Ready for the hay
Is dog fouling blighting your local area?

South Norfolk Council works proactively with community groups to spread the important message about clearing up after your dog. We are currently working with school children across the district to design posters containing this important message.

Dog fouling is a public nuisance and a threat to health. It costs local taxpayers thousands of pounds every year for South Norfolk Council to clean it up. It is not only unpleasant it is dangerous. The biggest threat to public health from dog excrement is toxocariasis. This is an infection caused by a roundworm parasite. The eggs of this parasite can be found in soil or sand contaminated with faeces and can cause eye disorders, vague ache, dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in extremely rare cases, seizures/fits. Often the eggs are ingested when passed to the mouth by the hands; this can occur through touching inanimate objects including the wheels of toys, prams and soles of shoes.

It is the responsibility of the dog owner or person in charge of the dog to always clean up after the dog using a poop scoop or a bag. The bagged poo should then be disposed of in one of the 470 dog poo bins available across South Norfolk or taken home to put into your own wheelie bin. Bags containing dog poo should not be left, hung on trees, gate posts or left on paths in parks or rural areas. Not clearing up after your dog is an offence for which we can issue a fixed penalty. The current fine is £80. Failure to pay may result in a prosecution in the magistrates’ court where the maximum fine is £1,000.

To report dog fouling to South Norfolk Council please call 0808 1682 999.

Murphy’s Rambles

Well who would have thought we would have snow on 26th April? We were out in the open fields watching a wall of white coming towards us. I loved it but not sure about human, something about it getting in her eyes. Weird that when it had passed, you could feel the temperature rise. We feel so sorry for the baby birds, imagine being born with no feathers into this weather and we know there are some as we have already found 3 speckled blue egg shells and 1 white.

We saw the kingfisher once more in early March and the owl was still our usual morning companion, but now we are serenaded by skylarks and delighted by the antic of yellowhammers and wagtails.

People wonder why we walk so early in the mornings but it is beautiful; when else can you see each blade of grass with a single dew drop it tip sparkling like diamonds and finding the spiders are back with us as their webs glisten in the sun. Two deer in the next field so busy with breakfast that they just amble away, two hares charging down the lane towards you so intent on their courtship that we were only seen at the last moment, much to their amazement. Frosts that make simple leaves into things of beauty, mists burning off as you walk through as the sun rises and seeing the leaves swelling more each day till they unfurl; suddenly the chestnut candles are not only there, but flowering. We watched a shape moving towards us through a grass field that turned into a Muntjac that just glared at us as it stalked across the road.

The primroses are still with us, lots of them and now they have been joined by a profusion of cowslips but we felt sorry for the violets; one moment they were there and then gone, not like last year’s abundance. The rest of the spring flowers, delicate white stitchwort, purple bugle, red and white dead nettles, bright blue speedwells, not forgetting the dandelions and daisies and last Sunday the first early purple orchids.

Well, bye now folks! Never mind the weather, just get your humans out into the fresh air!
Dare to Dream

Some people like my wife Caroline have vivid dreams and can recount the feelings and emotions of the experience. Other people like myself rarely dream at all. For some dreams are happy and pleasant, for others it can be an horrendous experience and leave you waking up in a full sweat.

For some people the ability to dream could simply be another method of the body releasing various tensions, mulling over existing problems. As you are aware I am no expert when it comes to dreams.

Every year I have a wish (a dream) that Crystal Palace will win the FA Cup, reality tells me differently. One year in the 1950s Palace was knocked out of the FA Cup in the first round by Great Yarmouth! But this year I dream as I do at the beginning of each new season but only time will tell. So I dream of Palace playing in Europe next year as winners of the FA Cup. On Cup final day I will be in the ‘Fighting Cocks’ along with other Palace supporters living in Winfarthing dreaming that at the end of the match we will be singing ‘Glad all over’.

In the Old Testament Joseph had a God given ability to be able to interpret dreams. For the King of Egypt’s cup bearer it was good news he was to be restored to his old job; but for the King’s chief baker the news was bad, he was soon to be executed. Joseph was the only one who was able to interpret Pharaoh’s dream and because of this was put in command of the nation; thereby saving the people from starvation.

Dare to dream, but keep a close watch on reality. Palace for the Cup! And the answer is . . . ?

Rev David F Mills
Committee, and Clare Cowan was to become the new Tree Warden, and will in future produce The Planet. Lindsey Bilston has contributed on matters relating to wildlife.

The Community Action Team reported on events run by them during the year, and the Burston and Shimpling Oil Group provided a brief report; all the officers were re-elected for another year.

Tom Grieve then presented the Don Swanton Award to Dorothy Swanton. The award is presented to a resident who has contributed to village life. Dorothy was born in the village, and has helped in many ways over a long lifetime as churchwarden, instigator of the removal of fixed pews and the building of a kitchen and toilet at St Mary’s, the establishment of the Youth Cafe; to name but a few.

John Atkinson, the retiring Tree Warden and producer of The Planet was presented with a tree in recognition of his services to the village over the past 17 years. It was then time for village organisations to make presentations.

Len Hobson gave a very interesting explanation of the local Emergency Plan, and provided booklets covering various aspects of this essential bit of forward thinking.

Marion Charnley from Paramount Personnel was present. Her business provides Human Resources and Health and Safety support for local businesses. Marion has offered to help youngsters at the Youth Cafe with the preparation of CVs.

Pastor Sam Brinkley spoke about the Chapel and its activities. Lisa and Izzie Webster spoke about their recently established business in ‘The Space’ – opposite the Mill – where Lisa provided many activities based from a day centre in Diss.

The choir is booked to perform at Wacton on 17th June and at Barsham on 24th June: and to sing at Mayfield Care Home at Long Stratton in the same month. Enquiries should in the first instance be made to Andrew on 01379 674518. Or just turn up at the Village Hall, Rectory Road, Gissing at 7.25pm on a Monday (except Bank Holidays).

Music Day at Gissing Church
Saturday 10th September from 10–4. Calling all music lovers! How would you like to come and join in a day of informal music making in church? Everyone welcome – all kinds of music, all ages and standards. Bring your guitar, flute or clarinet … solo singers, singing groups, duos, trios, quartets, anything goes. We have a pipe organ and a honky-tonk piano … and the acoustics are good.

The event is in memory of three local musicians who contributed to music in worship in our parish – Andrew Jackman of Tivetshall, Florrie Sell of Gissing and Joyce Yates of Shelfanger. Andrew was a composer and some of his music will be performed. You can play whatever you like – jazz, blues – anything goes.

Our aim is to celebrate the joy of music making, not to achieve perfection! So don’t be shy. No formal concert, just an opportunity to turn up on the day if the spirit moves you and a ‘come and go as you please’ audience. Light refreshments on offer and donations welcome. Hope to see you and bring your friends. There may be a few lyra-clad cyclists in and out of church too as it’s the day of the Norfolk Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride so if you happen to be a cyclist, rather than a music lover, you might prefer to take to the saddle. Joe Cromley will have details and sponsorship forms in due course. Of course you could do a bit of cycling around local churches and still have time to drop in, have some well-earned refreshments and stay awhile to enjoy the music!

Give me a call if you’d like more information. I’d love to hear from you.

Darylyn Hammond on 01379 677633

Gissing Singers
Although this small choir originated in Gissing, is based in Gissing and meets to rehearse each week at Gissing Village Hall, the majority of its members come from outside it, from as far away as Attleborough. Topcroft, Harleston and six or seven other towns or villages. New members are always welcome – especially if they have some previous experience of singing – although this is not essential! The choir is booked to perform at Wacton on 17th June and at Barsham on 24th June: and to sing at Mayfield Care Home at Long Stratton in the same month. Enquiries should in the first instance be made to Andrew on 01379 674518. Or just turn up at the Village Hall, Rectory Road, Gissing at 7.25pm on a Monday (except Bank Holidays).

Gissing Children’s Centre
Our popular and successful Pre-School, runs Monday to Friday during term time in two, 3 hour long sessions, where children can attend from 9–12 and/or from 12–3 with an option to collect at 1pm. Children can attend, unaccompanied, from 2 years up to 5 years old/starting school. Early years funding for
by August. It is all very exciting. Anyone who would like further updates or specific information is very welcome to contact admin@heartofgissing.org.uk.

**Heart of Gissing Vintage tea party**

May Day bank holiday saw the village hall in Gissing dressed up for a special, vintage style afternoon tea. The hall was decorated with flowers and bunting and the tables laid with pretty embroidered tablecloths and fine bone china. We were delighted to have a string quartet to entertain our guests while they enjoyed a delicious luxury afternoon tea and the odd glass of Prosecco. There were dainty sandwiches, savoury tartlets, scones, jam and cream and a large selection of scrumptious cakes to enjoy. all served on china cake stands. We had some wonderful feedback from our guests who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event. This was the first afternoon tea that we have organised to help raise funds towards the equipment and fittings for our new community space at the old village school. We were delighted with the response to the event and by popular demand will be holding another one in the near future.

Our next event will be a strawberry cream tea, to include: unlimited tea or coffee, sandwiches, savouries, scones, with jam and cream, a selection of homemade cakes and biscuits and of course strawberries and cream. Included in the price of £12.50 will be a glass of Pimms or non-alcoholic fruit cup. It will take place on Sunday June the 26th from 3pm to 5pm in the Village Hall, Rectory Road, Gissing.

We anticipate a big demand for this event and it will be essential to book in advance (without payment on the day). If you enjoyed our last event please tell your friends and consider bringing a group to enjoy pleasant conversation and another delicious tea. To book, either email admin@heartofgissing.org.uk, text 07789 776680 or phone 01379 677790.

**Wednesday Adventure Evenings**

The last three evenings in this series (course of 10) for children aged 8–13 years, are as follows:
15th June Air Rifles
22nd June Catapults
29th June Fires

These highly supervised, standalone sessions are a great experience for youngsters who can dip in and out, attending only the ones in which they are particularly interested.

The sessions take place from 6–7.30 on Wednesday evenings at and around The Old School, Lower Street, Gissing and cost £4 per evening.

Telephone 01379 677790 or 07917 645867 or contact swillett_ip22@yahoo.com to book and for further details.

**Evening Pilates Classes**

At the Old School Gissing

There is still room for 2 more in the beginners class so if you looking to get stronger, leaner and to reduce stress and tension, how about joining Pilates instructor Heather Ormerod on Monday evenings.

Monday 7–8: Beginners/Gentle Pilates Matwork class is designed for those new to Pilates, or for those returning to exercises after a break. You will be guided through the fundamentals of Pilates helping you to improve your alignment, breathing and core Stability. The class will focus on building confidence and understanding of the technique.

Monday 8–9: Improvers Matwork Class is for those who have Pilates experience or who are currently partaking in other forms of exercise such as running, gym etc. During your improvers class you will develop a deeper understanding of your Pilates technique and physical skills by means of a balanced, effective, total body workout - with particular focus on your core.

Bookings: heatheromerdorpidates@gmail.com

Heather has gained Level 4 Low Back Pain and GP Referral qualifications in addition to her Level 3 Pilates Diploma. She trained under renowned Pilates teacher Anoushka Boone ensuring an in-depth understanding of the technique. Heather has over 15 years of teaching experience ensuring she is able to work sensitively and appropriately with individuals, offering support, guidance and bespoke classes.

**Performing Arts East**

We are looking forward to the biennial school show on the 11th June with performances at the Central Hall, Wyndonham.

For more information on Ballet, Tap, Musical Theatre and Contemporary classes in Gissing and tickets for our show email performingartseast@mail.com. Tickets are £5 (£4 concessions) with performances at 12.30pm and 6.30pm.

www.performingartseast.com

**Heart of Gissing Theatre Project** will be running its musical theatre summer school from the 1st to 8th August at Coronation Hall in Aslacton this year (due to the building work in Gissing). As always, it is going to be a lot of fun but if you are unable to come along and join us for the full week, come to our performance on the 6th at the Central Hall in Wyndonham to support our talented youth cast. For information email performingartseast@mail.com.

**Stage HOGers** is looking forward to our next panto, after our superb sell out performances in January. If you would like to come and join our friendly cast and stave off boredom, please email performingarts-east@mail.com for information.

**Heart of Gissing is looking forward to offering the use of the stage facilities in the new Community Building to Performing Arts East for their programme of performances for 2017. It will be great to see their shows on ‘home ground’**

**Village Fete 28th August**

This year’s village Fete theme will be Nursery Rhymes, which should give plenty of scope for some interesting Scarecrows to pop up around the village. All of the usual entertainments, refreshments, cream teas etc. plus a Story Teller for young ones and older. Put it in your diary please.
**Shelfanger News**

**Boyland Common Wild Flower Walk**

Once again the Friends of Boyland Common have been lucky enough to persuade Stella Taylor, our local Wild Flower expert, to lead us in a walk around Boyland Common appreciating and identifying the ever increasing varieties of wild flowers that are to be found since we began to re-manage the welfare of the Common in 2012. Stella has a wealth of experience to share, and has keenly monitored the wild flower development of our Common for many years.

The date of the walk is Sunday 5th June, meeting at Boyland Common at 3pm. The walk will take around one hour, maybe an hour and a half; hand lenses and identification keys will be available to borrow. This is a free event and is a great chance to learn a little more about our lovely Common.

**All Saints’ Church**

‘Hail the day that sees Him rise.’ These words from the famous hymn are ringing in our ears as these words are written. Easter and Ascension have come and gone and Pentecost/Whitsun is upon us. Easter and Ascension have come and gone and Pentecost/Whitsun is upon us. These words from the famous hymn are ringing in our ears as these words are written. Easter and Ascension have come and gone and Pentecost/Whitsun is upon us.

Keith Day, assisted by David Leeder, has kindly agreed to take over liaison between the church, the Diocese, the appointed Architect and various grant-aiding bodies in the management of restoration and maintenance of the church building. Linda Nash has agreed to become Shelfanger Church Council representative to All Saints’ School. Windarthing Sally Handousah and Linda Leeder have agreed to join the church cleaning team and Lorna Trudgill and Brenda Bailey have already joined All Saints’ flower arranging group. Dave Masters (already an assistant clock-winder!) has offered further practical help, as has Anne Surman together with Christina Clendening who are joining the Cock Crow delivery team. Church Farmhouse will continue to keep a security watch on the church and there were other expression of willingness to help in practical ways if called upon.

Although the meeting was not primarily a money-raising project, a small number of parishioners have taken the opportunity to begin regular financial contributions by standing order (forms are available in the church or direct from the Treasurer, 01379 642286) and we are most grateful to all who have elected to help in this way.

However, one major problem remains. In spite of some serious enquiries and questions, no one has at present made a firm offer to ‘understudy’ or share the posts of warden, treasurer or secretary. The church council hoped very much that they could be ‘bringing on’ new blood for these positions so that a new team of administrators for the church might begin to emerge. Could this still happen?

**Anne Chinn**

It is with sadness we note the passing of Anne Chinn formerly of Glebe Cottage. Many will remember fondly Anne’s faithful service to both the church and the village as a whole, particularly her involvement with Shelfanger WI where she served as president for several years. At All Saints’ she supervised the flowers to great effect being a talented arranger and tutor. She master-minded Harvest Suppers and Mothering Sunday lunches to a high standard and enjoyed all aspects of village life. Having travelled the world with her late husband Tony, she felt that Shelfanger was her ‘coming home’. We send our love and sympathy to Sarah-Jane, Michael and David.

Anne’s ashes will be interred at Shelfanger on Friday 3rd June at 12 noon followed by a small reception in the church. All are welcome to this gathering to mark Anne’s passing.

Finally, we send our very best wishes to all in the parish who are not very well. They are remembered every day in prayer at the church.

**Thank you all very much**

My grateful thanks to all the lovely people who sent cards, flowers, good wishes and who prayed for me and my family, also for the cheering visits.

The kindness of so many people has helped enormously during a very difficult time. Progress has been slower than I hoped for with several set-backs but, hopefully, I am now on the road to recovery.

My special thanks to my beloved family for their constant love, care, support and patience.

My love and thanks to you all.

Pat Webster

**Village Hall News**

**Changes to the Committee**

Following the retirement of Malcolm and Jan Barnard, the April meeting of the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee was chaired by Mrs Marian Paines and a number of changes to the committee were settled. Three new members were elected; Anne Surman, Tig Ross (already serving as chairman of the Fete Committee) and Dave Masters.

Following this, the Committee looked at filling the vacant posts of both chairman and secretary. Vice Chair, Marian Paines, felt that chairmanship of the village hall committee might generate a conflict of interest with her role as Chair of the Parish Council and therefore declined the position.

Meanwhile, the Hall committee has for some time been trying to get its age profile down and after discussion and proposals Christian (Tig) Ross was elected Chairman and Anne Surman, Secretary. Other members of the Committee are Ron and Marilyn Hurst, Ray Leeder, John Kemp (Treasurer), Anne and Derek Lord, Roger Chaloner and Ivan Cotton (Bookings Secretary), all of whom are, or have at one time, served as officers.

**Gift to the Village Hall**

The Committee was delighted to receive a water-colour painting gifted to the hall by former Shelfanger resident, Molly White, and the picture will be displayed in the foyer. It was originally presented to her in 1995 to mark her contribution to Shelfanger village life together with that of her friend, Heather Dunnett. Molly and Heather’s involvement with All Saints’ Church and the parish is still remembered with affection by many.

**Shelfanger Grand Fete**

This will be held on Saturday 16th July at 2 pm on the playing field. Plans are already well in hand. As befits a proper rural fete, there will be all the traditional, classic side-shows and stalls. Among lots of activities, you can make a lucky dip, shy at a coconut bowl at skittles, cast a hoop, chance your luck at tombola, browse for a book or enjoy a cup of tea, a pint or a burger.

There will be lots more publicity as we approach the event, including special attractions, so come and have a great afternoon.

Offers of help to man stalls are always very welcome – a great way to get to know the village if you’ve just moved in! Also, if there are any strong persons out there interested in helping the fete team to move stuff around, we can use your enthusiasm on the field each evening from Tuesday 12th July to Friday 15th July from 7pm.

**Shelfanger Parish Council**

Attention all dog walkers and ramblers! Have you noticed any footpath markers and/or finger posts which have been damaged or lost? If so, please contact Helen (Parish Clerk) on 652199

Meanwhile, don’t forget the village website www.shelfanger.com Please use the website regularly to check for updates on all village activities.
The Monday Club
In May, we celebrate 30 years of The Monday Club. We have seen many changes and our numbers are now very few. But we meet every second Monday in the month in Tivetshall Village Hall, put the world to rights and arrange where and when we will go for our next lunch. We talk a lot and are proud that we have kept going all these years.

Congratulations to us!
If you would like to join us we would be happy to welcome you (a lift can be arranged if you would have trouble getting to the village hall). Do contact us: Val on 01379 852453 or Pam on 01379 677396.

Tivetshall Primary School

New Nursery Provision
We are looking forward to introducing a nursery class in the school. Children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 will be most welcome to attend daily from 9–12. We will follow the Early Years curriculum, making use of the expertise of teaching staff and all of the resources of the school whilst children are gently introduced to mainstream school. Please contact the school on 01379 677350 if you would like to enquire further.

School News
As always, we celebrated Mothers’ Day with a café in the school hall which was well attended by mums and other family members. The room was filled with laughter. Many thanks to all who attended and to Mrs Brown who organised cooking and Mrs Tully who organised events on the day.

Years 3 and 4 attended a tag rugby tournament at Diss High School and did very well to come third. As ever, their good behaviour was commented upon.

Years 3 and 4 spent an exhausting day at Diss High School improving their skills in football and netball. Special congratulations to the netballers who worked hard and were good representatives of their school.

The children made a brilliant effort to produce their Easter gardens for the Easter Garden Competition. Every single garden was one that the children could be proud of; special congratulations to age group winners Aiden Farrow, May Chamberlain and Vikki Frizzwell and overall winner Vikki. The term finished very happily with an Easter Egg Hunt organised by The Friends. Grateful thanks to them and to all of the families that took part.

Once we returned from the Easter holidays we greatly enjoyed the Bi-monthly Quiz in the village hall. This is open to everyone. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

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Class 1 recently welcomed parents to school to enjoy a Chocolate café! This was linked to our work on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and was great fun for all involved – of course, no chocolate was eaten! Parents also had the opportunity to have a go at the new Year 2 Reading SAT.

Sandra Potter, Head of School

Winfarthing Village Hall hosted the ‘Pantaloons’ theatre group on 11th March when they gave a very entertaining account of Oscar Wilde’s ‘The Importance of Being Ernest’

This opportunity, courtesy of Diss Corn Hall, has shown what a good venue the hall is for future theatrical events. Any suggestions please contact the committee.

All Saints’ Primary School
All Saints’ children, staff, governors and parents have returned to school after a lovely Easter break and are enjoying the warmer weather of the summer term.

During the spring term the school council organised a wonderful charity day for Sports Relief. Children came to school dressed in their favourite sports gear, held a cake stall and took part in circuits during the afternoon.

Also during March Key Stage 2 children enjoyed an educational visit to London to see the musical the Lion King. This was a fantastic day out and all spoke positively about the performance. The children were praised for their exemplary behaviour.

The netball and football team have been extremely active in March winning all their matches in the small school league. The science team also proudly won the Diss Rotary science quiz and look forward to hosting next year’s event.

The Home School Association have also been active organising a well-attended Easter disco and St George’s Day celebration.

This term the children are focusing on the topic ‘Our Norfolk, Our Adventurers’. They will be looking at archaeological digs in Winfarthing. During this topic the children will be gaining a greater understanding of the history of the village through story telling.

If you wish to know more about All Saints’ Primary School please contact the school office on 01379 642767.

Louise Norgate, Head Teacher
THE COCK CROW TEAM & CORRESPONDENTS

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Tel: 01379 643646
E-mail: revd habitual@gmail.com

Burringham: St John the Baptist (BCP)
Fersfield: St Andrew & (C/W Order 2)
N Lopham: St Nicholas (BCP &)
S Lopham: St Andrew (BCP &)

The four parishes, and Roydon, are all parishes of the Diss Team Ministry, led by The
Revd Canon Tony Billett, Rector of Diss, and part time Team Vicar, the Revd Wendy
Evans. To arrange Weddings or Baptisms, contact Diss Parish Office 01379 643783. For
other pastoral matters requiring a priest, contact one of the churchwardens, who will
put you in touch with the appropriate individual.

Date

Bressingham
Fersfield
N Lopham
S Lopham

St John the Baptist (BCP)
St Andrew (BC/W Order 2)
St Nicholas (BCP &)
St Andrew (BCP &)

Trinity 2
No Service
No Service
9.30am
No Service

Trinity 3
9.30am
9.30am
No Service
No Service

Trinity 4
No Service
No Service
11.00am
9.30am

Holy Communion for fifth Sunday, 10.30am at Diss with Bishop Alan

Trinity 5
No Service
No Service
No Service
No Service

Trinity 6
9.30am
9.30am
No Service
No Service

Trinity 7
No Service
No Service
9.30am
9.30am

Trinity 8
No Service
No Service
9.30am
9.30am

Trinity 9
No Service
No Service
9.30am
9.30am

Trinity 10
Holy Communion for fifth Sunday, 10.30am at Diss with Bishop Alan

Trinity 11
No Service
No Service
3.00pm
No Service

Trinity 12
9.30am
9.30am
9.30am
9.30am

Trinity 13
No Service
No Service
No Service
No Service

Trinity 14
No Service
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No Service
No Service

Trinity 15
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No Service
No Service

Trinity 16
Holy Communion for fifth Sunday, 10.30am at Diss with Bishop Alan

Trinity 17
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Trinity 18
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SUNDAY 7TH AUG
Next Copy date is Friday 8th July; latest, please send via your correspondents who will forward by email to copyforcrow@keme.co.uk or the group editor; details above.
Norwich Cathedral Spire

Like a finger pointing up to heaven.’ So said George Lyon, our inspirational head master in a morning assembly at Larkman Lane Junior School. He was describing the view from his bedroom window which reminded him each day of God’s Eternal Kingdom. That view of this majestic spire reinforced his belief in God, a faith he wished to pass on to us children sitting cross legged on the school hall floor before him.

Conceived as an act of faith, the spire was constructed with much skill and determination by craftsmen using rudimentary tools and equipment, often risking life and limb in creating this beautiful structure.

Since completion, the spire has endured erosion caused by the weather and air pollution, but probably its greatest threat came during WW2 when Hitler ordered the bombing of our Cathedral Cities. Our spire, like the dome of St Paul’s Cathedral in London, survived the onslaught to be an inspiration to the citizens in anxious times. Since the war the spire has required continuous maintenance and restoration, including the insertion of an internal stainless steel ‘spring’ to add stability in high winds, and like similar structures, the spire needs constant attention to keep it safe.

Long may the spires, towers and domes which adorn our places of Christian worship stand tall in our townscapes and landscapes, as signposts directing us to our heavenly home.

David Summers, Reader (retired)
Adrian Bloom, with a panel of 4 well-known gardeners. Tickets for this event are £5 and are on sale now at the Village Shop.

We are looking for people to make cakes for the teas which will be on sale at the Village Hall during both days. Also if you could spare a couple of hours to man the church or help on the days I would love to hear from you. Please contact Diana on 688291, 0787 9692461 or dianajb@btconnect.com Your help for this community event, which will benefit both Bressingham and Fersfield churches and the Village Hall, would be much appreciated.

Talking of food I must say how lovely it is to now be able to go in the Village Shop and buy meals prepared by Alan and ready to take away. You can also buy sausage rolls and mini quiches etc.

We are now collecting in church used postage stamps for the Leprosy Mission. These should be cut from envelopes leaving about a half inch border.

I hope by the time you read this the hail, snow and rain will have gone and we can think about summer.

The Afternoon Club

The first three meetings have been remarkably successful attracting a good number of people enjoying a wide range of activities. The club continues to evolve by offering several new activities including darts, table skittles, dominoes and cribbage which should appeal to the menfolk.

With warmer weather approaching it is hoped to expand to include outdoor activities too. There is always room for new members (membership is free) so why not come along and join us on the second Tuesday of each month from 2–4 pm in the Village Hall. Admission is £2.50 and includes drinks and cakes with lots of fun and chat.

Next meeting June 14th

Bressingham and District Ladies Club

The AGM marked the end of a successful year for the club during which we have enjoyed a colourful spectrum of speakers and outings. We thank Jan Hewitt for her energetic leadership over the past year, and welcome new chairwoman Sharon Cole. In April members enjoyed an entertaining and inspiring talk by Annie Chapman, organiser of the Pink Ladies Tractor Run and presented her with a cheque for £150, raised by the club, for Cancer Research.

On 20th June we are looking forward to an evening of ‘Music, Song and Chat’ with Helen Frazer, and on 18th July our speaker will be Celia Stevens who will be telling us about Women Racing Drivers at Le Mans.

Visitors are always most welcome at our meetings, held at Bressingham Village Hall, 7.30pm, cost £3 (including refreshments). Why not come along and make some new friends.

For further details, please call Sue 01379 687541 Remember to check Spotted in Fersfield. Spotted in Bressingham and the Bressingham & Fersfield website www.bressinghamandfersfield.org for the latest information.

Afternoon Club

Bressingham & Fersfield Village Hall

Second Tuesday of each month, 2–4pm

(next meeting 14th June)

£2.50 inclusive of drinks and cakes

• come and have fun – everyone welcome – no age limit
• plenty of tea, coffee and cakes
• sit, chat, relax or try something new
• scrabble, chess, dominoes + plenty more
• knit squares for charity, sew or make a card
• crosswords, word searches & drawing available
• darts and table skittles
• help share your hobbies with others
• free admission

If you can help (in any capacity) please come along or contact

Reg & Kay 01379 688331

The following are clues for children to use at the gym on the 14th June:

-crabwalk and crab run
-limbo
-slow walk

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Make Bressingham and Fersfield look beautiful

Why not PLANT A WHEELBARROW
to go outside your home for

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND
25-26 June
and
ANGLIA IN BLOOM in July

Check www.bressinghamandfersfield.org or call 687541 for further details

FERSFIELD NEWS

Perhaps the Summer really is on its way: I’m actually sitting in the garden writing this (second week of May), and whilst it’s a tiny bit breezy, it really is very pleasant. The Lilacs are nearly out, the pied wagtails are settling in and the cuckoo has already been heard over Wood Lane. It’s time to wish all those people (increasingly right across the age range) who are taking exams the very best of fortune and to prepare ourselves for a very busy few months.

A little while ago we had a very happy Saturday morning Spring Event in St Andrew’s, when parishioners and friends came together to enjoy refreshments, a raffle, cakes books, crafts and tombola. The main intention was to have a good community ‘coffee and chat’, which we did, whilst in the process raising well over £300 towards the repair of the chancel ‘hole’. On the subject of this, we are still awaiting the result of our application for a grant from the Listed Places of Worship scheme. An excellent piece of news is that we have been given a cash grant of £1,000 from the Allchurch Trust. At its last meeting, the PCC agreed to release the first tranche of money towards the restoration of the chancel (£8,000) which will be used for roof and guttering issues – it will be good to see something actually happening! Another very positive move has been the award of a grant from the County Council to cover 30% of the cost of the work needed at the church verges and the churchyard gates. We hope to see this matched with other funding and the long-awaited improvements materialise. It is to be hoped that the heavy lorries will stay on the road, and not use our verges as passing or parking places.

We come to the ‘Blooming Bressingham’ event in July. (We have just heard that the judging of the barrows for this latter event is likely to be 14 July.) Please do display a decorated barrow if at all possible and also give a hand for an hour or two during the weekend – and DO come!

June’s service in St Andrew’s will be Morning Service on Sunday 12 June and Holy Communion on Sunday 26 June, both at 09.30. The church will be looking great for the service on the 20th, complete with the Photographic display by Diss Camera Club on the theme of ‘Gardens’. Finally, we’re so pleased to see Richard (Vere) making such an excellent recovery after a recent hospital visit.

With our best wishes and God Bless, everyone,

Richard

We come to the ‘Blooming Bressingham and Fragrant Fersfield’ open gardens event of 25-26 June, when we hope the villages will resound to the sound of visitors admiring the gardens, church exhibitions, refreshments, stalls and other attractions. We really hope everyone knows all about this now: there will also be posters, banners and media items. Please do look carefully at Diana’s and Linda’s Bressingham items. You will also see information about decorated wheel-barrows, to be on show for both the open gardens weekend and the Anglia in Bloom’ event in July. (We have just heard that the judging of the barrows for this latter event is likely to be 14 July.) Please do display a decorated barrow if at all possible and also give a hand for an hour or two during the weekend – and DO come!

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St Andrew’s School
St Andrew’s School, staff, governors and parents have returned to school after a lovely Easter break and are enjoying the warmer weather of the summer term.

During the spring term the children enjoyed the theme ‘Passport Around the World’. In Discovery class a travel agent shop and hot air balloon arrived to help pupils plan their own imaginary holidays and adventures. Victory class learnt about natural disasters around the world and Endeavour class studied the European Union. To bring the topic to a close the School Council organised a special ‘Jungle Day’ when pupils came to school dressed as a jungle animal.

Also during March, Key Stage 2 children enjoyed an educational visit to London to see the musical the Lion King. This was a fantastic day out and all spoke positively about the performance. Children were praised for their exemplary behaviour.

FOSTA were also active during March by encouraging the children to celebrate St Patrick’s day by coming to school dressed in green, and organising a Bunny Drive!

This term the children are focusing on the topic ‘Our Norfolk. Our Adventures’ which looks at past occupations in North Lopham. During this topic the children will be gaining a greater understanding of the history of the village through story telling.

If you would like to know more about St Andrew’s Primary School please contact the school office on 01379 687253.

Louise Norgate: Executive Headteacher at All Saints Primary, Winfarthing, St Andrew’s Primary, North Lopham and Hapton Primary.

St Andrew’s Pre School
Greetings from everyone at St Andrews Pre School.

We are having fun this half term exploring nursery rhymes; we particularly enjoyed our visit to a local farm to see a real life ‘Baa Baa Black Sheep’, feed orphan lambs and hold some baby bunnies.

After half term we will be concentrating on our lovely outside area and enjoying the warmer weather. We will be weeding, planting and tidying up our garden area and looking for frog spawn in our wildlife pond, we have four resident frogs and a newt so there should be lots to see. We will be enjoying our usual walks around the village and local footpaths as well.

The latter part of the term will be busy with visits to reception class at the school for stories and activities in readiness for the transition in September, leavers’ party and sports day.

We have a few spaces still available on all days and are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.45am – 3.15pm.

For further details or to arrange a visit please contact Jan on 07854 091257.

Jan Feaver Pre-school manager

Lophams’ Ladies
Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall, 7.15 for 7.30pm.

At the AGM in April, Sarah Frizzell kindly agreed to continue as Chairperson for one more year. Those who have retired from the committee were thanked, and we were pleased to welcome Jan Hewett to the team. The evening concluded with fun quizzes which were enjoyed by all. In May, Emma Lord gave a presentation about the work of EACH, particularly at Quidenham Hospice and explained how the NOOK project will enable the work to grow and expand in ways that the present hospice cannot. The June meeting will be a visit to Furse House Gardens at Rushall. David Morton will come in July with an illustrated talk about the Tower of London.

The annual Car Boot, Bric-à-brac, Books and Jumble Sale is on Saturday 2nd July in the Village Hall. The doors open at 1.30pm, admission is free. Please think of us as you do your annual ‘Spring Clean and Clear Out!’ We can collect, if necessary. For more information, please contact Sarah on 01379 687337, and 687679 for Jumble.

Lophams’ Garden Club
We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Lophams’ Village Hall and visitors and new members are always very welcome.

On 7th April Joan Garnham from Waveney Trees came and gave a talk on ‘Garden Trees’. Joan gave us much good advice on what to take into consideration when planting new trees as well as what can and can’t be done to established trees.

Unfortunately, our planned trip to Stody Lodge had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, however we are looking forward to our next meeting on 2nd June when we shall welcome Gary Alderton who will give a presentation entitled ‘Propagation’.

Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

Holy Bingo
Continues in the Village Hall, on the first Monday of the month at 2pm. When new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. The next sessions are on June 6th and July 4th.

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

Art in the Garden
On July 30th and 31st, 10am – 5pm at Church Farmhouse, North Lopham (just opposite the church). In addition to enjoying the farmhouse gardens, visitors will be able to view works by local artist Tony Osler, local textile artist Pauline Hammond and visiting textile artist Chris Loversidge displayed on the farmhouse walls. Visitors will have the chance to meet the artists and discuss with them their work and the creative processes involved in its production.

Teas will be served. Admission £3, all proceeds to North Lopham charities.

The Lophams Society
Despite Friday the 15th of April being a wet and miserable evening more than 60 people joined us in the Village Hall when the Lophams’ Society hosted its first quiz in 2016. Chairman Roy Clark provided the questions ably assisted by Mike Cox at the scoreboard. After eight closely fought rounds it was the team on Table One who emerged victorious and took both the honours and the prizes. Thanks go to all our regular supporters who we are always pleased to see and it was good to be able to welcome both newcomers and old friends back amongst our numbers. Thanks also to all the committee members and helpers who prepared and served a tasty ploughman’s supper in the interval and to Bill Bedford who kept everyone refreshed at the bar.

The next Lophams’ Society event will be a Musical Evening on Saturday 9th July and the next quiz will be on Friday 14th of October.

Lophams’ Village Hall
BRIMBO The British Motor Bike Owners Classic Bike Meet and Auto-Jumble on 8th May had superb weather for once, which meant an excellent turn-out. The grounds team and the catering ladies worked flat out all day to ensure the bikes were correctly sited and everyone was well fed, so many thanks to all of them for giving all comers such a good time!

Hall Improvements: Some money from the Development Fund, to which a percentage of the Lottery money is directed each month, has been used this Spring on kitchen refurbishment – specifically tiling the walls and fitting a dehumidifier to avoid condensation. As this mammoth job is nearing completion we say thank you to the hall users who have been inconvenienced by the upheaval, and a huge thank you to Eugene who has worked so hard on our behalf.

Village Hall Lottery: We do want to keep up 100 members, so please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new vacancy occurs. Ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw in December for those who have been ‘in’ for at least three months. Recent winners are: March, first prize of £200 M Baker; second prizes of £50 M Tipple and A Walls; April, first prize of £200 A Bash; second prizes of £50 T Young and E Jacob.

Farmers’ Markets are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next are on June 25th and July 23rd. (Details from Mike on
Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays, details from Howard on 1379 688258

Dog Training: is on most Thursdays, details from Rob on 01379 873144

Lopham Art Group: meets Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. Cost: £15 each per month, includes refreshments and a visit from a tutor each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

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

Borderhoppa Community Transport

New Bus Club Lottery
The New Bus Club Lottery was established to help Borderhoppa replace older vehicles coming to the end of their useful life. New Bus Club Lottery is open to everyone aged 16 or over.

Each lottery number costs £2 per month and participants can purchase any amount of numbers each costing £2 per month.

The lottery draw takes place on the last Friday of each month and all winners are notified by post.

If you would like to support your local community transport service and join the New Bus Club Lottery application forms are available to download from our website www.borderhoppa.org, from our drivers or by calling us on 01379 854800.

North Lopham Parish Council
Council meeting and AGM 11th May 2016

Attendance: Councillors Eagle, McManus, Hammond, Tate and Tipple: Parish Clerk (Mrs Crossley); Mrs Chapman-Allen (Breckland Council); two members of the public.

Election of officers: Parish Clerk conducted the election of officers for the new term

Chairman: Cllr Hammond proposed by Cllr McManus seconded Cllr Eagle, no other proposals, vote unanimous.

Vice Chair: Cllr Tate proposed by Cllrs Tipple seconded Cllr Eagle, no other proposals, vote unanimous.

The new chairman reported of the past year’s activities. These included the induction of two new councillors, a number of traffic calming measures, the parish plan, the trod, the telephone box restoration with village information board and the defibrillator. He thanked the councillors and all those who had made contributions in whatever form. The councillors thanked the past chairman for his endeavours.

The trod: The Bull to The Cherry Tree footway. Funding is in place, work should start either late this year or early next.

Lophams News: £10/month rise in production costs, the increased expenditure was approved.

LOHP: Increased costs mean their newsletter will cease.

Neighbourhood Plan: No progress to report. Further consultations will be announced soon, important that representation is made then by PCs and the public.

Tanns Lane Water: Continuing problems with drainage water flooding Tanns Lane. The Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Highways have been informed. Opinions were expressed that drain dage ditches behind the properties on the north side of the lane are blocked.

Finance: Various compliance requirements were dealt with.

Broadband: Superfast BB should be available by the end of the year. Individuals will need to contact their provider for access.

Defibrillator: The annual maintenance cost will be covered by the King’s Head as long as George and Angie are there.

Next Meeting: 13th July 2016

North Lopham Methodist Church
Methodist friends hold an informal service and coffee morning in St Nicholas’ Church on the fourth Wednesday each month – and would welcome anyone from the villages to join them at 10.30 am. Forthcoming dates are June 22nd and July 27th.

St Nicholas’ Church

Lent Lunches
Grateful thanks to all the hosts, and to those who came along to support them, for enabling us to raise £245 for the Diocesan Lent Appeal to fund projects in Papua New Guinea.

Good Friday
A Meditation for the Last Hour at the Cross, led by the Team Vicar, the Revd Wendy Evans, was greatly appreciated by everyone who came along. Later in the day, the 14 foot cross across the chancel arch was taken down, and a team of people began to transform the building from the starkness of Lent for the glory of Easter. Many thanks to all those who provided flowers, or arranged them so beautifully.

The All Age Easter Communion was presided over by our good friend, Revd Chris Davidson. The children had a great time hunting for chocolate eggs, and everyone had a ‘real’ Easter egg to take home, afterwards.

Mementous Anniversaries
21st April 2016 marked 90 years since the dedication and first peal on the bells in St Nicholas’ Tower. Following their re-hanging, as well as 90 years since the birth of Princess Elizabeth, now our Queen.

The bells rang out on 21st April, as they have whenever possible, to mark the Big ‘0’ anniversaries. A Quarter Peal was led by Jeremy Warren, who was in the team to mark the 80th anniversary in 2006. On that occasion Albert Driver, one of the original ringers from 1926, took part at the age of 92!

A traditional BCP Evensong with sung canticles and responses on Saturday 23rd April at 4pm, marked both St George’s Day and the Royal Birthday. The service, led by the Rector, the Revd Canon Tony Billett, included hymns with a national interest, by English authors and composers and enabled the congregation to have a good sing! The church was decorated appropriately, with flowers and flags. After the service everyone enjoyed tea and a share of the celebration birthday cake.

Pentecost, the ‘Birthday’ of the Christian Church on 15th May was celebrated with another birthday cake, following a Family Service which remembered the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, some 2,000 years ago.

An Art Exhibition in St Nicholas Church, from 6th to 8th May, showcased the talents of the local Art Group, alongside pictures by recognised East Anglian professionals. The local talent really was remarkable – congratulations to them all. The launch evening was a very happy occasion, with people from across the Diss Team able to meet some of the artists, as they had a first chance to view the exhibition and affix those important red dots denoting a
sale. The glorious weather over the weekend meant rather fewer visitors than we had hoped for, but we were thrilled to welcome people from Oxford and Hampshire as well as more local people. We are very grateful to Tony and Alan who organised the exhibition so professionally, the artists, the transport team and those who helped with stewarding and refreshments. All the hard work should raise about £800 for funds.

Annual Meetings
At the Vestry Meeting in March, Richard Vere and Alan Briggs were elected to serve a further term as Churchwardens. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, Gill Partridge was asked to join the PCC team, and was duly confirmed as a member at its next meeting. We say a sincere thank you to all of them, and to all those who help the church in any way: caring for the building, delivering the magazine or supporting fund raising efforts. Every bit of help is really appreciated.

Coming Events
A Summer Coffee Morning in and around the church will be held on Wednesday 6th July. from 10am until 12. In addition to the usual delicious refreshments, raffle and tombola, there will be a Bring and Buy Stall, some plants, and a Jigsaw Bring and Buy. We look forward to seeing YOU there. If you need transport, just phone 01379 687679.

Knitting The Bible
The project to knit figures for scenes from the bible for a display at the end of October is well under way, but it isn’t too late to join in, just phone 01379 687679 or e-mail jennyvere@btinternet.com We would love to hear from you!!

South Lopham Estates Charity
South Lopham Estates Charity is a local charity set up to help those in need in the Parish of South Lopham. It owns parcels of lands in the Parish and uses the rent to support St Andrew’s School, North Lopham as well as parishioners who have a particular need for modest financial assistance.

Events: Redgrave & Lopham Fen

Wildlife Watch Group
Saturday, 11 June: 10.30am – 12 noon
A club for 6-12 year olds, £2
Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Guided Fen walks
- Saturday 6 Aug 10.30am – 1pm
Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill.
£3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Summer holiday activities
Family events:
- £4 child, £2 adult
- Wednesday 27 July, 10am–12noon: Butterflies and moths
- Wednesday 3 August, 2pm – 4pm: Wild play
- Wednesday 10 August, 10am–12noon: Treasure hunt
- Wednesday 17 August, 2pm – 4pm: Animal Olympics
Children must be accompanied by an adult Book online at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Young naturalists:
- £7 each
- Thursday 4 August, 10am–2pm
For unaccompanied 11–15 year olds

Wildlife skills & practical conservation work
- Book online at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Art Exhibition
Sat 27, Sun 28 & Mon 29 August, 10am – 4pm
Artwork by local artists inspired by nature. Free entry. Refreshments available.

St Andrew’s Church
Coffee Morning  A Coffee Morning was held in the Church on Saturday 19th March and we were delighted to welcome many people from this parish and the wider benefice. Coffee, scones and Easter biscuits were enjoyed and a lovely large Easter egg was the main raffle prize. Thank you to all who came to support this event. £260 was raised for St Andrew’s Church.

Vestry Meeting  At the recent Vestry Meeting, Peter Reeder retired from his position as Churchwarden. Peter has been a Churchwarden at St Andrew’s Church, South Lopham for over 40 years and we thank him most sincerely for his commitment and dedication in this role. The PCC would like to wish Peter all the best in his retirement. Jill Brundell will continue as Churchwarden and is joined by new Churchwarden Marion Crisp.

South Lopham Parish Council
The AGM 2016 and regular meeting was held at Valley Farm Low Common on 5th May. Four Councillors and the Clerk, Mrs Phillips, were present, three councillors gave apologies.

Election of officers: John Crisp was elected Chairman and Mrs Sarah Martin Vice Chairman. Thanks were given to Councillors for their work over the year, to our Clerk for her constant attention during the year and to Gary Phillips our Responsible Financial Officer.

Mrs Chapman-Allen our District Councillor had attended various meetings throughout the year for which the Chairman expressed his thanks.

Audit: the Clerk presented the annual governance statements and the accounting statement which were approved.

Financial Report: presented by the Clerk together with the current balances and various accounts for approval. The Clerk is obtaining quotations for renewal of the Council’s annual insurance.

Planning: a fresh application for the erection of three dwellings on the site of Willow Brae in the Street and a new application for the conversion of three buildings and extension to house and buildings at Poplar Farm have been made; details available on line or Councillors will have paper copies in due course.

The Enforcement Officer has issued an unauthorised change of use notice in respect of land at the corner of Brick Kiln Lane and Low Common.

Highways: Councillors will continue their speed reduction on the A1066 campaign with NCC.

Some pothole repairs have been carried out on the Blo Norton road but more are needed.

Works: a successful litter pick was carried out on Sunday 10th April; various assorted rubbish collected; thanks to organiser, Tim.

Art Exhibition
- Sat 27, Sun 28 & Mon 29 August, 10am – 4pm
Artwork by local artists inspired by nature. Free entry. Refreshments available.
From the Registers

Winfarthing Group

Funerals
Betty Rout 17th March Winfarthing
Maureen Underdown 13th April Winfarthing.

Christening
Florence Brown 14th May Gissing

Bressingham Group

Funerals
Olive May Emms (North Lopham) 25th January, Bury Crematorium
Patrick McManus 8th February, North Lopham (burial)
Timothy Allen O’Dowd 10th February, North Lopham (then Cremation)
John William Yates 12th April, South Lopham

The Trustees are all local people from a range of backgrounds who meet three times a year to discuss management of the charity’s property and applications for financial assistance. Every year the Trustees use the long summer evenings to inspect all the sites owned by the charity followed by a social gathering with families.

If you would like more information about this long established charity, or wish to make a confidential application for financial assistance, please contact the Secretary, Keeley Chapman on 01379 687985 or via email keelechapman@hotmail.co.uk

Friends of South Lopham Church

Garden Party The Friends of South Lopham Church cordially invite you and your friends to a Garden Party to celebrate Her Majesty’s 90th birthday on Saturday 11th June at 3pm at Flint Farm, Brick Kiln Lane, South Lopham. Tickets are £6. We look forward to seeing you there.