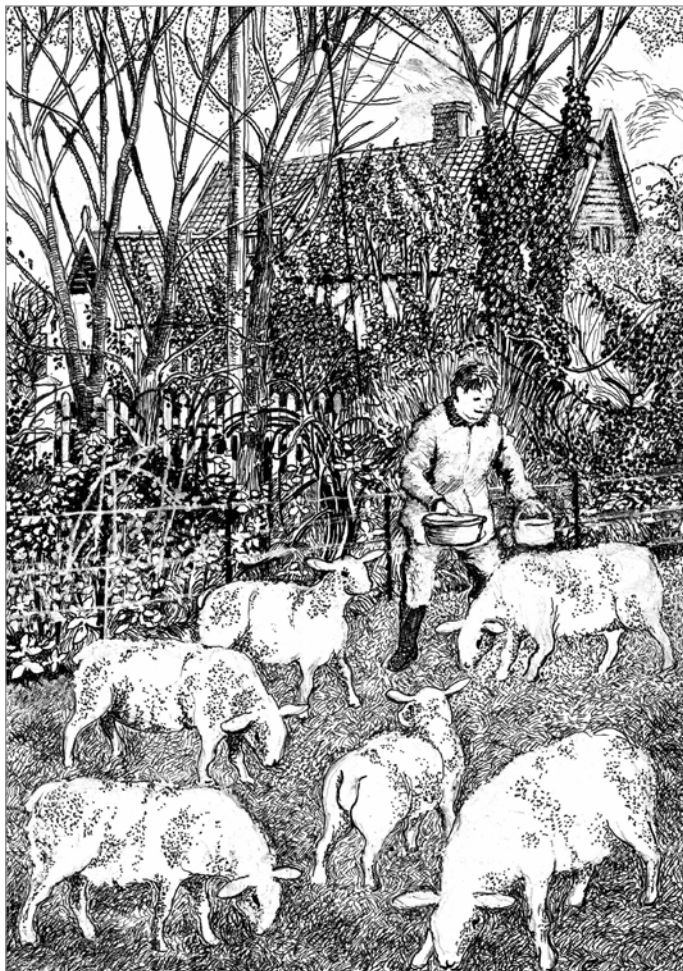
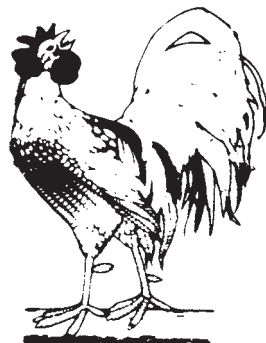


# Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &  
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

**DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018**

Issue No: 6



Tending the flock near Stonelane Farmhouse, Fersfield



# Editors' Notice Board

## *What happened?*

At this time last year we wrote about 'looking forwards', well, looking back over the past year who could have predicted that so much would happen but that so little would change?

One thing remains constant in this sea of uncertainty and that is that our dedicated production team, our delivery volunteers and our faithful advertisers continue to ensure that the Cock Crow drops through your letterbox on a regular basis to keep you informed of local events. Our thanks go to all of them!

You may have noticed recently that pictures are appearing more frequently to illustrate articles. We would like to do more of that so please, do send in good quality photos with your copy. You don't have to be a regular contributor to have material considered for publication; you just have to have something interesting to say! We'd like to hear from you!

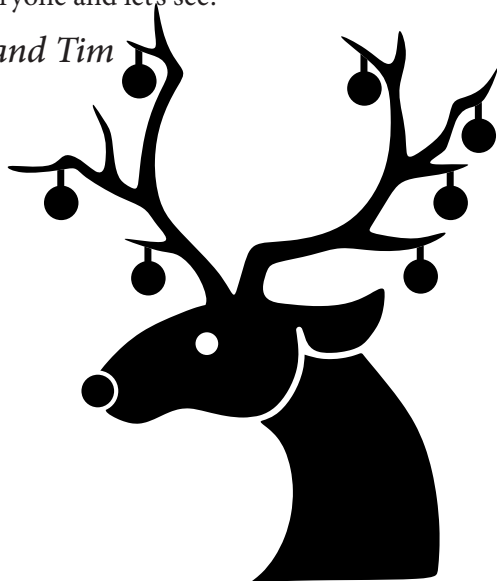
2018? Bring it on, it can't be stranger than 2017 ...or can it?

Happy Christmas everyone and let's see!

*Vivienne and Tim*

*Other items the Editors  
think you might like to know about*

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Diss Team Ministry Vicar writes...

## Sheep!



Yes, Sheep!

Every year – it seems to me – the makers of Christmas cards seem to end up producing cards that follow a theme.

Sometimes it's the Kings (who didn't arrive until Jesus was a toddler!), sometimes it's robins, and other times it's angels and occasionally it's a stylised scene representing the birth of Christ.

Well this year it seems to be sheep! Or it might be I'm just looking for them...! And why might I be looking for them? Well for the last few years I've been trying to tell all our littlies about Joshua and Anna who have lost their sheep.

Joshua and Anna represent the shepherds on the hill on Christmas Eve who, having been told by the angels that Jesus is born, rush to see him, taking a lamb with them (well that's what's on our Christmas cards; it doesn't say that in the Bible).

But Joshua and Anna have been distracted by an enormous sheep (called Baaarbara) and the sheep have disappeared. Baaarbara represents the glitz and glamour of Christmas, and Joshua and Anna represent us, rather missing the point of it all.

The point that we miss? The thing that we tend to overlook?

It's that Jesus is the most important gift that we could ever receive and he is freely given and freely available to all.

Come to one of our churches anytime to find out more.

But if you'd like to help find the sheep with your little one then just pop into Diss after 1st December and look out for the 'lost sheep found here' posters and ask the shop-keeper for one of the lost sheep.

AND if you've got time why not take it to one of our Crib Services to reunite it with Joshua and Anna.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed 2018.

Every Blessing, Rev Wendy Evans



## Team Ministry Page

### Thank You

As another busy year draws to an end, the Churchwardens and church people express their gratitude to the Rector, Team Vicar and all the Ministry Team for their leadership and support throughout 2018, not just on Sundays! Much of their work is hidden, helping residents at some of the most significant and difficult times of their lives.

We wish them all a Blessed Christmas and Peaceful 2018.

### Services

There are changes to the times of services during these two months – extra seasonal occasions, and a fifth Sunday on 31st December. Do check the service pattern in this magazine, and local posters,

### Recycling

Please remember that recycling continues every month!

*Stamps* December is an especially good time to save stamps to help the Leprosy Mission. There are collection boxes in the churches.

*Soft Plastic Bottle Tops* help the Matthew Project in Norwich. Just leave them in bags in the churches.

*Newspapers and Magazines* help general church funds. Tied bundles can be left in the brick store at the edge of Fersfield airfield. Church members will give directions!

*Thank you all*



## BRESSINGHAM NEWS

### Heritage Lottery Fund Building Works and Heritage Activities

Scaffolding went up at Bressingham Church in September and the builders soon started relaying the lead on the nave roof. Heavy rolls of centuries-old lead, stripped from Bressingham Church and recast, had to be hauled up to the nave roof and skillfully re-laid. Unfortunately, the lead specialist had a motorbike accident the week before the work was due to begin and Jeff Atthowe, our builder, scrambled for a suitable replacement. Thankfully, the lead specialist is recovering and building work is back on schedule.

The scaffolding enabled detailed inspection of the roofs and tower, unfortunately additional problems were found. The old chancel bellcote was deemed unsafe and required immediate rebuilding, and cracks in the tower demanded attention. Skilled stonemason Alastair is seen in the photograph below carving the bellcote in his workshop.



Our architect had budgeted for unexpected works, and thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, repairs have been able to take place. Now that the first 50% of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant has been spent on building repairs and heritage activities, we have requested the second payment (40%) of the grant which amounts to £88,200. The building works are



still scheduled to be completed by mid December and the church will return to being open daily to visitors during daylight hours.

My plea for an Hon Secretary was answered by a lady from Burston and I am pleased to say she has agreed to help us. Also, a couple from Diss has very kindly agreed to covenant to the church on a monthly basis. In both cases I am extremely grateful. Please, if you are still thinking about giving just a little money either monthly, quarterly or yearly to help maintain our church, pay for Cock Crow, the insurance etc please do contact me on 01379 688291 or dianajb@btconnect.com

By the time you read this, we will have had the second of our Tasty Teas, this goes to print at the Highlands. The first, at Burrowood, raised £475 for church funds and it was lovely to see so many people, both from the village and the surrounding areas.

Lastly we look forward to welcoming you all to a Holy Communion service on Christmas Day in the church at 9.30am. We expect this to take place in the chancel where all our services have taken place since work on the church began. Please come and join us.

Have a Very Happy Christmas.

Linda and Diana

### Bressingham and District Ladies Club

On Monday, 18th December we are looking forward to being entertained by the Waveney Singers Demi-Chorus with a medley of Christmas music together with mulled wine and mince pies etc. We would like to invite everyone to come along (including men-folk, too!) for a festive treat so please don't be shy (7.30pm at Bressingham Village Hall, £3 per head including refreshments). There will be a Christmas raffle too, and we look forward to seeing you there.

We don't meet in January, but on 19th February 2018 we have a talk by Linda Holly who will be reminiscing about her career as an air stewardess 'back in the good old days', sounds like fun!

For full details of our meetings, please visit the Bressingham and Fersfield community website, or call Sue (01379) 687541

### Bressingham and Fersfield Village Hall

December 2nd: Quiz with Bangers & Mash Supper. By ticket only limited numbers

## 2018

*Afternoon Club:* 2nd Tuesday each month, 2–4pm, First Session Free

*February 15/16 & 17:* Panto, Hansel and Gretel. Tickets on sale later

*June 2nd & 3rd:* Bressingham and Fersfield Open Gardens

*July 8th:* A Family Fun Day, in the Hall and on the fields This is to raise money for the Air Ambulance, the First Responders and the Village Hall

*New year, new you!* Realise your potential in 2018! Avo-go fitness will be running a group exercise class starting on Monday evenings 6–7pm in Bressingham village hall. The first session will start on Monday 8th January. Avo-go fitness is a mix of body weight, band, sandbag, aerobic step exercises along with team games and pair work fun! Aimed at all fitness levels, get fit and have fun at the same time! For more info contact Phil Lambert on 07468 587997, email at eatmovemind1@gmail.com or check me out on Facebook, eat move mind.

### Village Hall production 'Marigolds'

'Hilarious!'... 'professional acting'... 'uplifting'.... 'a wonderful night out'....

Thanks to John, Brenda, Joyce; Director Ann Betts; Pete, Sarah, Alex, Tilly, Dawn and Mary.

*A former resident*

### Teddies Wanted

We are asking for any good Clean Teddies for our Teddy Tombola. If you have any no longer needed but in good, clean condition please give Kay a ring on 01379 688331 and we will arrange collection.



## FERSFIELD NEWS

As I sit writing this, I can see through the study window a squirrel searching the lawn for the hazel-nuts it buried only a few days ago. It takes a regular break from this quite destructive activity to make yet another attempt to steal from the bird-feeders, where technology has so far won the day. The vegetation is wearing this year's final, and now threadbare, coat of many colours, Guy Fawkes has called and left, and Remembrance events are just a few days away. In Fersfield, that means an evocative ceremony at the church and the war memorial. Some things never fade, like cabinet ministers and football managers, but seem, rightly, to grow more precious. We will report on Remembrance Sunday in the next edition, hopefully with space for one or two of Krys's photos.

It's still a busy time around St Andrew's. We now seem to have sorted out the matter of rainwater drain and guttering requirements, and have actually reached the non-bureaucratic stage where the contractors can name a date and get on with the chancel (do I write too soon?). It will be really thrilling to be able to plan for the restoration of the south porch and then the church's interior decoration. The north side of the church is graced by several beautiful lilac trees, one of which has collapsed across the 'cemetery path', and will have to be removed. (Would anyone like to donate a new tree, in memory of a loved one, perhaps?) We are grateful to Mervyn Lambert, who has provided a second toilet, which is so very necessary for the extended community use of the building.

**Borderhoppa** is looking for volunteers and trustees to join our vital community transport service in south Norfolk and north Suffolk.

Users of the service include the elderly, young people, community groups, the rural isolated and those with impaired mobility. Our door to door dial-a-ride service helps people to carry out important tasks such as attend medical appointments, go shopping, pay bills, participate in social events and visit friends and family.

So, we approach Christmas. December services at St Andrew's will include a special Morning Prayer at 9.30am on 10 December, a Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, at 9.30am and our traditional pre-sprout Christmas Morning Service at 10.30am. Please ensure you make a note of the Annual Christmas Carol Service, which will be on Thursday 21 December, at 7.30pm. We will be joined by Michael Dann and 'Discord', along with Delcine and Luke, whom many of you will know; members of the Fersfield community will read for us, and we will finish with mulled wine, seasonal refreshments and a chance for a chat. Please be there! The collection will be split between our charities and chancel.

We all wish you a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year, and may God Bless your families and all you love.

Richard

## Christmas Services

### ST ANDREW, FERSFIELD

Thursday 21 December 7.30pm

Annual Carol Service  
with 'Discord' and  
appropriate seasonal refreshments

Christmas Eve 24 December 9.30am

Seasonal Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25 December 10.30am

'Traditional Family Service'

(shortish but special!) and

Rector's Christmas Blessing

If you are interested in supporting us by becoming a volunteer/trustee or both, we would love to hear from you.

For more information please contact  
Tom Clarke **01379 854800**



## St Andrew's School

It has been a busy term at St Andrew's Primary School with the pupils thoroughly enthused with their 'super heroes' topic. Some of the key learning has ranged from designing and describing their own super heroes, researching the influence of Florence Nightingale and remembering those who bravely fought in the wars. The pupils have also enjoyed celebrating harvest at St Nicholas' Church, together with learning about different aspects of friendship in Collective Worship.

It has been a sports-filled term so far with pupils participating in new sports such as karate and tennis. Lunch times have seen the introduction of extra sporting opportunities, including archery. All of Key Stage 2 attended the first round of the cross country at Diss High School and it was a privilege to take several Key Stage 2 Pupils to Fritton Lake as they qualified for the second round of the Cross Country tournament.

A new School Council has been elected and they have planned many exciting fund raising activities for Children in Need.

Throughout this half term, the younger pupils will be learning about road safety, Endeavour Class will be visiting Gressenhall and years 1 and 2 will be doing multi-skills at Diss High School. Discovery class has also had a visit from the police to talk about the work they do and show them the inside of their police car. The Christmas play this year will be Baa Baa Bethlehem and we are all looking forward to learning the songs for the performance.

If you wish to make an appointment to visit or would like more information about our school, please contact Mrs McGarr, on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!



## St Andrew's Pre School

Greetings from the staff at St Andrews Pre School.

We are well into the second half of the term now with exciting events coming up for the Christmas season. We are performing a nativity play for families on Monday 11th December, and are holding our Christmas party on Wednesday the 13th December. We will also be holding a Christmas raffle at the school Christmas Fair on December 14th and joining the school for their Christmas lunch on the same day. We will also, as usual, be doing lots of Christmas craft activities and decorating the setting.

Our theme this half term is Traditional Stories; we have started with the Three Little Pigs and enjoyed making large houses from sticks, straw and bricks. We will be looking at other stories and end the term with the Christmas story.

We have some places available. We operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during term time. For further information or to arrange an informal visit and meet our friendly staff telephone 07854 091257.

*Jan Feaver, Pre School Manager*

## Lophams' Ladies

Meeting at the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month, at 2pm in the winter months.

After a couple of more 'educational' talks, the mood will definitely be light hearted on 5th December, as Mike Bowen asks 'Did you Jive in 55?' with appropriate musical examples, followed by seasonal refreshments. On 2nd January Geoffrey Leigh will introduce us to a 'Very English Gentleman' – Prince Freddie du Leep Singh, of Blo' Norton. Admission to either meeting is just £2, to include refreshments. For further information, please telephone Carole on 01379 423143.

## 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.

We very much enjoyed Shaun Mills' talk on Hedgehogs on 5th October. Shaun gave us a lot of information on their lifecycle and also told us how and why we should welcome these creatures into our gardens.

On 2nd November Melanie Collins gave an illustrated talk on Hostas and gave us lots of information on how to care for these lovely plants.

We shall not be having our usual meeting in December, but instead are looking forward to our Christmas Meal together. This will be on 7th December in the restaurant at the Wyevale Garden Centre in Bressingham 7pm for 7.30pm. The cost will be £17 per person and tickets are available now – telephone 01953 681989 for further details. It would be lovely to see friends old and new at what is sure to be a most enjoyable evening.



We do not meet in January and so our first meeting in 2018 will be on 1st February when Richard Maybe will give a presentation entitled 'Food for Free'.

## Lophams' Society

Friday the 13th of October was lucky for some when the Lophams' Society hosted its most successful quiz night to date. A total of 17 teams, comprising of almost 100 people, filled the Village Hall hoping to become the winning team. At the end of the last round with just a few points dividing the teams, table 16 took the honours. Many thanks to both our regular supporters and those who joined us for the first time for coming along to this most enjoyable evening. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our Spring Quiz in 2018. Thanks also to question-master Roy Clark and to Mike Cox for keeping score and to all the committee members for their sterling work keeping everyone fed and 'watered' throughout the evening.

## Free Christmas Drop-in

Get into the spirit of Christmas by coming along to the Village Hall on Friday the 15th of December between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

The Lophams' Village get-together is an open event for all residents (both past and present). This is an invitation to join us for some festive food and drink and to meet up with friends and neighbours both old and new.

This year, an added attraction will be a *free draw* which will see two lucky winners take home a luxury hamper filled with Christmas goodies.

So please come along, we look forward to seeing you.

## Holy Bingo

We usually meet on the first Monday each month at 2pm in Lophams' Village Hall; new faces are always welcome. The winter sessions are on 4th December and 8th January (not on New Year's Day!), for the usual fun time, with plenty of chat, alongside the actual bingo games. If you need a lift, please contact Jennie on 01379 687679 to arrange transport.

## Lophams' Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee is very grateful to everyone who supported the 'Bags of Help' campaign at Tesco this summer. We were the lucky winners, so have £3500 towards the children's play equipment planned for installation on the playing field at the Village Hall. It is a great start to the fund-raising for this project which we are very keen to see succeed. We have also applied for another grant with Aviva so fingers crossed! We have been accepted as an eligible project by them, so hope that local people will do some online voting, and also put forward any ideas or help with fund-raising, so that we can complete this project by the spring.

*Lophams' Bonfire and Firework Event* was a great success! The heavy morning rain stopped in time, and a bumper crowd came along to watch the enormous bonfire until the wonderful firework display was the focus of all eyes. As ever, we send a big thank you to all those who brought along garden prunings etc for the fire, and to Jim who built it so successfully, to those who provided food, drinks and children's glow-sticks and to those who joined in.

*The evening of comedy and song* with Pat Nearney and Danny Platten will be reported next time.

*The Village Hall Lottery* continues to raise invaluable funds for the development fund, with a full complement of members at the moment. If you would like to go on the list for a place when a vacancy occurs, please contact 01379 688183, or speak to any committee member. Regular draws take place at noon at the Farmers' Market each month. All who have been in for six months are entered into the Christmas Bonanza draw at the December Farmers' Market we hope this year that the Bonanza prize fund will reach £300 for the very first time! Recent monthly winners are: September: first prize of £200, L & L Kercher; second prizes of £50, B Goodey and S Dilloway. Harriet from N Lopham won the £40 goodies basket. Tonya's duck sausages won the golden frying pan. October: £200 prize, A Wallis; second prizes of £50, B Goodey and J Vere. K Hatton won the goodies basket.

*Farmers' Markets* take place every month, usually on the 4th Saturday, from 9am till 12.30pm, with a wide range of stalls from which to choose your locally produced goods. For December, the Market is on Saturday 23rd and January Saturday 27th Details from Mike Shipperlee on 01379 687235



*Judo* is on Mondays and Wednesdays (contact Howard on 01379 688258)

*Lophams' Art Group* meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £15 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for details.

*Pilates*: sadly, Pilates has ceased due to lack of regular support.

*Dog Training*: Most Thursday evenings with Rob Jessup; Rob's telephone number is 01379 873144.

To book the hall for private events phone 01379 687679, or visit the website.

## Lophams' Churches

Harvest Supper was a happy occasion, with delicious shepherd's type pies, followed by wonderful apple tarts, thanks to our local great cooks, and with plenty of time to catch up on local news. We are very grateful to those who contributed in any way to a successful evening, raising almost £340 for the churches to share.

## Diss Library News

The library has started regular 'Just a Cuppa' coffee mornings on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon. We'd love to see you there so drop in, find out what's on in Diss and have a browse through the books at the same time.

We have a 'Cops & Robbers' story time for children with your community Policeman on Tuesday 5th December at 10am.

Did you know that we have a book group especially for people with a visual impairment? We meet on the 4th Friday of the month to read and discuss audio books, next meetings are Friday 15th December 2017 (a week early for Christmas) and Friday 26th January 2018 at 2pm and new members are welcome.

### Regular Events

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time every Friday in term time at 10am. Library book group meets at 6.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month. New faces are assured of a welcome at all our regular groups.

The library is free to join and it's free to borrow books, ebooks and audiobooks. All Norfolk Libraries will be closed on Christmas Day, boxing Day and New Year's Day 2018. For other library opening times and more information on all our events and services visit: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries), or call Diss library on 01379 642609.

For mobile library dates and details call 01603 222267 or follow the links to mobile libraries on our website

### Opening Hours

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



## NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

### Parish Council

Present S Callow, D Eagle, M McManus, J Tate (V Chair), J Crossley (Clerk), M Tipple, R Carley, S Askew (NCC), 2 members of public.

Apology W Nunn

Thanks to Jeremy Callow, Peter Cook, Mike Tipple and Mike McManus for dealing with various overgrown hedges and trees the new dog bin and the mere edges and drain.

Precept has to be set at next meeting – the projected cost of completing the trod must be allowed for.

School crossing update Mr Askew advised that NCC highways officer recommended red tarmac and a dropped kerb to provide a designated crossing point. Cost £2,300 50% payable by NLPC. Parish Partnership funds might be available next year. Mr Askew has some discretionary funds available now which could assist. Councillors not convinced by red tarmac but liked dropped kerb. Double yellow lines outside the school reconsidered. Consider for next round of PP funding applications.

Mr Hammond has asked for a progress report on possible service road to Crown Milling, a written enquiry will be made.

Final payment has been made for the so far completed trod. PP application for 50% (£2170) towards the remaining section will be decided in January.

The road drains will be jetted during November.

'Surprising people' have been seen leaving dog mess in Tanns Lane. How many more flipping times do we have to say it? 'Pick it up, please!'

The road markings at the Harling Rd/The Green junction are badly worn and the salt in the grit bin in Kings Head Lane has solidified, both require attention. The clerk will ask the man who tidies the burial ground about also strimming round the mere edge.

Next meeting 10th January 2018

### St Nicholas' Church

Methodists' Services Methodist friends from the area continue to meet in church each month for an informal morning service followed by coffee and chat. In December the focus is on Carols, on

Wednesday 13th at 10.30am; January reverts to the fourth Wednesday – 24th.

*The Biggest Coffee Morning in the World* Our event on 29th September raised over £185 for this excellent cause – many thanks to all who came along.

*Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal* A huge pile of decorated filled boxes is on its way. We should know their final destination in the New Year.



*The Harvest Festival Service* was a well attended, happy occasion in a beautifully decorated building and led by Angie Gardner from Diss, assisted by all the children present. The children had a great time afterwards on the tractors outside! The School Harvest service was the following day, so we ended with a wonderful collection of produce to share with Fenners at Fersfield, who used the perishables, and the Food Bank in Diss, which was thrilled with all the packets and tins. Again, our thanks go to all who made this possible.

*The Knitted Bible Festival 2017* exceeded our wildest hopes. It attracted many people from Norfolk, Suffolk and much further afield too – half term visitors to the area from Derbyshire, Yorkshire and the West Midlands, visitors from Kent and Essex, even people from across the sea – on holiday from France and from Texas!! A group of architects on the last day included several from Europe, and one originally from Persia.

There were school teachers and church leaders taking photographs for future reference, and craft clubs looking for ideas!

We really did enjoy meeting so many wonderful folk; and it was lovely to see younger members telling the older ones what the stories were all about. Some people started looking up the bible references while they were still with us; others were off home to do their homework!

And we have been challenged to continue with even more scenes for 2018, so do 'Watch this space'!



*Remembranc*, will be reported next time.

*December* brings Advent and Christmas, with many seasonal extras to enjoy. It is our hope that lots of local residents will be drawn to share in some or all of them. They include:

*The Toy Service* on 3rd at 11am. If you would like to give joy to a very needy family in this area, i.e. Thetford, please bring a gift, wrapped and labelled with the age and gender for which it is intended, and these will be delivered in good time.

*The Advent Carol Service* is on 10th at 4pm, a feast of lovely readings and special music for the season.

*The Family Carol Service* on 17th at 11am is a chance to sing well known favourite carols and hear the children read The Story.

*Our Crib Service* on 24th at 4pm is an oasis for busy parents, before the magic of Christmas Day takes over. Again the children are fully involved.

*January* brings the final special occasion:

*The Epiphany Carol Service* on 14th at 4pm for a final burst of wonderful music and readings.

As always at the end of the year, the churchwardens and church council say a big thank you to all those who help in any way with care of the church, or with its activities, throughout the year, not least the loyal team who deliver the magazine. Without Your help, all the efforts of the contributors and production team would be wasted!

*Christmas Blessings & Happy New Year to All!*



## SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

### St Andrew's Church

**Church Windows** The PCC are pleased to see the Church Windows have been repaired and re-installed. They look splendid. The PCC would also like to thank the Friends of South Lopham Church for their efforts in raising the money and organising this much needed repair for our beautiful village Church.

**Remembrance Service** The Service of Remembrance for South Lopham this year took place in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 12th November at 10am.

**Coffee Morning** There was a Coffee Morning in the Church on Saturday 18th November 2017 from 10am to 12 noon, with Cake stall, Raffle and Tombola.

### Friends of South Lopham Church

The Friends are pleased to say that the three South Chancel windows are now repaired and replaced and look splendid.

Watch this space for our next project!

### South Lopham Parish Council

Council meeting on 7th November at Valley Farm.

Four members and the Clerk Mrs Phillips were present together with Mr Askew, County Councillor, specifically to advise on highways.

Members were pleased to hear that Mrs Chapman Allen continues to improve.

**SAM2 and Village Gateways:** the Clerk informed the meeting of the present position. Cost of speed signs very nearly covered with assistance of County Councillor's member's contribution. Gateways not to be proceeded with at present.

**Financial Report:** statement of current balances and accounts/invoices for payment delivered by clerk and approved.

**Draft Budget for 2017/2018 precept:** explained by the RFO Mr Phillips. Allowing for reserve,

liabilities in 2018 and projects slight increase in the precept will be required. To be confirmed.

**Planning:** Mrs Martin provided update. New application on the A1066 was agreed by councillors.

**Highways:** Mrs Shipperlee dealing with pot-holes.

**Community:** Jim Pursehouse reported on successful 5th November bonfire on the playing field.

**Works:** Simon Puttock has removed Primrose Lane bench for refurbishment.

**Hedge/Trees bordering highways:** Trimming still needs doing by some owners – please act without delay.

**Footpaths:** Some are still impassable – please unblock.

**Litter Pick:** Sunday 19th November 2017 10am, meet White Horse.

**Next meeting:** 4th January 2018 7.30pm at Valley Farm



### South Lopham Estates Charity

(Registered Charity No. 221724)

*Is any South Lopham resident in need?*

This charity may give modest sums of money, usually up to £100, to South Lopham residents with a specific financial need; particularly young people to help with education, training or travel costs.

Other instances could include financial difficulty following a bereavement; an unforeseen setback; expense due to family illness such as travel to a hospital or care home; to assist any resident who cannot afford an occasional treat; any other cause which the Trustees consider deserving.

If you believe that you or someone in your family may qualify for assistance please contact the secretary, Keeley Chapman, on 01379 687985 for further details and an application form.

If you know of any other resident in specific financial need please tell the secretary then we can approach that person ourselves.

Please be assured, all applications are treated sympathetically and are confidential.

*Issued on behalf of the Trustees, 15 October 2017*

## Redgrave & Lopham Fen

### Regular events

#### Wildlife Watch Group

Saturdays 9 December, 13 January, 10.30am–12.30pm. A club for 6–12 year olds, £2  
Contact [marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com) or call 01379 688333



Bug search D'Key

#### Time to paint

Friday 26 January, 10am–2pm  
Bring some artwork and join like-minded people in a relaxed, informal setting £5 donation, includes tea/coffee and cake or biscuits. All welcome, no need to book Contact: Deborah Key 01379 688333

#### Guided fen walks

Saturday 6 January, 10.30am–1pm  
Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £4, meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

### December

#### Felted robin workshop

Sunday 3 December, 2pm–4pm  
With local needlefelter Jilly Trafford. £15, booking essential

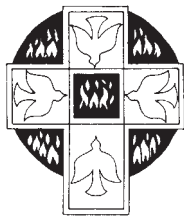
### January

#### Knettishall Heath – 6 years on

Tuesday 30 Jan, 7.30pm. Evening talk with Valley Fens Wildlife Group, £2 per person (includes refreshments) All welcome, no need to book

For details and to book, visit [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org) or call 01473 890089





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

BURSTON  
GISSING  
SHELFANGER  
TIVETSHALL  
WINFARTHING

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

Diss Team Ministry [www.dissteamministry.org.uk](http://www.dissteamministry.org.uk)

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.



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
December 3	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
December 10	8.00 HC	11.00 Carols	3.00 Carols	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
December 17	10.30 Carols	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	3.00 Carols	6.30 Carols
December 24				5.30 HC	11.30 HC
December 25	11.00 HC	10.00 HC	9.00 HC		
December 31		10.30 5/P HC			
January 7	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
January 14	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
January 21	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
January 28	Join Chapel	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
February 4	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

MW Morning Worship | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer | 5/P HC 5 Parish Service | VC Village Church | P/P Prayer and Praise **Christingle Services Tivetshall School:** Wednesday 6th December St Margaret's 6.30pm.  
**Burston School:** Friday 15th December at Burston Church 2pm

### THE COCK CROW TEAM & CORRESPONDENTS

#### EDITORS

**Winfarthing Group:** Vivienne Wheeler,  
Jacks Barn, Common Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DR  
01379 642622 [viviennecwheeler@gmail.com](mailto:viviennecwheeler@gmail.com)

**Bressingham Group:** Tim Colyer, 'Bermick', Tanns  
Lane, North Lopham, IP22 2LZ  
01379 687718 [timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk)

#### SECRETARY

Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham,  
Diss, Norfolk.  
01379 687679 [jennyvere@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyvere@btinternet.com)

**TREASURER** Cheques payable to 'Cock Crow Committee' please

Krys Wakefield, The Old Rectory, Fersfield IP22 2BL  
[krys.wakefield@gmail.com](mailto:krys.wakefield@gmail.com)

#### ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

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

#### CORRESPONDENTS

**BRESSINGHAM** Diana Burroughes, Burrowood,  
Wilney Green, Bressingham IP22 2AJ  
01379 688291 [dianajb@btconnect.com](mailto:dianajb@btconnect.com)

**BURSTON** Elizabeth Mceniff, Orchard House,  
Crown Green, Burston, IP22 5TZ  
01379 742583 [elizabeth.mceniff@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth.mceniff@yahoo.co.uk)

**FERSFIELD** Richard Hewitt, The Cottage, The Common,  
Fersfield IP22 2BP 01379 687355  
[rjhewitt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rjhewitt@hotmail.co.uk)

**GISSING** Joe Cromley, The Chequers, Upper Street,  
Gissing, 01379 677817

**NORTH LOPHAM** Mrs Jennie Vere,  
Southlands, North Lopham. 01379 687679

**SOUTH LOPHAM** Sara Gray, Pear Tree Cottage,  
The Street, South Lopham IP22 2LH. 01379 688310  
[saragray365@gmail.com](mailto:saragray365@gmail.com)

**SHELFANGER** Roger Challoner, Old Post Office,  
Church Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DG,  
01379 642286 [opoc@electramail.co.uk](mailto:opoc@electramail.co.uk)

**TIVETSHALL** Maggie Rowan, The Thatched House,  
Green Lane, Tivetshall NR15 2BJ  
01379 674116 [maggiearowan@gmail.com](mailto:maggiearowan@gmail.com)

**WINFARTHING** Janet Johnson, Tertius, Hall Road,  
Winfarthing IP22 2EJ 01379 652355  
[janetjohnson06@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janetjohnson06@tiscali.co.uk)

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)
Sunday 3rd December Advent 1	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am Family Toy Service	No Service
Sunday 10th December Advent 2	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS 4pm Advent Carols	No Service
Sunday 17th December Advent 3	9.30am MS	No Service	11am Family Carol Service	9.30am HC
Sunday 24th December Advent 4	No Service	9.30am HC	4pm Crib Service	No Service TBC
Monday 25th December Christmas Day	9.30am HC	10.30am MS	No Service	No Service
Sunday 31st December Christmas 1	Fifth Sunday, so Holy Communion at Diss at 8am and 10.30am (no 6pm Evensong)			
Sunday 7th January Epiphany Sundayday	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am Epiphany FS	No Service
Sunday 14th January Epiphany 2	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS 4pm Epiphany Carols	No Service
Sunday 21st January Epiphany 3	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sunday 28th January Candlemas	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sunday 4th February 2 before Lent	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am FS	No Service

MP Morning Prayers | MS Morning Service | 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.

**Connect Group:** Meets on some Wednesday afternoons at 2pm in St Mary's Hall, Diss; contact Jennie (01379 687679) for precise dates.

**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

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989

S Lopham J Brundell 01379 687216

R Hewitt 01379 687355

R Vere 01379 687679

M Crisp 01379 687953

P Reeder (emeritus)





## A light shines in the darkness

Now that the darkness of the winter months has set in, not only do I feel the cold more acutely than I did when I was younger but I also find that I am more mildly depressed than during the summer months. I want to stay under the duvet longer, taking my time getting out in the morning. As my father used to say 'Your get up and go, has got up and gone'.

On the other hand, when I have no evening meeting to attend, taking the occasional said Evening Prayer on my own at Winfarthing Church enriches the soul. Turning on the dim lamp at the main gates, walking up the long path to the Church, entering the Church in the dark, groping for the light switch, I find the seat in the prayer corner in the side Chapel and light the Diocesan Prayer candle. I pray for the coming of Christ's Kingdom here on earth, for the Benefice, for the peace of the world, for all those who are in positions of authority, for those in need, the lonely the sick and dying, those who are bereaved, our Doctors and Nurses, those involved with the emergency services.

When I walk back down the path, I am walking towards the light; I can see the path more clearly. What were shadows now being exposed to the light and however dim that light may be, it illuminates its surroundings.

In John 8: 12 Jesus says that he is the 'Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'. In New Testament Greek, the word for light has the same root as the word phosphorescence. It irradiates every single part of life; personal, public, corporate, social, political, and cultural; the light that shines in the darkness.

By His birth, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and glorification, Jesus offers to us a brand new life, a life in all its fullness with Him and for Him.

Merry Christ Mass and a prosperous New Year.

Rev David F Mills

## BURSTON NEWS

### Friends of Burston Church

Once again Len Hobson produced entertaining and wide ranging questions for our annual quiz. Six tables competed in a good-natured contest, with a pause for fish and chips to recharge the little grey cells. Together with the raffle, just over £300 was raised towards funds to maintain the church.

### Music for Christmas

A date for your diaries: on Thursday 7 December Gissing Singers will join us in Burston Church at 7.30pm for a programme of carols and music for Christmas followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Tickets £4 (£2 for under-12s).

If you have a favourite carol you would like included please let Norma know at [normandrew6az@btinternet.com](mailto:normandrew6az@btinternet.com) or 740595

### Christmas Services

St Mary's Church Friday 15th December at 2.30pm: Christingle Service with Burston Primary School children. Everyone welcome

Sunday 17th December at 10.30am: Carol Service

Christmas Eve at 11am: Combined Church and Chapel Service at the Chapel

Christmas Day at 11am: Holy Communion at the Church

### Burston Chapel

Saturday 16th December at 5pm: Carols outside the Strike School Green (with soup and hot chocolate)

Christmas Eve at 6pm: Carols by Candlelight (at the Chapel)

Christmas Day at 10am: Service

### Loss of Four Long Term Residents of Burston

2017 has seen the passing of four well known long term Burston residents. We offer our prayers and condolences to the families and friends of Harold Baxter, Freddie Sanford, Edward (Ed) Pochin and Edward (Teddie or Ted) Churchard, also Yvonne Pooley and Maureen Farnfield.

May God give you His peace.

### Father Ted's Trikes Shed

Andy Downes first met Ted Churchard when Ted was about 7 or 8 years old but they didn't become close friends until about 10 years ago when they found that they shared an interest in trikes. Ted built the back of Andy's first trike and they would go out on their trikes together.

Ted went on to build 7 or 8 more trikes. Son Jamie sometimes referred to his dad as 'Father Ted'. The trikes were built in the shed which jokingly became known as 'Father Ted's Trikes Shed'. Andy says that he has lost a good mate in Ted (who very sadly died at the age of 61) and he will be missed very much by family and friends, but hopes Ted has his tools out and is building the very first sky trike!

### Burston and Gissing Beekeepers

The beekeepers meet regularly on the third Wednesday of each month at Gissing Community Centre. At the November meeting the committee for 2018 was elected to formalize the society. The future plan is to have hives on an apiary site.

Further details from Brian Norman on 01379 740106.

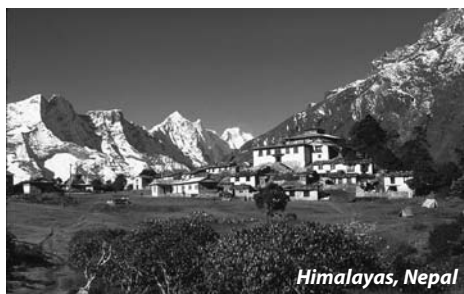


### Burston School

In literacy we are investigating nocturnal animals and writing fact files. Later in the term we will be exploring winter, animals that hibernate and writing non-fiction explanation texts. In maths we will continue our number work, investigate 2d and 3d shapes, measure distances and weights and learning about fractional amounts.

This half term we are looking at festivals of light including Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We will also look at bonfire night, Remembrance Day and St Andrew's day. In science and geography we will be learning about the weather and the seasons. Class 1 will also be incredibly busy preparing for their nativity performance.

It is always an exciting time, the second half of the Autumn term. We have Halloween, Guy Fawkes Night, Remembrance Day and the lead up to



Himalayas, Nepal

Christmas. This half term, Class 2 is learning about Mountains and Rocks. We will be looking at different types of mountains, how they are made, their location and look at famous paintings that we can study and try to re-create. After finishing Beowulf, a very popular choice of the children, we will be moving on to the classic story of Heidi, set in the mountains and offering a different type of text. In maths, we are starting the term with a focus on shape space and measure, moving onto statistics later in the term. We are all really excited for the Class 1 Nativity which is always a huge success and we also are being treated to a trip to see Lion King in London - something we are all looking forward to! We are fundraising for Children in Need on the 17th November and also taking part in Christmas Jump-er Day for Save the Children on the 15th December, as well as our Christingle on the same day.

## The Royal British Legion

DISS BRANCH

DICKLEBOROUGH BRANCH

We were delighted that eight new faces joined us for our recent trip to the National Arboretum making 57 in all.

Next year we are planning day trips to visit Kensington Palace (Princess Diana Collection), the Arboretum again and Duxford.

Diss and Dickleborough branches work well together for all events; their Annual Dinner is on February 3rd 2018 at The Swan Hotel, Harleston. 3 courses, £20, all welcome. Tickets available from Rose 01379 741618

## GISSING NEWS

### Friends of Gissing Church

Tower repairs have now been completed. Only the new cockerel needs to be put in place and we are hoping to make this a special occasion and will invite the local press to attend to celebrate the 2017 restoration.

The new rainwater items (downpipes, guttering etc) are nearly all in place and the gullies to channel the water away to the new soakaways have been lined with slate.

Having improved the paths at the north and west of the church, to provide easier access to wheelchair users, it has been necessary to reset the main gates to prevent them scraping the new path surface. If you have ever come a cropper with the bolting mechanism on the north gate, you will be pleased to hear that we are removing this awkward and unsafe bolt and replacing it with something much safer.

All internal electrical work has been completed. Placing of the two floodlights has been agreed and stands to mount the lighting units have been manufactured and set within the churchyard.

The contractors are now concentrating on the North Porch. The main work is the installation of a steel RSJ to support a new roof structure which will provide improved ventilation of the roof space, and better routes to disburse rainwater. Luckily only a few timbers will need to be replaced. However, an unexpected problem has arisen. The parapet at the east side of the porch needs urgent repair as water has seeped under the coping stones and caused the stone below to become cracked, very friable, and unstable. Copings on both east and west parapets may need to be removed and reset, to ensure that the drip channels are properly positioned and to avoid the same problem in future years. It looks as if the 1877 restoration work was not as well carried out as we might have hoped!!!

### Friends event

The Spice Boys will be selling their festive fare during December – on offer will be jams, chutneys, preserves, pickles, oils, marmalade, (Spanish

sunshine in a jar), cakes, bakes, Florentines and those scrumptious brownies. Clear a space in your larder! Flyers/posters will be give further details of date, place, and time.

### Christmas worship times

Everyone is welcome to attend our Carol Service on 10th December at 11am. The Gissing Singers will be in attendance and the format will be similar to the six lessons and carols of previous years. What will be different is that the church will be WARM as we will be fully heated in all the pews. Come along and see for yourself! The midnight service on Christmas Eve will be held at Winfarthing starting at 11.30pm. There will be a service at 10am at Gissing Church on Christmas Day.

Christmas and note cards, in aid of the Friends, are on sale from Moat Meadow Farm – please contact Fiona.

### New Years Eve

As we have done for a number of years, we shall be ringing the bells at the church at the turn of the year. All welcome and a whisky for all who participate – come along at about 11.45pm.

For further information about any of the above:

Fiona Turton, 01379 677811, email: fionaturton@btinternet.com or

Ed Scoggins, Tel: 01379 674669/email: edward.scoggins@live.co.uk

### Gissing Children's Centre

We are now running our extended opening hours from 8–4.30 Monday to Friday which includes a daily breakfast club (from 8–9). We also offer up to 30 hours free childcare for eligible families, to be used flexibly, and we are registered as a provider for tax-free childcare. We still have some spaces left for the Spring Term 2018 for both funded and non-funded

children aged from 2 to 5 years so if you would like to visit, please contact Linda Nash at manager@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk or ring 01379 677300 between 8.30 and 3.30 Monday to Friday during term time or leave a message on 07796 204367. Visit our website [www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](http://www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) and our facebook page to see the sort of things we do.

We will be running a Holiday Playscheme for primary school age children the day after the schools break up for Christmas, Wednesday 20th December. The cost will be £16.50 per child and the session will run from 9–3.30 with the option of a shorter session from 9–1 for £13.50. Children will need to bring a packed lunch and some money for tuck. The Playscheme will be held in Gissing Community Building and have a distinctly Christmas theme; we will also be making full use of the adjacent woodland. Places to be booked and paid in advance by emailing [playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](mailto:playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) Alongside the Playscheme, we will be running a pre-school age Playday in the Children's Centre where 2–5 year olds can be booked in (same times as Playscheme). For more information on this, contact Linda Nash on [manager@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](mailto:manager@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) Flyers with all this information will be distributed to local schools in early December and information will appear on facebook.

Do come along to see Father Christmas at the St Nicholas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December from 2–6. Bookings for Father Christmas (when rough time slots will be given) can be made by contacting Linda Nash at [manager@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](mailto:manager@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk). The cost will be £3 per child and there will be some nice things to do for those waiting to go into the Grotto.

### Heart of Gissing

(Charity No: 1161599)

It's been a busy autumn with a History Talk, a Musical Evening and the annual St Nicholas Fayre, as well as all the regular groups and activities but there's no letting up! Plans are already being made for events in the New Year which will take full advantage of the facilities and attractions of the Heart of Gissing's new Community Building.

Getting 2018 off to a good start is the New Year's Day Brunch which will offer a cooked breakfast to



counter the effects of any over indulgence the night before and some Bucks Fizz to keep the party spirit going. Watch out for other exciting events to brighten those dark winter months including a Burns Night celebration in late January, ensuring good use is made of the building's new premises.



Bookings for private celebrations in 2018 are also being taken as more people become aware of it as a perfect environment for parties. Its light and airy internal spaces include the spacious main hall which can be laid out with large round or rectangular tables and dressed for any occasion. A smaller area can be used in conjunction with this or separately and there is an exceptionally well equipped kitchen. Large windows look onto the meadow beyond and there is a small outside eating area and easy and ample parking.

As the refurbishment of St Mary's Gissing nears completion, there is the prospect of couples choosing to be married in this beautiful 12th century church before continuing their celebrations in the stunning 21st century building so close by. Anyone who is interested in hiring the Community Building should contact either [theheartofgissing@gmail.com](mailto:theheartofgissing@gmail.com), [admin@heartofgissing.org.uk](mailto:admin@heartofgissing.org.uk) or leave a message at [www.facebook.com/Gissing-Village-Life](https://www.facebook.com/Gissing-Village-Life).

And, not to be left out, Gissing Children's Centre is planning to improve its outdoors play area if it can get enough votes to qualify for the Aviva Community Fund 2017.



## SHELFANGER NEWS

### All Saints' Church

#### Harvest Thanksgiving

As hoped for, your church was filled with flowers, vegetables, fruit and other produce. The little building looked magnificent and had that marvellous autumn aroma of fruit and flowers. Very many thanks to the church flower arranging team who excelled themselves with a terrific display and to all who donated produce from their gardens or allotments. The service was led by Lay Reader, Alma Noble, supported by members of the regular congregation. Prayers, hymns and readings reflected our thanks to God for all the blessings of the countryside. On Monday, wardens Peter and Roger cleared and packed all the perishable goods and sold them at the Shelfanger bus shelter. Just over £70 was raised for church funds.

#### Gift Morning

This was held on Saturday 28th October as part of the church's patronal festival weekend. Church members were on hand to chat and talk about the church, to receive gifts and share refreshments during the morning. A very generous start has been made with just over £1,000 raised on the day and further funds are still being received. As ever, sincere thanks to the many parishioners who responded to our annual appeal.

#### Remembrance Sunday

This was marked at Shelfanger with the laying of wreaths and the two minute traditional silence at the village war memorial. The well-attended service which followed was led by the Rector, David Mills, in his capacity both of parish priest and as a former army chaplain.

#### Christmas Services

The Shelfanger Village Candlelit Carol Service will take place at 3pm on Sunday 10th December.

The main five parish Midnight Communion is

hosted by Winfarthing Church this year. Don't forget this attractive service begins at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day Communion will be celebrated at Shelfanger at 9am

If you are not able to get to a Christmas service or communion and need help please ring wardens, Roger or Peter, on 642286 or 651524.

#### And finally...

As the autumn leaves fall and the growing season comes to an end, it's again time to say thank you to Ray, Des, Peter, Roger, Roy, Geoff, Brian and Francis who make up the Shelfanger mower-pushing 'rotary club' and maintain the churchyard to such a high standard. Thanks guys!

## Village News

#### Village Hall

At recent busy meetings reports of progress were heard upon the provision of new children's play equipment for the playing field, the planning of an extension to the Social Club, installation of a defibrillator in the old phone box at the garage, the search for funding for play equipment and the extension. The committee sincerely thanked Peter and Karen Lough for the near completion of the defibrillator project, Robbie Trudgill and Keith Day for their work on the Social Club extension and Ches Riches for her tireless efforts searching for funding sources. All this as well as the discussions and decisions on a multitude of small matters which make for running a successful village hall.

Saturday 7th October saw the Classical Guitar Concert which proved a real success. A good-sized audience really enjoyed and were genuinely impressed by the standard of performance. We hope to have similar events in the future.

#### Citizen of the Year Cup: an appeal

This cup, donated by the late Mrs Minnie Peacock, was presented each year during the late 1990s to the Shelfanger parishioner deemed to have served the parish best during that year. Sadly, the cup itself has been mislaid. If any parishioner knows its wherea-

bouts could they please get in touch with James Easter on 640431.

#### Upcoming Events

Shelfanger New Year's Eve Party – book now!

An evening of music, dancing and good cheer with a glass of bubbly at midnight is being planned. This is a great chance to celebrate with family friends and neighbours just a short walk from your home. In order to plan and organise accurately, entry will be by ticket only at £10 per person.

Tickets are already being snapped up so please don't delay in securing your place at this festive occasion by contacting Karen or Peter Lough on 01379 640042 or 07747 771609.

#### Keep Dancing...

Ballroom and Latin dance nights are being planned for the second Tuesday of every month to give dancers the opportunity to try out their moves or even learn some new ones. The first of these will have taken place by the time this goes to press but don't hesitate to join up for the December session. (8–10pm £3 per head). Phone 01379 640431 or 640042 for further details.



#### Christmas Quiz Night

The quiz takes place on 2nd December at 7.30pm. This is a popular event and if you have not booked your table (£5 per head, tables of 6), you must move quickly. The autumn quiz raised £466 for play equipment at the hall and hopes are high this will be equally successful. Contact: 01379 640431.



## Social Club

During the last month, new volunteers for bar duty have been inducted to their duties and will soon be taking their turns in sole charge! The committee is considering a change in the licensing law in which the heavy responsibilities of the premises officer may be transferred to the committee instead of a single individual. The burden of our premises officer has been borne for the last 20 years by Mr Ivan Cotton so this change should ease his load at last!

By popular demand the Social Club will be re-starting the 'Halve It' darts competition on the last Friday of every month where the least experienced darts player can win. Entry is free. For details phone 01379 640431.

## Shelfanger Parish Council

The Council has been notified that the Environment Agency will be carrying out an inspection of the Shelfanger watercourses during November. Our past experience of flooding in the village underlines how important this monitoring work is. We thank all riparian owners in the village for maintaining their stretch of ditch or stream and add a reminder that it may well be worthwhile to make an additional check before the inspection takes place.

The Parish Council can be contacted via Shelfanger.com website or shelfangerpc@gmail.com or direct to the clerk Helen Green on 01379 652199

The Parish Council wishes a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all parishioners.

## Shelfanger Stitchers

Continue to meet fortnightly. One of the latest projects is to make octopuses (or should that be octopi?) for the premature baby unit at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. Apparently, tiny babies like to cling on to their tentacles!

During the winter months, the group also supports the St Martin's Trust in Norwich with scarves and gloves for the homeless.

For more information about the group and donations of wool, please contact Helen on 652199.



## TIVETSHALL NEWS

### Tivetshall St Margaret

Thank you to all who donated produce and flowers for the Harvest festival. Our beautiful little country church looked stunning. £51 was raised from sale of the produce which was sent to Tear Fund.

### Christmas

Tivetshall School will be holding their Christingle at 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th December.

The Carol Service by candlelight will be at 3pm on Sunday 17th December. This will take the form of alternate readings and carols. This is always such a special service in the year and I hope many of you will support it. If you would like to read a lesson, please contact Eleanor Henson on 01379 608645. There will be refreshments after the service of hot drinks, mince pies and mulled wine.

Our Christmas Holy Communion will be held at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve.

As usual there will be a tree in the church and all are welcome to hang a memory star for a loved one.

We wish you all a very joyful Christmas and hope that you will attend one of our special services.



## Tivetshall Primary School

September saw two invitations for parents to join us in the course of a week.

Class 1 parents joined the younger children for an animal themed café which included watching 'Austin's Butterfly' – a video about resilience and perseverance – widely used in school. We also enjoyed our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning which was very well supported and raised £70 for this good cause.

In October we held a Harvest assembly, took part in No Pens Wednesday (a speaking and listening initiative) and took part in two sporting events. Class 2 did very well in the netball tournament at Diss High School and the combined Key Stage 2 groups from Burston and Tivetshall will be spending a very impressive total of 19 children to the next round of the cross country competition. Reception and Year 1 took part in road safety training and we finished the half-term with a very popular and successful pumpkin carving competition. Many thanks to Tesco for providing the pumpkins, and to Mrs Tully for organising it. Congratulations to worthy winner Rebecca.

Our running champions did very well at Fritton lake and two children – Elizabeth and Eva – have made it through to the county finals at Holkham Hall. Well done to them.

*Sandra Potter, Head of School*



## Age UK *Looking for respite care at Christmas?*

If you're a full-time carer, or spend a lot of time caring for someone, it's important to make time for yourself, too – both for the sake of your own health and wellbeing and to give you the energy to carry on caring.

That's where respite care can help, particularly at times like Christmas. Spending time in a caring and warm environment, with dedicated helpers on hand can be the answer, and a way to give a carer that break.

Age UK Norfolk can meet such demands with its 20-bed respite unit at the Grays Fair Court (GFC) centre in Norwich. Each comfortable apartment has

## WINFARTHING NEWS

The Harvest Supper on the 7th October was a great success raising £411 towards the fabric of the church. Everyone enjoyed the home made food which included: meat pies, casseroles, curry and chilli followed by various puddings, tea and coffee.

On the 3rd Sunday of every month at 10am at the church there is a short informal service given by Brian and Jane. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

If anyone is interested in helping with the flowers or cleaning at the church, we would very much welcome you. Equipment is provided.

Please contact Marion Williams Email: lat.house@btinternet.com

The next Coffee mornings at the church are 16th December and 20th January 2018 at 10.15am. The December one will have Christmas crafts and Christmas cakes for sale along with various other cakes and savouries ready for your enjoyment.

The Carol Service is on Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm in the candlelit church. There will be familiar carols and readings followed by refreshments.

### Village Carols

Carol singing for all will be in the warmth of The Fighting Cocks pub on Christmas Eve starting around 7.30pm. Carol sheets provided!

en-suite facilities and its own 32 inch television.

The path to respite care can be taken in two ways. First, through the social services system via Norfolk County Council, and care packages taken this way will be funded if the patient meets the necessary criteria. Or there is a self-funding option.

Grays Fair Court runs a special programme over the holiday period, with entertainers coming in and special Christmas meals being served. Visitors are welcome. The regular GFC facilities – such as hair-dressing salon, foot care, computer with internet access and library – are all available.

To find out more about respite care at Christmas, or any other time, then contact Age UK Norfolk's Grays Fair Court on 01603 594747; or contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020

## The Winfarthing Walkers

On the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The walks tend to be around 5–7 miles and dogs are welcome.



A new set of walks start in January 2018, with an extra evening walk along the beach at Dunwich followed with a meal at 'The Ship'. This walk in the dark is timed to coincide with a rising moon, either in late January or early February. Please contact Marion Email: lat.house@btinternet.com

## Diary dates

Ceilidh on 10th March 2018 at Village Hall, more information in next issue.

On the first Tuesday of every month there is a 'Meet & Greet' at 10.30–12 at The Fighting Cocks pub. This was started for all newcomers to the village and also a get together for the local people that wanted to meet and chat. It is well attended and informal and costs £2 which includes tea or coffee.

There is a new website for the pub and the Christmas menu has gone onto it. You can choose from 2 courses for £18.50 or 3 courses for £23. Delicious home cooked food using locally sourced ingredients.

Book on 01379 643283.

On Christmas Day the pub will open 12–2pm for loyal customers as a thank your support.

Warren & Tracy to invite their regular customers to the New Year's Eve party at the pub. There

will be free entertainment and buffet with a Glass of Prosecco at midnight. This is for customers only. Free entry, ticket needed. Contact the pub on: 01379 643283.

## All Saints' Primary School

It has been a busy term at with the pupils thoroughly enthused with their super heroes topic. Some of the key learning has ranged from designing and describing their own super heroes, researching the influence of Florence Nightingale and remembering those who bravely fought in the wars. The pupils have also enjoyed celebrating harvest at St Mary's Church, together with learning about different aspects of friendship in Collective Worship.

It has been a sports filled term so far with pupils participating in new sports such as karate and tennis. Lunch times have seen the introduction of extra sporting opportunities, including archery. All of Key Stage 2 attended the first round of the cross country at Diss High. It was a privilege to take several Key Stage 2 Pupils to Fritton Lake as they qualified for the second round of the Cross Country tournament.

A new School Council has been elected and they have planned many exciting fund raising activities for Children in Need.

Throughout this half term, the younger pupils will be learning about road safety. Panda Class will be visiting Diss Police Station and Dolphin Class will explore the history of Sutton Hoo. The Christmas play has been chosen and this year it will be Baa Baa Bethlehem and we are all looking forward to learning the songs for the performance.

If you wish to make an appointment to visit or would like more information about our school, please contact Mrs McGarr, on 01379 642767 or by e-mail head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!



## Hyperfast Broadband comes nearer!

B4RN East Anglia continues to get tremendous support from residents and landowners, we thank you all, this continued co-operation will help bring Hyperfast fibre broadband to our local communities. On Sunday 5th November B4RN's head of civil engineering, Nick Hall, came down from Lancashire to begin three days of surveying roads and initial routes for our fibre network. This was concentrated around Billingford, Oakley, Brome, Brockdish, Scole, Thelveton, Shimpling, Burston, Gissing and the Tivetshalls. We will bring live fibre out of the ground on the south side of the A143 at Billingford, across the A143 (awaiting local highways approval) north to our first cabinet site at Scole Community centre (connecting properties as we pass).



We will shortly have a live site at Scole Community Centre where the community groups that use the centre will be able to experience 1,000Mbps broadband, other community groups from surrounding areas will be able to visit and try the service for themselves.

From Scole the plan is to take the fibre North towards Thelveton and Shimpling, East towards Norgate Lane, south-east to Billingford Mill area and towards Oakley and Brome villages.

So far, we have not had a local site to demonstrate how fast and reliable 1,000Mbps B4RN fibre is, once people have sampled it we believe they will work together to bring it to their communities as quickly as possible.

Nick oversaw B4RN's fibre network installation in Lancashire, covering an area larger than that within the M25 through tiny fields over hills and down dales. At a meeting in Gissing Community Centre Nick's comment on the large flat fields of East Anglia was '*this should be a doddle compared to what we have done so far*'.

◀ B4RN survey local area around Billingford and Oakley

## From the Registers

### Bressingham group

BAPTISMS

William and Charles Creyer 8th October,  
North Lopham

### Winfarthing Group

WEDDING

Kate Marchant and Liam Cronin  
21st October, Winfarthing

# Murphy's Rambles

## *Hello folks*

I think it's always amazing how fast crops grow. Early September saw the first rape seedlings just pushing through, then row upon row snaking across the fields; now all are sturdy plants. The sugar beet harvest is in full swing; quite often we can either see the lights of the harvesters in the field or just hear the rumble of the beet being tumbled into the trailers.

September was our 'bird' month, one kingfisher one morning and then two together, magical. The owls were also out and about, one hunting along Common Road, swooping down really close to us but then coming back up mouse-less! Another dark morning we could hear an owl hooting and getting closer to us as we continued on our way when suddenly it flew from the trees just above us, not a barn owl but a tawny, human thinks. For the last few mornings we have watched and heard a flock of rooks coming from their roost and all landing in the field we are passing – for all the world looking as if they are planning the days activities!

The deer are out, but in these darker mornings they are so well camouflaged that until they turn and their white rumps give them away they are very difficult to see, but

this morning three stood further up a track calmly breakfasting whilst watching us pass. Muntjac are about too, one made human jump by bursting out of some bushes where it had been perfectly concealed just as we passed. We have had a couple of fleeting glimpses of the fox but he never stays to say hello.

Have you noticed how many mole hills there are, when the fields were newly tilled suddenly there would be lines of heaps crossing into the distance, but it's the sheer persistence of those opposite the garage. No matter how often their hills are flattened they just rebuild and they are spreading; just makes you wonder how many we have!

We are loving walking in the autumn sunshine, checking out the mushrooms and fungi on tree stumps; watching the catkins forming ready for spring; the contrast of bright red berries against the varied autumn colours. Seeing how the leaves are changing every day crunching through the fallen ones.

Come on  
get out  
there  
and  
enjoy!

