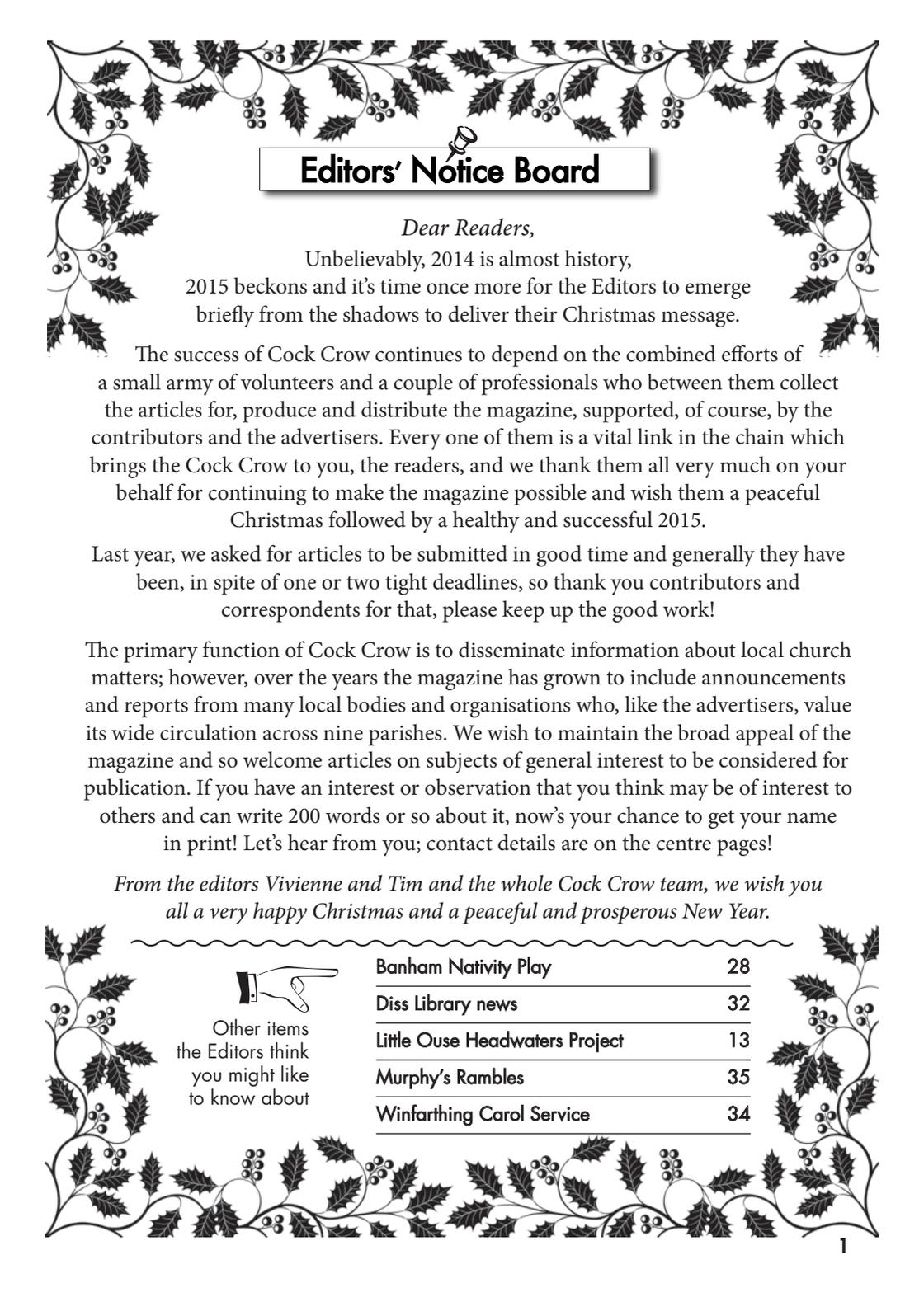
NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2014-15

Issue No: 6



Christmas posting Tivetshall Post Office



Editors' Notice Board

Dear Readers,

Unbelievably, 2014 is almost history, 2015 beckons and it's time once more for the Editors to emerge briefly from the shadows to deliver their Christmas message.

The success of Cock Crow continues to depend on the combined efforts of a small army of volunteers and a couple of professionals who between them collect the articles for, produce and distribute the magazine, supported, of course, by the contributors and the advertisers. Every one of them is a vital link in the chain which brings the Cock Crow to you, the readers, and we thank them all very much on your behalf for continuing to make the magazine possible and wish them a peaceful Christmas followed by a healthy and successful 2015.

Last year, we asked for articles to be submitted in good time and generally they have been, in spite of one or two tight deadlines, so thank you contributors and correspondents for that, please keep up the good work!

The primary function of Cock Crow is to disseminate information about local church matters; however, over the years the magazine has grown to include announcements and reports from many local bodies and organisations who, like the advertisers, value its wide circulation across nine parishes. We wish to maintain the broad appeal of the magazine and so welcome articles on subjects of general interest to be considered for publication. If you have an interest or observation that you think may be of interest to others and can write 200 words or so about it, now's your chance to get your name in print! Let's hear from you; contact details are on the centre pages!

From the editors Vivienne and Tim and the whole Cock Crow team, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



Other items
the Editors think
you might like
to know about

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Hello...

It seems very strange sitting here, late in the first week of my Ministry here among you, writing an article that won't appear until December! But write I do. Let me introduce myself. I am your new Team Vicar, Wendy. Married to Neal, I'm mother to Emma and Sarah both of whom have long left home. Sarah lives and works near Basingstoke as a trainee chartered surveyor; Emma is married to Col and they have two children, Oakley (soon to be 3) and Robyn 1, they live in Newcastle.

As we look forward to Christmas, I'm aware that I'll still be very new here and also aware that I'll be joining in with many centuries of celebrations that our churches have enjoyed. Of course our churches will be holding many extra services including carol services, crib services and Christingle services as usual. Do look out for notices around your church and in this magazine.

As I begin my new ministry here among you, I'm looking forward to meeting you, to getting to know you, getting to know the area and town, the churches and their congregations. I'm also looking forward to worshipping and glorifying God with you; praying with you, praying for you and for being with you in times of joy and sorrow. I'll be in the shops, in the pool, walking around the Mere, the roads and woods. Stop me and say hello. So, until we meet properly, may God bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you, and may you know His peace.

Wendy, Team Vicar

Diss Team Ministry, 01379 640073



TEAM MINISTRY PAGE

BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Team Vicar The Revd Wendy Evans was Licensed by the Bishop of Thetford and Installed by the Archdeacon of Norfolk, at a lovely service in Diss Church on 6th November, with many local people present to welcome her and her friends from her previous ministry at Oulton Broad. After the service, refreshments were served in the Cornhall - much talk and laughter showed how much everyone was enjoying the occasion. During the following days Canon Tony Billett Installed Revd Wendy in the incumbent's stall at each of the other five churches in the Diss Team, with plenty of time to meet local people. We all hope that Wendy and husband Neil will be very happy working alongside us. Revd Wendy's e-address is wendy.evans2009@gmail.com

Recycling helps our charities, cuts down land-fill.

Now that the District Councils have extended the range of items that can be recycled in our home bins, it is a good time to note that there are several items that can easily be recycled in ways that directly benefit charities that our churches support.

Used postage stamps, cut off with a 1cm border, benefit the Leprosy Mission. Look for collection boxes in the churches. The Christmas mail should provide lots of stamps.

Milk bottle, and other soft bottle tops benefit the Matthew Project, working with young people who have drug related problems. Plastic collection bottles can be found in the churches.

Newspapers and Magazines earn recycling credits for church funds. Secure bundles can be taken to the store on the edge of Fersfield airfield, just off The Common.

Spectacles for the third world are collected at health centres and most schools collect used printer cartridges and/or used mobile phones.

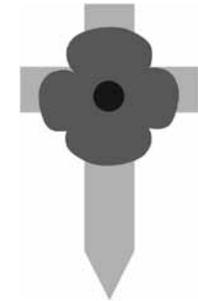
Thank you for your help!

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

There is a link there to Cock Crow!

Church News

I am writing this on the day following the Installation of our new part time Team Vicar, Rev Wendy Evans, in Bressingham Church. Wendy went on to take the service at the War Memorial which, as always, was very moving and in the presence of a large congregation. Being 100 years since the beginning of World War 1, Linda Holly and Pam Dowling had arranged for 12 young people to plant 12 wooden crosses, one for each of the men lost from Bressingham, a particularly poignant moment.



Light refreshments were served afterwards in the Village Hall, and we all had the chance to chat to Wendy and her husband Neal. Our thanks also go to all the people in the village who collected for the Poppy Appeal this year.

We are forming a Friends of Bressingham Church and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who might like to join us. We are not asking for your money - more for ideas on how we might be able to raise some, and increase the footfall in the church. Please contact Linda 687729, or Diana 688291 for more details.

We send our congratulations to Sam and Jemma Wheeler who were married in church on October 18th. It was a real country wedding with the bridegroom arriving on a trailer drawn by a steam engine driven by his father, Jonathan, and the bride in a cart being pulled by her six year old shire horse. Jemma was driving which made a spectacular picture as they turned into Church Lane.

Now for the most important and wonderful news,

I am thrilled to say that the roof on the church porch has now been repaired! Oak has been spliced into the ceiling and been used to hang the new rain water goods from. The outside of the roof is now made of zinc which will not have the same attraction as lead to those who are tempted to steal from a church. All the money, and a little more, has had to be used for this work but we are so very grateful to the Aves family for allowing us to raise this money in memory of Rodger and Millie.

On behalf of everyone in the village I would like to thank the people who deliver Cock Crow throughout the year, and those who edit, print etc this excellent Parish Magazine.

Have a Peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Diana

Parish Council

After opening procedures at the November meeting Councillor Spratt said that NCC should provide £5000 towards Village Hall repairs and Mr Weeks said South Norfolk would help with a similar donation. The Parish has also benefitted from money from CIL which developers have to pay on new developments.

The condition of the roads is an ongoing problem, particularly the verges and where utility works are prominent. Further efforts are being made to lower the speed limits on certain roads, particularly Fersfield Street.

Some tractor drivers continue to exceed the limit and if mud is left on the road it should be reported to the Police.

A quote for a contract to cut Church Meadow in Fersfield was agreed, also money for the upkeep of the burial grounds in both villages. A request from Norfolk Ambulance Rescue Service for a donation was also agreed.

The application for permission for a wedding and event venue at Bressingham Hall was discussed. A close neighbour spoke of his objections to the plans



with particular regard to noise level into the late hours. As the owner of nearby Bressingham Lodge he did not feel the noise assessment carried out for the Bloom family was accurate.

The Chequers is now registered as a community asset and Parish Councillors feel that in view of an upsurge in public opinion it should be retained as a pub. The application for change of use to a bed and breakfast is to be decided later this month by SNDC planning committee.

Bressingham & District Ladies Club

Now that autumn has arrived with a flourish, we look forward to our meetings which seem to brighten those dark evenings in the run up to Christmas. At the time of writing, a good number of members and partners are looking forward to our dinner at the Park Hotel at the end of November and I'm sure it will be a most enjoyable evening.



On Monday 15th December, Simon White from Peter Beales Roses will give a demonstration on Christmas wreath making; mince pies and mulled wine will be served to get us all in a seasonal frame of mind. This year instead of a 'secret Santa' present, we will be making a donation to the village hall as a contribution to the on-going repair work.

We don't meet in January as in the past bad weather has proved problematic. However, spring will be just around the corner (ever the optimist!) when we meet up again on Monday, 16th February; Sue Craggs will be talking about Reflexology.

Visitors are most welcome at our meetings held on the third Monday of the month, 7.30 at Bressingham village hall (cost £3 to include refreshments).

FERSFIELD NEWS

Church news

We tried something new at St Andrew's this year when it came to the Harvest celebrations. Our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 5 October saw a full church for the afternoon service led by Canon Tony. At 5.30, after our service, we were joined by the Bressingham community for our Harvest Supper, for which the church was again full. This was totally enjoyable, and we were able to welcome many relatives and friends. A really notable feature was the participation of so many of our villagers, and we owe a huge 'thank-you' to those who provided the delicious food and worked so hard on the night. The financial proceeds were shared between St Andrew's and St John's. We hope to repeat this formula for 'service and supper' in the future.

Early November has been a busy across the Diss Team area. The Rev. Wendy Evans was installed at St Mary's, and Fersfield's turn to welcome her came on the morning of Saturday 8th November. The short service was followed by a large group of people enjoying refreshments and meeting Wendy and Neil, whom we wish every success and happiness in South Norfolk.



A very special service took place on Sunday 9th November: our Remembrance Service, given extra poignancy this year, 2014 being the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. A big congregation, of people of all ages, welcomed Flight Sergeant Mac MacDonald, serving with the RAF Regiment, and Sue, his wife. He read the lesson and spoke the Kohima Epitaph for the part of the service which takes place at the War Memorial in St Andrew's Churchyard, in addition to laying a wreath on behalf of

RAF Honington's station commander. Refreshments were again served after this evocative service.

It is good to report that St Andrew's is no longer the cold church it was. The above events were warmed by a new heating system, thanks to the summer's work on the electricity supply and the installation of freestanding heaters pending the arrival of the fixed units which will be subject to DAC approval – we hope!



Principal forthcoming events include Book Club on Saturday 13th December, from 10–12; The Fersfield Carol Service is on Monday 22nd December, at 7.30pm with Rector Tony and others, including members of Discord, to swell our singing! Appropriate refreshments will follow, and we anticipate a packed church as usual for this special candlelit event. Our Christmas Day Family Service is at 10.30: we promise you'll be away in good time to get on with Christmas Lunch.

...and congratulations to Jennie and Richard Vere, who on 9th November became Grandparents to William Ryan... God Bless him! A big thank-you to Jean Collins for playing for the Remembrance Day service as Jennie was otherwise engaged!

Richard



LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's School

As a change from the usual format, in this report three St Andrew's pupils tell us about experiences they have enjoyed at school in the past few weeks. We hope that you enjoy reading their accounts.

In collective worship our school has been focusing on Hope. So far we have learnt different symbols like the rainbow and light and explored many inspiring stories. We made bright rainbows and colourful pompoms as a symbol of hope. On Thursday 2nd October each class created a bright tree filled with our hopes and wishes.

Every Friday St Andrew's have a celebration assembly at 2.50pm in the school. Feel free to come along and see what we have been working on throughout the week.

Written by Erin

On Thursday 9th October Saint Andrew's, Hapton and All Saints gathered at our school to watch a performance by the Maasai Warriors. The Maasai Warriors are part of a tribe from Kenya. They have come to the UK to raise money for clean water, new technology and funds to help children go to school. Richard (the leader of the tribe) answered the questions and we had to answer theirs. Many children were chosen to dance and sing with the Maasai Warriors and enjoyed it very much. The Maasai Warriors make their own clothes and jewellery. They told us that they buy the fabrics and beads then go back to their houses to make their clothes. In the group, there are seven members- two girls and five boys. Maasai Warriors perform all over the UK on streets, in village halls, school and many more places.

Written by Evie

History of North Lopham Year five and six have been researching the history of North Lopham. We've found out that North Lopham was under water with the rest of Norfolk.

Roman artefacts found in the area are at our school.

I think the best era is the dinosaurs because they roamed the world. Apparently they were alive over 65 million years ago and were the biggest animals alive.

Written by Jacob

St Andrew's Pre School

Pre School had an OFSTED inspection at the beginning of October and received a GOOD report! Congratulations all round!

Before half term, the children looked at Autumn colours and textures, so the Garden area was very well used. It was exciting to have 5 frogs living in the new garden bog area! This half term will have all the pre-Christmas preparations and activities leading up to the final exciting days, including a very special visitor!

Our sessions are now all day (8.45-15.15) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week during school term time.

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

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

ps We are running a mobile phone recycling initiative, if you have an old mobile languishing in a drawer, please let us turn it into much needed cash for the pre-school.

Lophams' Ladies

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

At our October meeting, Mr Gerry Baxter; Pearly King of Streatham, entertained us all with his interesting talk, costume and photos detailing the history and traditions of the Pearly Kings and Queens of London. Started purely as a means of raising money for charity, that is still their sole purpose today.

In November, Patrick Barker talked on 'Trees and the Law'. An Arborist by profession working

for Suffolk Council, Patrick dealt with all problems relating to trees and hedges, mainly where folks' property was concerned! He enlightened us about the meaning of Common Law versus Statutory Law; Conservation Areas and Preservation Orders; most interesting and informative.

December 2nd is our Christmas Lunch date. We are returning to Wortham Tea Rooms; bookings can be made through Sarah on the number below.

January 6th and February 3rd will be afternoon meetings; 2pm in the hall. The talks will be on 'Canals and Waterways' and 'Buckingham Palace'.

We always welcome visitors or new members; 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.

Ian Limmer of Peter Beales Roses addressed our October meeting. Ian showed many slides about Peter's life in horticulture illustrating his many achievements and how he and his family built up their business. He must be sorely missed.

Our November meeting was about The Cornfield Flowers project in the North York Moors National Park. Ian Carstairs, one of the founders together with botanist Nan Sykes and ecologist Rona Charles, showed slides illustrating how the project works to restore local plants to the countryside, raises awareness amongst the general public of the plight of arable flowers and encourages farmers to care for plants on their land.



In lieu of our December meeting we are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 3rd December. Tickets are now available; £15 for mem-

bers and £17.50 for non-members. Please call 01379 687833 for further information.

There is no meeting in January, on 1st February, Claire Simm from the British Trust for Ornithology will talk about Garden Birds.

Pat Young

Lophams Society

The Lophams' Society Autumn Quiz was held on the 12th September and despite attendance being slightly down on our Spring Quiz, the evening was enjoyed by all, especially those new to the Lophams and those who were first-time quizzers.

The next Lophams' Society event will be the CHRISTMAS DROP-IN on Friday 12th December between 6pm and 9pm. This is a FREE annual event where all Lophams' residents are invited to join us in the Village Hall for a buffet of festive food, mulled wine, music and carols and possibly a visit from Father Christmas. So please come along and join us in a little pre-Christmas get-together.

For further information on the Lophams' Society please contact Roy Clark on 01379 688408.

Holy Bingo The last session for 2014, at 2pm on 1st December, will include seasonal refreshments as well as the usual fun and banter. Younger players will be very welcome to join us on January 5th, before the new school term starts. Telephone 01379 687679 for help with transport.

Lophams' Village Hall

The Osiligi Maasai Warriors This event on 11th October 2014 was a sell out. The performers held the audience, young as well as much older, transfixed by their display of songs and dances. When it came to the jumping competition the Lophams' representatives performed very well but couldn't quite match the height and style of the warriors. Everyone enjoyed this glimpse of another culture in the knowledge that, over the years, the money earned has been used to dramatically improve the lives of the people back home.

Bonfire & Firework event Conditions were just about perfect for the Lophams' Bonfire and Firework

Event on 1st November. A great crowd gathered to enjoy the hot food and drinks in front of the bonfire, before one of the best firework displays ever. Many thanks go to those who brought such good burnables for the fire and to Jim Harris and his team for building it – when the fire finally burned out, it left just an ashy patch.

A big vote of thanks goes to everyone who helped in any way, whether out on the field, in the hall, or with the clearing up afterwards.

The Lottery The October draw marked the end of five years of the Lophams' Village Hall lottery!

During that time, over £17,000 has been distributed in prize money and over £9,000 has been applied to the Village Hall Development Fund. Sincere thanks from the hall management committee to all those who have participated, your support has allowed us to make important improvements to the building and its surroundings. Since the building work to improve the facilities for the less able was completed, new blinds have been fitted and the recessed down-lighters in the main hall have been replaced with low energy LED units, thanks to Village Green Blinds and Joe Bernard for their efforts.

Please remember that our principal purpose is to maintain the fabric of the hall as an attractive venue for the use and benefit of local people, the proceeds from the Village Hall Lottery are designated entirely for this. If you're not in the lottery, there are still a few free slots if you'd like to join in (ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw at the December Farmers' Market for those who have been 'in' for at least three months.

Recent winners of the Lottery draw are: September's first prize of £186, G Horan; second prizes of £46.50, P Wyer & D Hammond. In October the winners were: first prize £184, D Somers; second prizes of £46, C Watson & P Moralee.

Farmers' Markets are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, but December's is on Sunday 21st. The January market reverts to 24th, the Saturday. (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

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

Dog Training 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 £1.15 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687 679. To find out more visit the website at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk .

Lophams' Harvest Luncheon: A very happy crowd gathered at the Village Hall for the Lopham Churches Harvest luncheon on 21st September, enjoying a delicious spread which included ham, stuffed chicken thighs and a whole host of salads, followed by the traditional apple pie and ice cream. The raffle helped boost the funds raised by the event to £306 to be shared between the two churches. Grateful thanks go to all who helped with the cooking, setting up and clearing away – plus to those who came along.



Little Ouse Headwaters Project

AGM and Members' Evening

4 December 7.30pm, Blo'Norton Village Hall
Talk by Professor Allan Downie – Ashes to Ashes
(The latest on ash dieback)

All welcome, please bring a plate to share
(suggested donation from non-members £2).
Raffle and seasonal refreshments.

Winter Walk

Sunday 4 January 2015
A gentle morning's amble to discover seasonal delights along the Little Ouse valley.
Meet at Thelnetham Village Hall for 10.30am start.

More information on website: www.lohp.org.uk

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council

12th November at 'The Mess'

Attendance: All councillors, Parish Clerk, 6 members of public.

Extinguishment of footpath (Mr Brunning) 4 objections received by NCC; referred to the Secretary of State for decision.

War Memorial cleaning has been completed.

Methodist Chapel/Neighbourhood Plan; 250 questionnaires distributed, 84 returned to date.

Adopting MC as a village asset; 46 yes, 33 no, 5 don't know. Discussion followed; 46 in favour out of possible 250 unlikely to secure grant funding plus ongoing cost concerns. Voted not to pursue the acquisition.

Other options; approach Village Hall Committee.

NP; Many different comments received; affordable housing, speeding traffic and infill development the most common. Data analysis continues. Benefits of NP uncertain, cost is not clear but grants are available; further investigation required.

Thanks to those who filled in their questionnaire, if you haven't returned yours, please do.

Recycling; profit from the bottle bank at the King's Head (£400 last year) goes to the Parish Council and helps lower the precept, profit from bottles in your black bin goes to Breckland. Please continue to use the KH bottle bank!

Website; a new PC website is under construction, the village website will continue. Thanks expressed to Judy Farren-Bradley for her work over the past years.

Highways; Partnership plan funding is available again for small projects.

Road signs are being restored, 20mph signs to be added to beacons by the school.

Flooding on 19th September, some drains have been cleared since.

Action is being taken to curb speeding and illegal HGV traffic. A 1 week traffic survey revealed over 500 vehicles exceeded the 30mph limit by enough to be prosecuted.

Footpath to Village Hall; discussion with Mr Alston continues.

Pond tidying; thanks to Eric Bird for helping to clear the wood pile.

Dog fouling; new, metal notices have been obtained at no cost.

Grave reservation fee increased to £40.

Precept level to be decided by Jan 31st 2015

PC elections in May 2015.

Clearing Primrose Lane to share cost 50/50 with South Lopham.

Biomass plant; HGV traffic should not pass through Lophams. Contractors contacted.

Grass cutting; agreed to change contractor.

Quiet Lanes; discontinued experiment.

Community Speed Watch; Volunteers required, for possible scheme with S Lopham please contact the Parish Clerk.

A letter of appreciation will be sent to St Andrew's school in respect of the performance of the pupils at the War Memorial on 11th November.

Next Meeting Jan 14th 2015

Methodist Church

Methodist friends hold an informal service and coffee morning in Church on the fourth Wednesday each month and would welcome anyone from the village to join them at 10.30am. For December, there will be carols and mince pies on 17th In January, the service is on 28th.

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal

Many, many thanks to everybody who took part this Autumn – the best year ever!

Sixty four beautifully wrapped boxes are on their way to disadvantaged children in Serbia, in good time for Christmas.

St Nicholas' Church

The MacMillan Coffee Morning on 26th September raised £146. Thank you to all who supported us.

Harvest Thanksgiving in North Lopham was on 12th October. Many thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully for Harvest, and an extra Thank You to the Wright family for the loan of two attention grabbing vintage tractors and a hand drawn plough that stood outside on the day.

It was lovely to have children to share in the gifts procession and prayers at the Family Harvest. At the afternoon Harvest Praise the Benefice Band shared in playing traditional harvest hymns as well as some of their own favourites, and we were grateful to Jayne Hinds for coming to lead our thoughts. After taking our harvest gift parcels, the groceries brought to the services were added to those from St Andrew's School and given to Diss Food Bank.

Welcoming the Revd Wendy Evans, our part time Team Vicar, to North Lopham. The children from St Andrew's School joined local residents in Church on 7th November for a short service at which Rector Canon Tony Billett installed Revd Wendy in the incumbent's stall. The children sang two unaccompanied songs during the service and then gave Revd Wendy a huge bottle top Poppy picture and a wreath ready for Remembrance Sunday. Revd Wendy told them a bit about herself, before presenting the week's certificates and awards, and giving the final Blessing.

Remembrance Sunday Family Service was the setting for the Annual Remembrance Service in church, led by the Home Team, during which the names of all those from the village who gave their lives in the two World Wars were read and wreaths were laid in front of the memorial.

Armistice Day, 11th November, was marked by the Annual Ceremony at the village War Memorial at 11am, with the Royal British Legion Standard, veterans and local residents plus the older Juniors from St Andrew's School. They were joined by an Officer from Lakenheath, who read the names of the 18 US airmen who died in a crash over the village in 1945. The children planted poppy crosses and shared in the service, singing a special Remembrance song. Mia Somers played the National Anthem on her trumpet.

The ceremony had special significance in this, the centenary year since the start of the hostilities.

(A booklet is being compiled over the next four years, with all the information that can be collected about the men from North Lopham who gave their lives. We would be very grateful to hear from anyone with resources they are willing to share – please contact 687679. Thank you.)

North Lopham Crib Festival 26th to 30th

November. We do hope that all readers will visit to the Festival at the end of November.

On Advent Sunday, 30th November, the Festival will close with the sending of Mary, Joseph and the donkey figure on their journey round both Lophams, seeking a night's shelter with willing hosts – Posada.

The special services for Advent to Epiphany will follow the traditional pattern:

The Toy Service at 11am on 7th December: Gifts for very deprived families in the Thetford area, wrapped and labelled with details of the age and sex for which they are intended, will be delivered to the local branch of Action for Children in good time to bring some happiness to very deserving folk.

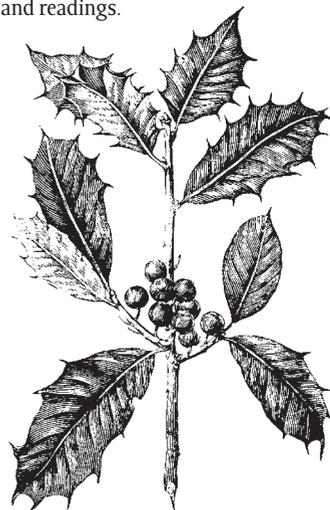
Advent Carols at 4pm on 14th December: includes some of the most beautiful music and readings for the season.

Family Carol Service at 11am on 21st: the children will read the Nativity Story in a delightful version, interspersed with familiar carols and songs.

The Crib Service is at 4pm on Christmas Eve: A quiet interlude before the excitement of Christmas Day. The children will place the figures in the crib scene, as the Story unfolds.

Christmas Sunday: There will be a Christmas Communion at 9.30am on 28th December, to which all are invited.

Epiphany Carols at 4pm on 11th January will complete the Nativity Story, with more wonderful music and readings.



SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church

The Installation of our new Team Vicar, the Reverend Wendy Evans, took place at St Mary's Church, Diss on the evening of Thursday 6th November. The following morning she attended St Andrew's for a short welcome, Liturgy, coffee and cakes. She met parish members and, as is the tradition, rang the Church Bell.



On Sunday 9th November, a Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial for those who lost their lives in the two World Wars. Wreaths were laid by John Crisp representing the Parish Council and John Goddard representing the Royal British Legion; also, members of the parish laid their personal tributes. Reverend Wendy Evans led the service accompanied by the Team Rector, the Reverend Canon Tony Billett.

On Tuesday 16th December at 6pm the children from St Andrew's School will hold their Carol Service at St Andrew's Church; all are welcome.

Our Christmas Day Service will be Holy Communion at 9.30am; we will be pleased to welcome the Reverend Captain Michael Reeder back to his home village to take the service.

The Church Wardens and PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to St Andrew's Church in any way over the past year, all help has been very much appreciated. We would also like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Parish Council

Meeting of 6th November at Valley Farm,

Present; three Councillors with John Crisp in the chair, the clerk, Mrs Caroline Phillips, and three members of the public. Apologies received from four council members.

The Chairman reported that he had attended an Area meeting on 4th November which had been addressed by speakers from Breckland Council, concerning Local Plan issues, and NCC Highways concerning the Parish Partnership scheme and on Parish matters.

Financial report; Accounts were produced for approval and ratification. The final budget 2014/15 was produced and the draft budget for 2015/16 precept was approved.

Quotations for the cost of clearance of Primrose Lane; it was agreed that the contract should be granted to P Frizzell, subject to final agreement by North Lopham PC.

Planning: It was noted that permission had been granted for two buildings on land at Pooley Street. The landlord of the White Horse public house informed the meeting that the District Council requires him to obtain planning permission for the marquee erected on the side of his property. The council will receive details of the application.

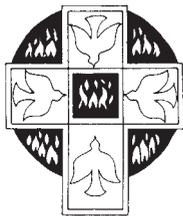
Highways On 24th October, Jim Pursehouse met the NCC highways engineer concerning the continued escape of water onto the A1066, vehicle damage to the posts by the war memorial, the village sign at the eastern end of the village, the drain outside Weavers, the speed limit sign, the tree at Lime Tree Farm, damaged bridge on Low Common road and improvements outside Pansthorpe Farm. Pot hole repairs have been carried out on Redgrave Road. Steve Reynolds has drafted a proposal to NCC (supported by our District and County Councillors) for the extension of the 30mph zone on the A1066 at the eastern end of the village.

The council wishes to remind all property occupiers and owners of their responsibility to trim back overhanging branches and hedges, to keep ditches clear, to avoid damage to verges and to allow clear passage wherever possible.

Footpaths; Rob Webb is working towards keeping our footpaths clear.

Community Speed Watch The Chairman raised the question of a Community Speed Watch scheme to be operated in conjunction with North Lopham.

Next meeting; 8th January 2015 at Valley Farm, Low Common, at 7.30pm.



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

**BURSTON
GISSING
SHELFANGER
TIVETSHALL
WINFARTHING**

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

Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

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



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
December 7	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
December 10	6.30 Christingle				
December 14	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	3.00 Carols	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
December 21	3.00 4SS	11.00 Carols	8.00 HC	3.00 Carols	6.00 Carols/VC
December 24	11.30pm HC		5.30pm HC		
December 25	11.00 Chapel	10.00 HC		9.00 HC	
December 28	10.30 5/P HC				
January 4	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
January 6	Epiphany				7.00pm EP
January 11	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
January 18	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
January 25	3.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
February 1	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

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

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WINFARTHING

CORRESPONDENT NEEDED: please apply via Winfarthing PCC

Date	Bressingham St John the Baptist (BCP)	Fersfield St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)	N Lopham St Nicholas (BCP &) (C/W Order 1)	S Lopham St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)
Sun 7th Dec Advent 2	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am Toy Service	No Service
Sun 14th Dec Advent 3	9.30am HC	9.30am MP	11am FS 4pm Advent Carols	No Service
Sun 21st Dec Advent 4	9.30am MP	No Service	11am Family Carol Service	9.30am HC
Christmas Eve			4pm Crib Service	
Christmas Day		10.30am Christmas Family Service		9.30am Christmas HC
Sun 28th Dec Christmas 1	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC	No Service
Sun 4th Jan Christmas 2 Epiphany Sunday	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am FS	No Service
Sun 11th Jan Epiphany 1	9.30am HC	9.30am MP	11am FS 4pm Epiphany Carol S	No Service
Sun 18th Jan Epiphany 2	9.30am MP	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 25th Jan Epiphany 3	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am Morning Service
Sunday 1st Feb Epiphany 4	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am 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

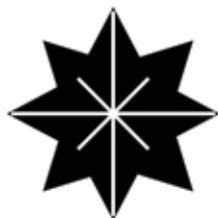
Morning Prayer: At present is at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday at North Lopham and on Thursday at South Lopham in addition to the service held each weekday in St Mary's, Diss at 8.30am.

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 Hewitt 01379 687355
N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679
S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 D Huggins 01379 687201 J Brundell



The Cosmic Christ

In our generation, through the creative, driving forces of humankind's achievements, it is now possible to land a lunar transporter on a comet 300+ million miles away. For some people, this project was spread over 25 years in various stages of planning. It is outstanding that it even arrived at its correct destination on time. I would hate to have been the mathematician(s) who had to work out the figures required for such a gigantic undertaking. What if the figures were wrong? I cannot imagine the enormous sense of responsibility that was placed on all who were involved upon such a project. Consider the cost of failure!

Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament; in chapter one, verse one and two, using the Authorised Version, it says 'In the beginning God created the heaven and earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and the darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the waters of the earth'. I like the use of the void in this context. Void being an emptiness, a collection of gases. It is noticeable that the list containing the order in which God created is the exact order of events that happened.

For me, the wonder and amazement of the birth of Jesus Christ is that it is a deliberate working out of God's plan for every single one of us. That the time and place of his birth is foretold in the Scriptures; that Christ would be born of a virgin; descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; that he would be of the tribe of Judah. All timed and planned from aeons past, born with a purpose for the whole humankind. No wonder the Shepherds and Wise Men fell at his feet, joining in the adoration of the whole of the heavenly host to the new born child.

'Oh come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant'.

Even today, wise men still seek out Christ. Do you?

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Revd David F Mills

BURSTON NEWS

St Mary's Luncheon Club

This club is for retired folk from Burston and the surrounding villages. Members meet in the Church on the fourth Thursday of every month. Any enquiries to Sybil Peck on 01379 741410

Youth Café

Every Thursday during term time the Youth Café is in full swing. If you are aged 11-14 come and join us for games, free pizza and milkshake from 3.45-5.15 in the Church.

Church Hire

If you are interested in hiring St Mary's Church for a special event please contact Anne Hyde on 07733182525. Tables, chairs and tableware are available for hire.

A buffet can also be provided.

Correction Re: Church Maintenance

To clear up any confusion caused by the item in the last issue the help needed is for care of the gravel immediately surrounding the Church where the mower cannot reach, not the church path which is already regularly tended.

Information Please

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

St Mary's Church

Christmas Services

Christingle on Friday 12th December at 2.30pm
Carol Service (with readings) on Sunday 21st December at 9.30am

Please note:

Christmas Eve: Holy Communion at Gissing at 11.30am

Christmas Day: no service, join Burston Chapel at 10am

Holy Communion at Shelfanger on Sunday at 10.30am

Burston Chapel

Carols on the Green on Saturday 20th December at 5pm (hot soup or hot chocolate for all attendees!)

Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 21st December at 6pm

Christmas Day Service at 10am

The Friends

I don't know how many years the Friends has been running their fish and chip quiz in the autumn – 10, maybe 15 years? Anyway, it seems to go from strength to strength and this year tickets were sold out earlier than ever. Many thanks to all concerned for a very enjoyable evening, in particular to Len and Anne.

The Friends are organising a Christmas concert on Tuesday 16th December, 7.30pm start. We are lucky to have the Shelfanger Singers to entertain us. This will be a relaxed evening of Christmas readings, songs and carols with mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets £4 available from Len (01379 741033) and Anne (07733 182525).

Rachel Hobson

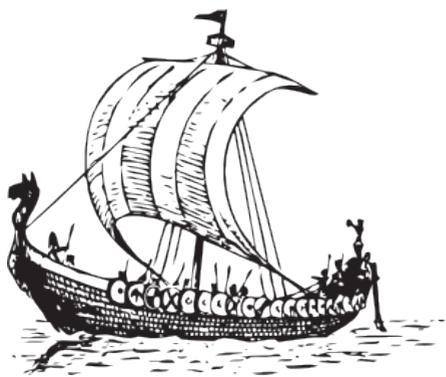
Burston School

Class 1: This term we will continue to develop pupil knowledge and skills through contextualised learning. Our topic, 'Long, Long Ago,' will include activities that cover learning objectives for science, history, art and design, computing and design and technology. The half term begins by talking about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot and creating some art work. The focus will then move onto Remembrance Day where there will be an opportunity to create some art work based around poppies. We will then move onto looking at toys from the past (in preparation for Christmas). Music will be taught through preparation for the nativity, with a strong focus on singing and movement to music. Our Christmas play this year will be on Tuesday 9th December.

Class 2: The second half of the Autumn term is

always a busy time in school and this year is no exception. In Literacy we are looking at Aesop's fables. After this we will move onto exploring information texts, creating our own information texts about pets. We will finish the half term with a look at poetry, primarily talking about the nonsense poems and limericks created by Edward Lear. In maths we are going to cover lots of areas, including fractions, shape and the number system. Our topic is called 'Long, Long Ago.' We will cover the same topics as Class 1. During RE we are going to be discussing different festivals of light: Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas. We will be preparing our nativity ready for our performances at the beginning of December. This year our nativity is called 'The Wiggly Nativity' and we hope that the children enjoy preparing and performing this play to those who are able to be there.

Class 3: This half term's topic is Vikings. We will be looking at how the Vikings came over to England, focus on how their lives would be different from ours, including what food they would have eaten and what their houses would have been like, as well as looking at Alfred the Great and Edward the Confessor. We will be making long boats and have a go at weaving.



We will be commemorating 100 years since the First World War, begin to learn Christmas Carols and will be making Christmas gifts. Our science topic is Materials and we will be looking at solids, liquids and gases, moving onto properties of materials and culminating in reversible and irreversible changes. Our Christingle service will be held at the Church on Friday 5th December at 2pm.

GISSING NEWS

One fine day in the saddle...

...for Norfolk Churches

I set off 9am from Gissing and then to Tivetshall, Gt Moulton, Aslacton and other churches north-west of Gissing, reaching out as far as Eccles.

The weather played its part by keeping mainly sunny and bright, but most importantly no strong breeze! Lunch (always a major part of the outing) was taken at The King's Head at North Lopham. If I remember correctly, the same lunch spot was chosen for my very first churches ride with my brother some twenty odd years ago. The cottage pie is still as good as I remembered.

Fewer cyclists about this year; all the churches I visited were open and a few new ones were added to my list. As ever, Diss, with its nine churches, is an important place to visit and after that it's how many more I can collect on the final half hour as I make my way homeward to a relaxing hot soak in the bath.

In total some 57 miles cycled and 40 churches visited. Not my largest total ever but one with which I'm content. A big 'thank you' to all those who supported me. A record £250 was collected as sponsorship. Half goes to the Norfolk Churches Trust that has helped us in the past with financial grants for repairs – and the remaining half to our own fabric repair fund. Thanks are also due to all those who take time to sign the cyclists in and provide refreshments to those in the saddle. Well done again this year everyone.

George Hammond

Remembering

We had a large congregation for our annual Service of Remembrance in church on Sunday 9 November led by 'the home team'. A very mild morning – we even had to turn one of the heaters off!! As usual the act of remembrance took place at the village memorial where the names of soldiers of Gissing who died in two world wars were read out. In the midst of commemorating the centenary of World War One the piercing notes of the bugle that followed a two minutes silence was particularly poignant today.

The church was beautifully decorated with poppies and eleven special candles were lit to honour those who lost their lives. Letters from 'The Front' and from an airman and seaman were read out and we listened to a moving poem called 'Remembering' by Josie Walsh which spoke of the thoughts of those left behind at home as their loved ones went off to war. Thanks go to all who played their part in the service and to Kevin, everyone's favourite bugler – not forgetting Muriel and Trudi for the delicious sandwiches and cakes that we have come to consider as essential after all special services in church!

The collection, amounting to £125.50, was sent to The Royal British Legion to aid their work with disabled servicemen and women and their families.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the house-to-house poppy sales and for your warm welcome when George and I knock at the door. We will let you know the sum raised in the next issue.

DH

Friends of Gissing Church

The Friends and Parochial Church Council are currently developing a revised bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funds needed to repair the church structure (especially the vestry wall). There is more work involved than you can ever imagine (!) and we have been on a steep learning curve, so this is a great opportunity to be able to say to the representatives from the churches in Norfolk who have secured funds recently and who have provided us with much needed advice to help us re-shape the bid... Thank you very much. We will keep people informed on the bid as we go through the process.

Against this background, and since the last edition of Cock Crow, the Friends have supported the Gissing Summer Fete, where visitors enjoyed a lovely summer afternoon of entertainment, stalls and refreshments. The Fete visitors generously supported the Friends pottery sales, the bottle tombola and 'Split the Bucket' which raised over £350. In September we held a Harvest Breakfast at the Village Hall, helped by very generous donations of bread, buns and croissants from Greggs Bakery in Diss. It was a lovely morning of chat, coffee and the papers. This too raised nearly £180.

The Autumn Friends Tea Party was also held in

the Village Hall in October and visitors were able to browse and buy from a few craft stallholders. All the delicious cakes were donated and much needed funds of £117 were raised.

Many thanks go to all those who have led, organised, donated to and supported these events in the past months, which hopefully helped to put some 'fun' into fundraising.

Winter is now approaching and Christmas cards are on sale in the church. We are looking forward to the St Nicholas Fayre on December 6th – everyone in Gissing hopes that you will come and enjoy this great start to the Festive Season at which there will be a wide range of stalls to browse, refreshments to enjoy and entertainment. Do include a visit to the Friends stall during your time at the Fayre, and if you are a member of the Friends there will be a little 'thank you' Christmas gift waiting for you to collect in the church. We will see you there.

Don't forget that the Friends invite you to help them ring in 2015 at Gissing Church on New Year's Eve. Warmth will be provided both by the welcome if you venture out and some supplies of whisky to keep out the cold!!

We continue to be very grateful for the great support given by the local community, but we are always looking for additional involvement, and ideas about how we can maintain and make wider use of our lovely church. In this edition of the Cock Crow therefore you will have seen the flyer inviting you to consider joining the Friends if you are not currently a member, or becoming involved in other ways. If you feel you could offer help, would like to know more about the Friends, become a member or if you have an idea about fund raising, then please contact

Fiona Turton, FOGC Chair, at fionaturton@btinternet.com or

Ed Scoggins, Secretary at eddie.scoggins@live.co.uk

Heart of Gissing

Please visit www.heartofgissing.org.uk for up to date information about groups, events and what is happening in the centre of the village. In addition, you can google 'Gissing Village Life' to find us, and 'like' us on Facebook.

Forthcoming fundraising events include:

St Nicholas Fayre Saturday 6th December from 3pm to 7pm at the Old School (Children's Centre) and St Mary's Church. A magical evening for all the family. Enjoy a festive atmosphere whilst choosing presents from a wide range of local producers and crafts. Special visits to Father Christmas. Refreshments include: hot dogs, turkey rolls, tea, coffee, cakes and mince pies. We look forward to seeing you. There will be something for all the family. For information, please contact 01379 674511 or admin@heartofgissing.org.uk. Admission is free.

Stage HOGers Panto Hansel & Gretel We are back in action this year, treading the boards at Aslacton and Gt Moulton village hall. Come along and join us on a magical woodland adventure with Hansel and Gretel and a fantastic cast of characters. Dates are 9th and 10th January and tickets £6.50 and £4.50 concessions. For tickets, email: admin@heartofgissing.org.uk or purchase from Gissing Crown or contact samiwatt@rocketmail.com

Groups running at present include:

South Norfolk Time and Place a series of talks at Gissing Village Hall. For further information contact Kate Heath of 01379 677504 or email: admin@heartofgissing.org.uk.

Heart of Gissing Crafter's Cafe meets on the second Tuesday of every month between 10am and 1pm. Anyone interested in developing their sewing and crafting skills, or who would just like to see what it's all about, is invited to join this popular get-together in the Village Hall. The session costs £3 and includes materials and refreshments. For more details phone Anne Reynolds on 01379 674272.

Dec 8th: Social meeting. Bring a plate of food to share and some of your current work to show the group.

For further details telephone Anne Reynolds 01379 674272 or Kate Heath 01379 677504

Gissing Children's Centre (Pre-School and Play-scheme) Contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am

to 3pm during term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours or email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk

The Toddler Group at Gissing Village Hall. Come and join us for a chat and a cuppa whilst the children play. Every Monday during term time from 10am-11:30am. Children from 0-5yrs £1.50 includes a drink, a snack, and a different craft activity each week. Check our Facebook page for what's on 'The Toddler Group at Gissing Village Hall'. Or contact Vicky at vhcullum@hotmail.com or 01379 674729.

Gissing Youth Club anyone interested in running this group, please contact Bernie on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email at berniecalton@live.co.uk.

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

Gissing Singers meet every Monday at 7.30pm in Gissing Village Hall. Further information available from 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 for further details.

Performing Arts East offers a variety of dance classes to children from 3 years of age and adults. It runs from the Children's Centre (the Old School) and from Gissing village hall. For further details, please 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. For further details, please contact Sam as above.

Heart of Gissing Community Arts Group A new group with exciting plans to run initiatives involving visual arts, music, dance and drama at the Old School including provision for young adults with additional needs such as disabilities or learning difficulties. Any queries to Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at rose@roseeddington.co.uk.

Stage HOGers puts on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, please contact Sam as above.

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

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 Bernie Calton on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email at 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 or email – lindamarynash@yahoo.co.uk

Gissing Children's Centre

Our popular and successful Pre-School, with its very special family ethos, runs Monday to Friday during term time in two, 3 hour-long sessions per day where children can attend from 9 am to 12 noon and/or from 12 noon to 3pm. Early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions and we are now able to offer a limited number of funded places for eligible 2 year olds. Children can attend unaccompanied from 2–5 years old (although we do only have limited places for children under 2½ years old). Any families wishing to bring their children and come and have a look, contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am–3pm during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or email preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange a visit at a time of your choice. Do visit our website (www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) and our facebook page to see the sort of things we do.

We extend a huge thank you to members of the community who continually help us with donations of all sorts, including vouchers, paper, good quality toys and equipment and, in particular, those people who contributed in a variety of ways to our Witchy Woodland Fayre on Saturday 18th October and who helped to bring the Millennium Wood to life for a really magical afternoon. Likewise, the volunteers who work tirelessly to provide brilliant holiday play schemes for primary school children in the locality.

Unto us a Son BANHAM NATIVITY PLAY

Outside in St Mary's Churchyard, Banham
Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st December (two performances)

5.30 Come and experience the Bethlehem Street Market

6.30 Performance begins

Mulled wine and refreshments in the Church after the performance
Please try and come in appropriate costume and bring a lantern

Please switch off mobile phones, torches and use only lanterns.

No dogs please as there are horses in the play.



All Saints' Church

Harvest Festival was celebrated on October 5th. As hoped for, your church was decorated magnificently with flowers, fruit and vegetables, the rich colours of the fruit and flowers mirrored in the lovely stained glass tints of the east window. A sizeable congregation joined to give thanks to God for the blessings of produce and country life. The service was taken and address given by the Rector whilst music, readings, intercessions, a poem and comical prose were the responsibility of the All Saints' 'home team'.

The very generous gifts of perishable produce were sold off at the village bus shelter on Monday 6th by the wardens and Mrs Pam Harries. In spite of some heavy rain, the fruit and vegetables sold readily and £70 was raised for church funds.

Gift Day On All Saints' Day, Saturday 1st November the church held its annual and crucial Gift Day. The parish responded and is still responding magnificently. Presently, the 2014 total stands at just over £1,500, which hugely helps Shelfanger keep its church and Christian community going, as it has for over 700 years. Thank you all for your help and support for these two events.

Farewells

Sadly, we have to record two funerals; firstly, on September 29th that of Mrs Betty Chiles, late of Spa House and K & C Mouldings. A large congregation of employees, business and village friends gathered to say farewell. Secondly, on November 4th a large congregation of family, village friends, bowlers and others gathered to say farewell to Mr Ernest Viccars late of Street Farm and father of Vicci Day.

The best wishes of the church and village go out to Christina, William and families and to Vicci, Keith, Matthew and Melissa and their families.

Remembrance Service

This takes place at the church tower which houses the tablet inscribed with the names of those men

from Shelfanger who were killed in the Great War and the striking clock above, which is their live memorial. Wreaths are laid from the village and from the Railway Club, whilst individual crosses are placed to remember those more recently fallen or from other places.

Christmas Fayre

At this time, also, plans are well under way for the All Saints' Church Christmas Fayre to be held at the village hall on Saturday November 29th from 11am to 3pm with lunches served around midday. A full report on this event in the next issue.

Christmas Services

As the church season of Trinity fades, the new seasons of Advent and Christmas are fast approaching and much planning and work is in hand. On Sunday December 14th, the Annual Village Candlelit Carol Service takes place at 3 pm. This service with its readings, carols and Christmas music all held in the glow and sparkle of candles is a wonderful way to start your Christmas. Do come if you can. Please note this is a week earlier than usual.

On Christmas Day itself, your church has a service of Holy Communion at 10am. The Christmas Eve Midnight Communion this year is at Gissing at 11.30 pm. On the last Sunday of the year, 28th December, Shelfanger hosts the five parish benefice communion service at 10.30 am. All welcome.

Finally, we continue to remember all those who are not very well and mention them in church prayers every day.

Shelfanger Social Club

At the recent Annual General Meeting of this now thriving club, Ivan Cotton was again elected Chairman and the committee of Derek Lord, Marilyn Hurst, Ray Leeder (Membership Secretary), Tig Ross and Roger Challoner was elected en bloc. Helen Green was again appointed secretary and treasurer. The chairman thanked the committee, volunteer bar staff, Derek Lord for organising the Thrift Club and Tig Ross and Paul Meredew for their advice and expertise.

Boyland Common

Congratulations to the Boyland Common Committee under the leadership of Pam Ross, Pat Webster, Helen Green and their team for the award of a Certificate of Achievement for the refurbishment of a communal open space awarded by the National Lottery Fund, the Civic Trust and Natural England.

A major project well done.

Poppy Appeal

Peter Harries and Tig Ross thank all in Shelfanger for their helpfulness and generosity during the recent collection for Royal British Legion. Though the total is not yet to hand it is expected to be a good one and the full result will be published in the next issue.

Parish Council

Much work has begun by Joe Thompson, Brian Buckle and Paul Chambers on making the village website a place for regular updates on work which the Parish Council know is to cause disruption to members of the public. If there are any warnings issued by the Police or Norfolk County Council these can be put on the site. The Council urges villagers to regularly check the site to see if there are matters they should be aware of: www.shelfanger.com.

If you have any events or news you would like to share with the village please contact Brian on brian@shelfanger.com or Paul on paul@shelfanger.com

The team is also very pleased to welcome Jackie Atkinson on board. Jackie has just moved into the village and is another point of contact for the website. jackie@shelfanger.com

Meanwhile, to reassure those readers who are not on line, the parish council confirms that parish information will still be on public display as usual on the Village Notice Boards.

Shelfanger Stitches

Meets fortnightly where much talking, some stitching and tea drinking takes place. Sixteen Trauma Teddies have been sent to the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service -something they had not had before. Hats and jumpers have been given to a charity connected with the Diss Food Bank and also to the Toys and Tins Appeal run by the Salvation Army in Norwich. Syringe bags have been knitted for the

Weybourne Cancer Unit at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital as well as baby blankets and snuggle squares for the Neo Natal Unit. If anyone knows of a local charity/group who would appreciate some knitted items please let the group know.

For more information phone Helen on 652199.

Diss Library News



Regular Events The last Baby Bounce & Rhyme time of 2014 will be on 19th December, and sessions will start again on Friday 9th January 2015 at 10.30am; new faces are assured of a welcome.

We have just started a Junior Book Group at the library on the first Monday of the month at 3.30pm for children aged 8+. The next dates are Monday 1st December 2014 and Monday 2nd February 2015

We also run a Knit & Natter session on Wednesday afternoons and two library book groups for adults including one for people with a visual impairment.

Do you know anyone who has trouble getting to the library? We have volunteers who will come out to your house, discuss your reading preferences, choose and deliver books to you. If you or someone you know could make use of this service, please call the library on 01379 642609

Christmas opening times All Norfolk libraries will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. We will also be closing at 5pm on Wednesday 24th and Wednesday 31st December. Everyone at the library wishes you a Happy Christmas and prosperous 2015!

If Santa bringing you a new e-reader or tablet, you might like to know that Norfolk libraries have a catalogue of ebooks and audiobooks which can be borrowed by free download from your home computer. The list of titles is at www.library.norfolk.gov.uk where you can also find advice on which devices are compatible and how to download.

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

Opening Hours

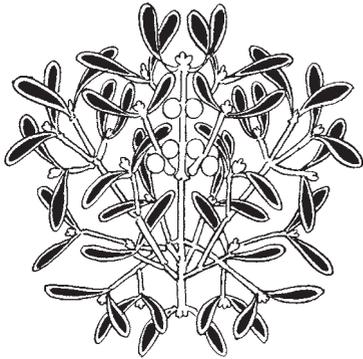
Monday, Thursday, Friday: 9-5
Tuesday, Saturday: 9-1
Wednesday: 9-1; 2-7.30.

TIVETSHALL NEWS

St Margaret Church

We are extremely grateful to Mr and Mrs Bilston who rode for Tivetshall in the annual sponsored cycle ride this year. They raised £50 for the church.

Thank you to all those who contributed flowers and produce for the Harvest Festival; the church looked beautiful. The produce was sold after the service, raising £40 that was sent to the Tear Fund.



Christmas

Tivetshall school will hold their Christingle Service on Wednesday 10th December at 6.30pm. All welcome.

There will be no service held in the church on Christmas Day this year. However, there will be a service of Holy Communion on December 24th at 5.30pm. We hope to see lots of you there.

Tivetshall Primary School

After spending two weeks setting back into routine, we started a very busy new week with an afternoon of blackberry picking. Everyone was very well behaved and enjoyed the warm, sunny weather after a very cold morning. Everybody went back to school with lots of blackberries but some of us carried them home in our tummies rather than our containers and many children had suspiciously dark faces and lips!

Later in the week we used some of the blackberries in cooking and served the cakes at our Macmillan Coffee Morning and Harvest Festival. Many parents, family and friends were able to attend and

we raised £100 for this good cause. This is something that we do every year in place of traditional offerings of food. We were also joined by Mr Quantrill of Great Moulton who donated a book to the school, written by his daughter, in memory of his late wife who had taught at the school many years previously. Many thanks to all of the parents who baked cakes. Without you there would be no coffee morning.

During the following week Class 1 celebrated our first Writing Café on the theme of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Parents learnt all about how children develop sentences to make them more interesting; learnt phonic skills in Reception; and joined hand-writing. This was followed by lots of fun activities in the hall, including junk modelling and making Truly Scrumptious treats.

Towards half-term we were focussing on safety. The children in Years 5 and 6 listened to a talk and took part in a workshop from the NSPCC where they learned all about Childline (0800 1111). The whole school also spent time considering cyber-bullying – what it is, why it is wrong and what they should do if they become a victim of it. In addition Reception and Year 1 learnt how to cross the road safely and the importance of car seats and Year 3 worked on designing their own risk assessments for activities that they carry out at home.

Success came when Tivetshall A won the Diss Cluster netball competition. A student from Diss High School commented on how much taller the other teams were which made it even more of an achievement!

Sandra Potter, Senior Teacher



WINFARTHING NEWS

All Saints' Primary School

Article by Dolphin Class Autumn 2014

It has been a busy half term at All Saints', with new children quickly settling into Rhino Class (Reception) and several joining from other schools. The whole school theme this year has been hope and every class has led their own act of worship. In lessons, we have all 'journeyed back into the past' with our topic work. There have been many exciting opportunities for all of the pupils this year and one of the highlights for Dolphin Class (Upper Key Stage 2) has been the visit of author Stephen Davies to inspire creative writing. Dolphin class enjoyed learning about the different skills needed to be an author. Another fantastic time was had when we joined with St Andrew's to watch the Massai Warriors – they were brilliant and so energetic. Lower Key Stage 2 have explored Grimes Grave and Key Stage 1 have learnt about how toys have changed over time when visiting Strangers Hall in Norwich. The whole school learnt lots about teeth when a dental nurse visited and showed us what could happen if our teeth are decayed. The term has also seen good use of the fantastic new sports hall and we have achieved our REQM award for our religious studies work.

We are looking forward to our Christmas on Wednesday 17th December. We will also be continuing with our Journey to the past topic.

If you wish to know more about, or visit All Saints' Primary contact the school office: 01379 642767 or e-mail head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk

Candlelit Carol Service

6pm Sunday 21st December
Winfarthing church



Traditional carols,
the school choir and readings
Festive refreshments to follow and,
hopefully, a seasonal visitor too

All welcome

Correspondent needed!

Winfarthing needs a new correspondent. If you would like to be Winfarthing's correspondent, please contact the Editor via the Winfarthing PCC.

From the Registers

Bressingham Group

WEDDINGS

Robert Goodwin and Kristie Gill 4th

October South Lopham

Samuel Wheeler and Jemma Weston 18th

October Bressingham

FUNERALS

Alan Taylor 17th September

Bressingham (at West Suffolk
Crematorium)

John Seaman 19th September Fersfield

Elizabeth Porter 5th November
South Lopham (at West Suffolk
Crematorium)

Winfarthing Group

FUNERALS

Betty Childs 29th September, Shelfanger

Ernest Cole 2nd October, Winfarthing

Bert Grout 23rd October, Burston

Ernest Viccars 4th November, Shelfanger

George Shawcross 13th November,
Winfarthing

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Kate Wells 15th November, Shelfanger

WEDDING

Jamie Leicester & Francesca Hall

4th October, Winfarthing

CHRISTENING

Calum Hartgrove 19th October, Tivetshall

Murphy's Rambles

Hello folks!

What balmy weather we are having, but lots of rain too which turned the baked mud paths into skid pans. 'Just get claws on your wellies,' I told her!

Still, it's lovely watching the kaleidoscope of colours appearing in the hedges and the pleasure of scuffing our feet in the fallen leaves. I got really excited when we had our first frost on October 5th – so lovely to roll on the icy grass, but my human says 'winter will be here soon enough'.



We have been worrying about what had happened to all the animals that we normally see; no deer since mid September but this morning, there in the next field were three deer grazing calmly and further on a hare scurrying across the field. One morning we found a toad plodding along a field edge in the middle of nowhere and we sometimes see the water vole sunning himself outside his hole.

We have got used to hearing the owls hooting on dark mornings, but we did have the most amazing experience. Whilst walking down a narrow lane, my human spotted a barn owl hunting, so we stopped to watch. It came closer and closer. We hardly dared to breathe as it flew low up the lane towards us and then proceeded to hover barely two feet above my human for what seemed like ages. I'm not sure whether it thought she was a post or food!

Well, take care and enjoy all those leaves.
