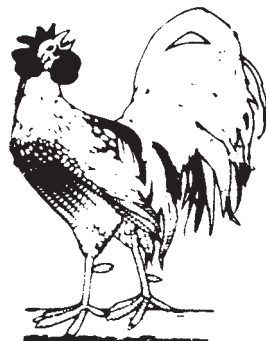


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016-17

Issue No: 6



Christmas at Diss Mere



Editors' Notice Board



Looking Forwards

Where did that year go? The express train of events shows no sign of slowing, bound for where? Nobody knows! Pausing for breath for a moment, the editors would like to thank everyone involved in the production and distribution of Cock Crow for their tireless dedication and the advertisers for their support which is essential for the continuation of the magazine.

Whilst on the subject of speed, we would like gently to remind contributors (incidentally that can be anyone who wants to submit a short article or photo for consideration) and correspondents that, for production reasons, the deadlines for submission are earlier now, typically 5th of the month preceding publication. Do, please, check the date given in the centre pages and submit in time or you may miss the new issue.

So, as we career headlong towards 2017 with all its twists and turns, may we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a fascinating New Year.

'All Aboard!'

Vivienne and Tim

Other items
the Editors think
you might like
to know about



Bressingham & Fersfield Historical Society	6
Holiday bin collections SNDC	34
Lopham & Redgrave Fen Events	9
Murphy's Rambles	2
South Norfolk community awards	4



Autumn weather is now finally here, but you humans are funny things – before we go out mine has the worry of which coat, is it cold, warm or rainy and, as it's darker now, on goes the florescent jacket, but why the wellies? Nothing beats the feel of a lovely puddle and the squish of mud between your toes. It's definitely more my kind of weather. September was still too warm but I love the spooky misty mornings and my human, the lovely red sunrise. One early October morning we just beat the rain home and watched the clearest, most colourful rainbow ever from the safety of the doorstep.

I don't know if it's going to be a hard winter but every hedge is brim full of berries and we're now finding mushrooms studding our paths. Catkins are appearing ready for next spring. It is also lovely watching fields go from stubble to ploughed and now the next cereal crop is marching across the fields, in some cases being interrupted by what is obviously our thriving mole population.

We miss the morning birdsong escorting us through the fields. Now it's just a raucous 'Hello' from the crows and disembodied duck quacks, but on our return to the village the sparrows have woken and are having their normal neighbourly arguments at full volume! We have also been lucky enough to have one sighting of the kingfisher, three of the barn owl and two of a heron perched in a wheat field.



The spiders are obviously seriously busy at present; the other day we were out as the sun was setting and we realised that what looked like standing water in the sun's rays was actually cobwebs covering every bit of grass on the field. One really foggy morning everywhere we looked were cobwebs, adorning the church railings, bedecking every hedgerow and cloaking all the stands of dying vegetation – but never a spider to be seen or too many trapped insects. All that effort and beauty for so little reward!

We also have great fun with our imaginations when there is little else to see – tracking alien spaceships seen across the fields – ok, the dustbin cart and a sugar beet harvester – and wondering if we slipped through time into olden Shelfanger would we understand

Anglo-Saxon (human or dog)!

Come on, join us, the leaves are golden, falling and deliciously crunchy – enjoy!



What Does the Future Hold?

I think it was Harold Macmillan who, when asked what he thought were the most significant issues of the time, replied 'events, dear boy, events.' Well, we're certainly not lacking events in our lives at this time. Perhaps they're not as accommodating as Harold felt they were when he said, 'you've never had it so good', but they certainly are significant. Consider just a few: Brexit, the Refugee Crisis, the American Presidential Election... very well, how much longer Ed will last on 'Strictly'.

Seriously, our examples of events are beset by uncertainty. For instance, even when we know the outcome of the presidential election, we have no idea how the actual tenure of the victor will develop. Time will tell. Brexit? If anyone ever does actually get round to organising our withdrawal from the European Union, just how will our relationships and economic situation develop? The Refugee Crisis? Well, isn't it time we put politics, boundaries, quotas on one side and thought about the plight of the poor souls who are enduring lives of grinding misery? Ed and 'Strictly'? I'll cease being flippant.

As a species, we are fascinated by the future: think of the enduring fascination with time, from H G Wells to Stephen Hawking, to say nothing of individual horoscopes. The silly thing is, we humans are notoriously bad at controlling some of the things that do have a direct bearing on the future: we continue to sell tobacco products, eat the wrong foods, drive dangerously... don't we? We take massive collective decisions, based on flimsy promises and without a thought for sustainability. We have a sort of immunity to compassion and outrage when we watch the plight of many of those who share the world with us.

Give a thought to the teaching of Jesus as we approach His birthday. He wants us to treat others as we would like to be treated... if only! Let's celebrate Christmas by using our intelligence to do something that will have a lasting positive effect, and simply does some good to others – in future. Happy Christmas and God Bless you!

Richard

Home Computer Services
Tivetshall

John Powell
07799 654424



Mobile Service
New and used personal computers for sale
PC upgrades – repairs – tuition
Network installation & maintenance
mail@tivetshallcomputers.co.uk



The Red House Salon & Mobile Therapies

Reflexology • Facials • Aromatherapy
Massage Therapy • Ear Candling
Manicures & Pedicures
Thai Foot Massage and much more!
Pamper Packages & Parties available;
loyalty card scheme; monthly offers and
regular 'flash sale' days!

16 years' experience. Find me on Facebook:
The Red House Beauty Salon

07886 246003

152 Common Road, Bressingham IP22 2BD

Loraine Makowski-Heaton
Cert Hyp CS

Hypnotherapist and Aromatherapist

Stress Management, Anxiety, Confidence and Self Esteem, Habits and Phobias, IBS, Weight Loss, Hypno-Gastric Band Therapy, Smoking Cessation, Exam Nerves

01953 681122

Gracious Mountain Therapies
North Lopham, Diss
www.graciousmountain.co.uk





dbphotography

Local photographer based in Bressingham. Skilled in product, portrait and event photography. Reasonable prices and discounts available.

Portfolio: davidblake.crevado.com

For more information please contact:

Email: davidblake@gmail.com
Mobile: 07800 759111
Home Phone: 01379 687721




South Norfolk Community Awards

Volunteers are the stars of our communities. Nominate your shining star for a South Norfolk Community Award and they could be in with a chance to win £250 for the charity or community group of their choice.

Nominations open on Monday 31 October and close on Sunday 8 January.

To nominate go online to www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/champions or call 01508 533945

Team Ministry News

Benefice Administrator

After 33 years in post, initially as 'steward', then as 'secretary' and finally as 'Team Administrator', the Rev'd Maggie Swayze retired from that role at the end of October. She was presented with flowers, a picture and a cheque at the Team Eucharist in Diss Church on 30th October. Rev'd Maggie will still be a very valuable part of the ministry team, so will come to the village churches for services and special occasions.

The new Team Administrator is Jan Fearn and the telephone number of the office is still 01379 643783, but the office email address has changed to administrator@dissteamministry.org.uk

Sheep needed

Not the real ones but knitted, crochet, sewn or even small wooden ones – for this year's 'Joshua and Anna have lost their sheep' in Diss town. If you can help, see/ring/email Rev. Wendy for more details.



Team Ministry website

The address is printed under the Team logo on the services page; do visit the website to see what is on offer across the whole Team – especially in the Christmas season.



BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

On 17th October a full church said good bye to Brenda Oates who until she moved to Devon in the spring of 2013 had lived in Bressingham for 48 years. Her cremated remains were buried with her husband John who died in 1992. Brenda and John lived firstly at The Highlands in High Road, and then just one night before John died they moved to Waveney View further down the road.

Their children, Rosemary and Martyn, attended the village school and it was lovely to see them both, with some of their families back in the village, albeit for a sad occasion. After the service, taken by the vicar the Rev'd Wendy Evans, a reception took place in the village hall.

Brenda had been a hard working member of the village holding coffee mornings, car boot sales etc for various organisations. She was a wonderful supporter over the years of the village hall, the school and especially the church. She was greatly missed when she moved to be nearer Martyn and had been driving up to the time when she had a stroke 11 weeks before her death.

This makes me realise just how important the church is to the village. So many people who live, or did live in the village attended Brenda's service. I often ask for help in keeping this wonderful building clean and usable, but very rarely get any responses for help. Without Linda Holly we would not now be in the position of getting work done to preserve the building via an HLF grant. Only those around Linda can really appreciate the amount of work this has entailed. Please, if you think you can give us a little time or help at fund raising events please contact me on 01379 688291 or dianajb@btconnect.com Thank you.

I would also like to thank also Reg and Kay Brock for all the work they do in running the 59 Club and the distribution of Cock Crow, not to mention all those kind people who actually deliver it to your door. I expect you all realise that this is paid for

mainly by the advertisers but also by Bressingham church which results in about £200 each year having to be found by the church.

So, why not become a Friend of Bressingham Church? This costs just £5 a year and our annual get together is this year to be held on Thursday 1st December at 7.30 pm at Linda Holly's home. The



Highlands in High Road – next to the Village Hall. Wine and refreshments will be served. Please phone 01378 688291 or 687729 if you can so that we know how many to cater for. We would be very pleased to see you there. You don't have to live in Bressingham to belong. We plan to form the Bressingham and Fersfield Historical Society and hope that this will interest both young and old.

Have a peaceful Christmas.

Diana

Lead theft

On the night of Wednesday 9th November almost the entire lead on the roof of the south isle of Bressingham church was stolen. Other considerable damage was also done which included a grave stone being completely broken in two.

Bressingham Village Hall

Quiz

Saturday 10th December. 7.30 start. This is our Christmas Quiz with a Hot Light Supper. £5 a head. There will also be a Raffle and the Bar will be open from 7pm. Please book in advance which will help with the catering arrangements. 01379 688375.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

I would like to say a Big Thank You to all those who came to or supported my Macmillan Coffee

Morning at home in October. We raised £709 Plus Gift Aid of £104.50 making a Grand Total of £813.50. It is really amazing the figure goes up every year. Thank you ALL once again and also special thanks to my little band of helpers.

Drama Group

Our Play 'Checkout Girls' which we performed on the 7th and 8th of October was very well attended and with the Bar and Raffles, we made a super profit in excess of £800.

Well done to everyone concerned.

Dates for 2017

Pantomime. Our annual Panto will be in February, on Thursday 16th Friday 17th and Saturday 18th. This year it will be 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Tickets from Village shop or 01379 688375.

Brenda Webb

NEW

**BRESSINGHAM AND
FERSFIELD HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Make a note in your diary.....
Interested in local history? Please
come along to the following events:

- **INAUGURAL EVENT:** Saturday, 22 April, 2017 @ 2.30 p.m. **Guided walk/talk by Landscape Historian, Professor Tom Williamson.** (Starts at Bressingham Church. Refreshments available)
- Week of 1-5 May, 2017: **Medieval Graffiti Project begins. Instruction from Dr. Matthew Champion,** Norfolk Graffiti Project (Times to be confirmed)
- Tuesday 23 May, 2017: **Guided tour and instruction at Norfolk Archives** (Numbers limited – please contact 01379 687729. If sufficient interest, another date can be arranged.)

Background: The Historical Society is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (primarily paying for building repairs to Bressingham Church).

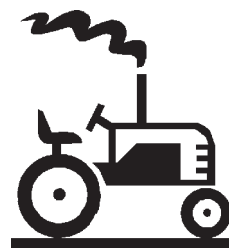


FERSFIELD NEWS

We have two splendid events to report from the Autumn.

On 24 September, we had our music event: 'Music and Words for a September Evening.' This was wonderfully attended, the music and readings were hugely enjoyed, the canapes and wine savoured and the atmosphere was terrific. We cannot thank enough our performers, caterers, organisers, our parking officer and all those who supported this event. There have been requests for an annual evening of this sort! Into the bargain, we raised over £1,000 for the 'chancel fund'. It really was a delightful community achievement.

On Sunday 9 October we had our Harvest Festival: a Thanksgiving Service followed by a Harvest Lunch. A special feature this year was Mark's beautifully recorded Harvest-hymn music, which everyone enjoyed. St Andrew's was full for both parts of the celebration. The church was beautifully decorated, the Rector conducted the service and started by blessing Dan's vintage Ferguson tractor, which was parked at the west door. Again, we are so grateful to those who decorated the church, prepared and served lunch or contributed in other ways.



We have been busy with meetings and preparations for getting the restoration under way. We have engaged a new contractor, who will shortly be working with our Architect on the 'water' survey to determine just where all the rainwater is going: that done, the initial task of waterproofing the chancel roof and wall will get under way. That will be a considerable relief!

In terms of calendar items, we are getting ready for November's Remembrance Sunday Service. After that, attention turns to Saint Andrew's Annual

Christmas Carol Service, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 December. We will be joined by Michael Dann and singers from 'Discord', of course, and anticipate the usual packed church. After the service there are traditional refreshments and mulled wine. Please do come and start Christmas Week in a traditional way!

On Christmas Day, we have our Christmas Family Service at 10.30 – please join us for that as well! After Christmas, our first service will be for Epiphany on Sunday 8 January at 9.30am. But – before that, on New Year's Eve, Olivia (Sumpter) and Aaron will be getting married in St Andrew's: a beautiful bride, a beautifully decorated church and, we hope, beautiful weather. We send them God's Blessing and wish them every future happiness!

Everyone at St Andrew's and Fersfield wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a successful and Peaceful New Year.

God Bless us all!

Richard

**Events at
Redgrave &
Lopham Fen**


Wildlife Watch Group

Saturdays 10 December, 14 January
10.30am–12.30pm
A club for 6–12 year olds, £2
Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Guided fen walks

Saturday 7 January, 10.30am–1pm
Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill.
£4 adult, £2 child Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.



LOPHAMS NEWS

'Super' St Andrew's

The School Council have written:

So far this term St Andrew's have had some very fun and exciting times. Recently Banham Zoo came in with some animals to show all of Discovery and Victory. Also Victory have hosted a tea party for all the Victory parents.

This school has just reintroduced Buddies; our Buddies are: Fred, Scarlet, Izzy and Chloe.

There has also been Cross-Country running and a Film Night. At Film night we watched Minions and Corpse Bride.

We thank our FOSTA for the support they give to the school and there are loads of upcoming events.

The Governors add:

There is also a great deal of classroom activity; staff and children work incredibly hard! During the second half of term there will also be preparations for end of term events, including the Carol Service at South Lopham Church on Thursday 15th December at 2pm, to which local residents are warmly invited.

For information about St Andrew's please contact the office on 013679 687253

St Andrew's Pre School

Our theme for the second half of this term is light and sparkle. We have made firework pictures and rockets and talked about keeping safe around fireworks. We are also thinking about animals that come out when it is dark. We have looked at what lights up the sky by day and by night. Diss children's centre will be joining us on 28th November for a morning of activities and a story.

We are starting to prepare for Christmas with a concert/party planned and all sorts of Christmas craft activities to get involved with.

Job Vacancy: We currently have a job vacancy for a part time pre school assistant. The successful applicant must have a relevant level 3 in childcare and education. Working hours would be Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.15 to 3.30 For further details and application form please call in at pre school or ring 07854 091257

We received a good rating from Ofsted at our last inspection and have places available on all days at present. For further information or to arrange a visit please call Jan on the above number.

Jan Feaver Pre school manager

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting at the Village Hall on the first Tuesday each month: during the winter months we meet at 2pm.

The Diamond Trade was a fascinating subject for the October meeting. Kelly Starling shared some of her memorable experience while working with these fabulous stones, and the people she met along the way. Annie Chapman was an inspiring speaker in November, speaking about the history of the Pink Ladies and their tractor drives to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness – almost half a million pounds already! Handling the actual torch she carried for the 2012 London Olympics was a special thrill. Gilbert & Sullivan will be a musical treat at the Christmas meeting (2pm), then we will hear about the work of the Dogs' Trust in January.

The £91 raised by our cake stall at the recent Farmers' Market was a welcome boost for funds.

Visitors at meetings are always welcome. For further information, contact Sarah on 01379 687337.

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.

At our meeting in October Edward Martin gave an excellent presentation entitled 'Lost Gardens of Suffolk' and it was especially interesting to hear about the past glories of Redgrave Hall which is so local to us all.

On November 3rd we welcomed Janet Whiteside who gave a presentation entitled 'Ideas for Christmas'. Janet is a very accomplished flower arranger and demonstrated lots of ideas for Christmas decorations ranging from wreaths to be hung on the front door to beautiful arrangements made from foliage and seed heads from her own garden, neighbours'



gardens as well as greenery found on walks in the countryside. Janet kindly donated many of the finished arrangements to be given as our raffle prizes.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner on 1st December. This will be in the restaurant at Wyvale Garden Centre, Bressingham 7pm for 7.30pm £15 per person and is sure to be a most enjoyable evening. Tickets can be obtained by telephoning 01953 681989.

We do not have a meeting in January, our next meeting will be on 2nd February when Ben Potterton will talk about 'Snowdrops'. Telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

Lophams' Society

There was a great turnout at the Village Hall on the 14th October when 75 people took part in the Lophams' Society Autumn Quiz. Once again chairman Roy Clark, this time acting as question master and scorer supplied a variety of interesting and entertaining questions which meant at the end of 8 closely fought rounds only a handful of points divided the teams and only one point separated the winners on table three from their nearest rivals on table 10. The ploughman's supper served in the interval went down well and the chairman expressed his thanks to those members of the committee who worked hard both in the kitchen and behind the bar to make sure the evening was a success.

The next Lophams' Society event is the Christmas Get-Together on the evening of Friday 16th December and is free to all residents of North and South Lopham.

Holy Bingo

Continues in the Village Hall on the first Monday each month at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. Unfortunately the November session had to be cancelled – it clashed with David Huggins' funeral. We continue with a Christmas special session on December 5th, then the first session for 2017 on January 9th – NOT on 2nd, as that is the New Year Bank Holiday. (Do telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport.)

Lophams' Village Hall

The Management Committee are saddened to learn of the passing of their long serving member, David Huggins. As well as giving valuable input to committee decisions David had a way of quietly getting on with those seemingly insignificant tasks that in reality make such a difference to the smooth day to day running of the village hall. He is already missed. We extend our sincere sympathies to Cynthia and family at this difficult time.



The Bonfire and Fireworks Event was a great success once again, despite wind and rain on and off throughout the day! Many thanks to all those who brought so much burnable material of the right kind to enable Jim with his teleporter to build an enormous fire, which was burning brightly by the time the gates opened at 6pm. Cold and damp outside meant that the hall was well filled with people enjoying all the hot food and drink on offer until the beginning of the firework display – which many people said was 'the best' – and attracted them to the Lophams, even though there were many other similar events in the area. The committee members send grateful thanks to everybody who helped in any way to make the event successful – Jim and the crew who built the fire, the company who provided the firework display, and all who helped with car parking or stewarding out on the field, or with stalls and catering inside the hall.



The Lottery Apart from one small blip, membership has remained at the full hundred this Autumn, with a corresponding £200 first prize each month, and all members eligible for the December Bonanza draw! We want this to continue, so do get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new vacancy

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

occurs. Please ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. The winners in September were: first prize of £198 : K Hatton; second prizes of £49.50: B Sarbutts and B Sarbutts!. The winners in October were: first prize of £200 –C Huggins; second prizes of £50 – J Leeder and D Hammond. In the next issue, we will report on the grand totals distributed in prizes since the Lottery started.

In addition to the Lottery draw, there is a monthly raffle at the Farmers' Market, with one superb prize, which includes an item from every stall – a wonderful array of goodies for the larder. There are also special features at the Market from time to time such as the September Super Sausage Saturday, where there is a chance to sample sausages made with the meat from our stall holders and vote for the best. In September the golden frying pan went to Jason Salisbury of Suffolk Farm Cheeses.

Regular bookings:

Farmers' Markets are on the fourth Saturday from 9am till 12.30pm, except December, so the next dates are Sunday 18th December and Saturday 28th January 2017. (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

Judo is on Mondays and Wednesdays - (Details from Howard on 01379 688258)

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

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

To book the hall for private events, telephone 01379 687679, or go to the website.

Lophams' Churches

Lophams' Harvest Lunch: Sadly, this was cancelled, as there were too many competing events on 2nd October.

Remembrance Ceremony

Conditions were just about perfect on 11th November for the Remembrance ceremony at North Lopham War Memorial.

There was a gentle breeze, just enough to ruffle the flags, and the sun shone brightly on the uniforms of the US airmen and juniors from St Andrew's School.



Beth Joyce and Max Ramstead shared in the readings during the service; Charlie and Izzy helped lay wreaths for the adults, Jack and Melody laid a wreath on behalf of all the children, and crosses were planted round the war memorial base. After the National Anthem, Fred Rednall played an encore on his trombone before all the children sang their special remembrance song.

On Remembrance Sunday, a special Act of Remembrance was included in the Family Service in St Nicholas' Church. In addition to the reading of names and wreath laying, we were privileged to

hear some of the experiences of a family with a relative who died in Burma – at Kohema, and a poem written about those times.

St Nicholas' Church

North Lopham Methodists Methodist friends invite local residents to the monthly service in the church, with Coffee, at 10.30am on the fourth Wednesday, except December, when the Carols Event will be on 14th, 10.30am. In January we meet on 25th.

Samaritans' Purse Shoebox Appeal Thank you to all those who have joined in this year's appeal; there will probably be a record 70+ boxes from North Lopham, taking seasonal cheer to the most deprived children in Eastern Europe and beyond.

And thanks to those who supported the Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride in September, or helped raise £172 towards the Biggest Coffee Morning in the World for Macmillan Cancer Care on 30th September.

Harvest Thanksgiving, led by the Revd Maggie Swayze was a very well supported, in a wonderfully decorated church. (Thank you to all those responsible)The dozen children who had a great time afterwards, with two vintage tractors and a plough to investigate outside. Token parcels and gifts were distributed on the following days, then a box of tins and packets was taken to the Diss Food Bank; surplus fruit and vegetables was gratefully received by Fenners at Fersfield.

Knitted Bible Exhibition

The theft of the lead on the South Aisle roof, just as we were about to launch the Knitted Bible Festival was a tremendous shock. Fortunately, there was no damage to the church interior, so the roof was made watertight and secure, and the Festival went ahead.



The response was amazing! East Anglian visitors came from Kings Lynn, Cromer, Downham Market, Oulton Broad and Bury St Edmunds. others came from Yorkshire and County Durham; a couple from Canada came by accident, but left in raptures!

The comments in the Visitors' Book and in the Suggestions box were extremely positive, so work will soon begin on some more scenes. By this time in 2017 we hope to be able to tell the whole of the essential Bible story in 50 scenes with knitted figures! Many many thanks to all who helped in any way to make such a big impact!

November has a sombre mood the Remembrance ceremonies are a very important part of village life, so will have a mention next time. We are most grateful for the participation by St Andrew's School and our friends from the American Air Force.

The Advent to Epiphany season will soon be here, with all the special services and events that brings. The main extras in North Lopham are:

The Toy Service at 11am on 4th December, the nearest to St Nicholas' Day. We hope to receive gifts, wrapped and suitably labeled, for families cared for by Action for Children (Thetford). It is so important to remember that there are people in desperate need so close to our own comfortable village.

The Advent Carol Service at 4pm on 11th December – a chance to share some of the beautiful readings and music for the season.

All Age Family Carol Service at 11am on 18th – our young people read the lessons and we all enjoy singing familiar carols.

The Crib Service at 4pm on 24th December – a few moments for families to focus on the story at the heart of the celebrations.

The Epiphany Carol Service 4pm on 8th January – a wonderful seasonal readings and music to share.

Do join us for some, or all of these.

As the year end approaches, the members of St Nicholas' Church say thank you to all those who have supported us throughout the year, with the care of the building and grounds, the services and events that take place, and the outreach to others in the village and beyond. We wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a Peaceful Healthy New Year.

Parish Council meeting, 9th November

Present; Councillors Eagle, McManus, Hammond (Chair), Tate, Tipple, Carley; Parish Clerk; Breckland ward representative Chapman-Allen, 3 members of the public. Apps; Cllr Nunn.

Footpaths; PC objections to adoption of Jubilee Lane as a restricted byway were deemed inadmissible by NCC.

Fencing round the Letchmere needs replacement. Cllrs McManus and Hammond to assess. Advised by Cllr Chapman-Allen that up to £1,000 from 'Pride in Breckland' fund may be available. She would provide supporting letter.

Next year's budget and precept must be confirmed in January.

Partnership Scheme/ Traffic Calming; a 'chicane' would cost £30,000-£50,000. Contacted Crime Commissioner, Lorne Green, about speeding; new 'special constables' are being trained in speed camera operation to augment Speedwatch schemes.

Neighbourhood Plan; long discussion about setting up a separate, autonomous committee to assess desire for a Village Neighbourhood Plan. Might also have a monitoring function to record planning applications and decisions. Would advise PC.

Breckland Local Plan; Further delayed, until 2018, but will include limits on development within the settlement boundary and impose tough conditions on any proposals outside the SB. Increased powers will be conferred on PCs in respect of planning decisions.

The 'trod'; thanks to Mr and Mrs Homes for removing their hedge.

Annual donation to CAB of £50 was agreed.

Estimates for clearing/mowing Primrose Lane next season received, confirmation of the figures and proposed work is required.

Next meeting 11th January 2017

SOUTH LOPHAM

St Andrew's Church News

David Huggins The PCC and Church Wardens were saddened by the news of the passing of David Huggins. David had been an active member of the PCC, had served as a Church Warden and treasurer of the Friends of South Lopham Church, a faithful friend to St Andrew's Church and the Village.

Carols at the White Horse On Thursday 15th December, by kind invitation of Nigel and Tracy Martin, there will be an evening of Carols at The White Horse, South Lopham at 7pm for 7.30pm, all are very welcome.

Christmas Service This year the Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church will be on Christmas Day at 9.30am with Holy Communion.



The PCC would like to wish all our parishioners a peaceful Christmas and a healthy new year.

South Lopham Parish Council

Parish Council meeting on 3rd November held at Valley Farm.

Present four Councillors and the Clerk with one apology. The Council was pleased to have both our District Councillor Marion Chapman Allen and our County Councillor Steve Askew present.

Chairman The Chairman paid tribute to David Huggins who sadly died in October. David rarely

missed a meeting and kept himself involved despite, in recent times, being unwell. He will be sorely missed and the meeting expressed their appreciation for the work David had done over the year

Highways The Chairman summarised a meeting he and the Clerk had had with County Highways. It is not possible to do anything other than reduce the speed of traffic within the present 30mph zone. The clerk will pursue a Parish Partnership Funding bid to purchase a SAM 2 speed sign and investigate whether Highways will replace or upgrade the existing flashing signs on the A1066. Steps will also be taken to canvas interest from within the village to set up a speed watch team. Enquiries will be made concerning the use of a SAM 2 flashing sign on the Redgrave road in addition to Church Road.

Planning Mrs Martin outlined the position on all current matters. (See Breckland Planning web site.)

Footpaths Letters and a map of our footpaths had been sent to the relevant landowners. New finger posts had been ordered and will be delivered when available. Highways have been approached to see if the verges along the A1066 can be mowed and widened to allow access to Parish footpaths. Highways have strongly recommended that the Council do not encourage walkers alongside the A1066 on safety grounds. Estimates were circulated for further work on trees and to clear Primrose Lane, further estimates to be obtained.

Councillor The Council is still one member short. Meetings are held bi-monthly and if any Parishioner wishes to participate by becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk Caroline Phillips, 01379 687950 or the Chairman John Crisp 01379 687953 and they will be happy to discuss the work of the Council with you.

Mobile Library Service Norfolk County Council have requested that the Council remind everyone that the mobile library visits our area and inform them of the timetable.

The Library is free and open to all ages, not only for books but other Library services. There are three

stops in South Lopham and dates of the next visits are on 24th November, 22nd December, 19th January, and 16th February. More information is available on the NCC web site www.norfolk.gov.uk. The mobile Library office can be contacted on 01603 222303 or email central.mobiles@Norfolk.gov.uk.

Next meeting: 5th January 2017

LOHP AGM & Members' Evening

6 December 7.30pm at Hinderclay Village Hall, Bells Lane, IP22 1HX.

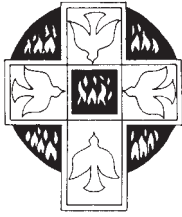
Annual update and talk from Alan Walker (CEFAS) entitled 'European Eels – a slippery tale' followed by seasonal refreshments.

Members, friends and visitors all welcome. Contributions of finger foods gratefully received. A £2 donation is welcomed from non-members.

Annual Winter Walk 2 January 10.15 for 10.30am start at Garboldisham Village Hall. A gentle morning's walk to enjoy the winter wildlife and landscape of the Little Ouse valley in Garboldisham. Robust footwear and warm clothing essential. Two stiles will be encountered en route. Everyone welcome, including dogs on leads. No booking required. Refreshments will be available after the walk (homemade soup/roll) by booking with Bev 07747 691285 or beverly.blackburn@loh.org.uk.

Donations welcome.





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

BURSTON
GISSING
SHELFANGER
TIVETSHALL
WINFARTHING

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

Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

The four parishes, and Roydon, are 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 4	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 VC
December 11	8.00 HC	11.00 Carols	3.00 Carols	Join Gissing	9.30 MP
December 18	10.30 Spectacular	Join Tivetshall	8.00 HC	3.00 Carols	6.30 Carols
December 24				11.30pm HC	
December 25	10.00 Chapel	11.00 HC	9.00 HC		10.00 HC
January 1		10.30 5/P HC			
January 8	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
January 15	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
January 22	3.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MW	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
January 29			10.50 5/P HC		
February 5	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 VC

Christingle Services: December 7th Tivetshall 6.30pm; December 9th Burston 2pm.
Epiphany: January 6th at Winfarthing 7pm

Chapel Family Service at Chapel | MW Morning Worship | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer | 5/P HC 5 Parish Service VC Village Church | MS Morning Service | P/P Prayer and Praise

THE COCK CROW TEAM & CORRESPONDENTS

EDITORS

Winfarthing Group: Vivienne Wheeler,
Jacks Barn, Common Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DR
01379 642622 vivienne.wheeler@gmail.com

Bressingham Group: Tim Colyer, 'Bermick', Tanns Lane, North Lopham, IP22 2LZ
01379 687718 timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk

SECRETARY

Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk.
01379 687679 jennyvere@btinternet.com

TREASURER Cheques payable to 'Cock Crow Committee' please
Krys Wakefield, The Old Rectory, Fersfield IP22 2BL
krys.wakefield@gmail.com

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

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

CORRESPONDENTS

BRESSINGHAM Diana Burroughes, Burrowood, Wilney Green, Bressingham IP22 2AJ 01379 688291
dianajb@btconnect.com

BURSTON Elizabeth Mceniff, Orchard House, Crown Green, Burston, IP22 5TZ
01379 742583 elizabeth.mceniff@yahoo.co.uk

FERSFIELD Richard Hewitt, The Cottage, The Common, Fersfield IP22 2BP. 01379 687355
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 Jackie Brown, Bottle Cottage, Redgrave Rd, S Lopham IP22 2HL. 01379 687260
jackiebrown1@btinternet.com

SHELFANGER Roger Challoner, Old Post Office, Church Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DG,
01379 642286 opoc@electramail.co.uk

TIVETSHALL Maggie Rowan, The Thatched House, Green Lane, Tivetshall NR15 2BJ
01379 674116 maggiearowan@gmail.com

WINFARTHING Chloe Frost, 10 Diamond Close, Winfarthing, IP22 2EW. 01379 644589
chloe.rudge84@gmail.com

Date	Bressingham St John the Baptist (BCP)	Fersfield St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)	N Lopham St Nicholas (BCP &) (C/W Order 1)	S Lopham St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)
Sun 4th Dec Advent 2	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am Toy S	No Service
Sun 11th Dec Advent 3	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS 4pm Adv. Car	No Service
Sun 18th Dec Advent 4	9.30am MS	No Service	11am Family Carols	9.30am HC
Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve			4pm Crib Service	
Sun 25th Dec Christmas Day	No Service	10.30am FS	No Service	9.30am HC
Sun 1st Jan Christmas 1	No Service	No Service	9.30am HC 11am FS	No Service
Sun 8th Jan Epiphany	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am FS 4pm Epiph Car	No Service
Sun 15th Jan Epiphany 2	9.30am MS	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 22nd Jan Epiphany 3	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 29th Jan	Fifth Sunday, Communion Services at Diss at 8am and 10.30am			

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 R Hewitt 01379 687355
N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679
S Lopham J Brundell 01379 687216 M Crisp 01379 687953 P Reeder (emeritus)



The uniqueness of the Scriptures, the uniqueness of Jesus

During the run up to the Christmas season there will be various carol services, school productions, concerts; all in one way or another relating to the Scriptures for today's audience. The question is asked – 'How unique are the Scriptures?'

All the following information is taken from 'Evidence that demands a Verdict' by Josh McDowell, 1972

'Over a 1600 year span, over 60 generations, written by more than 40 authors from every walk of life including Kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars.

Moses, a political leader trained in the Universities of Egypt; Peter, a fisherman; Amos, a herdsman; Joshua, a military general; Nehemiah, a cupbearer; David, a prime minister; Luke, a doctor; Solomon, a King; Matthew a tax collector; Paul, a Rabbi.

Written in different places: Moses in the wilderness; Jeremiah in a dungeon; Daniel on a hillside and in a Place; Paul inside prison walls; Luke while travelling; John on the Isle of Patmos; others in the rigours of a military campaign.

Written in different times – David, in times of war; Solomon, in times of peace; written in different moods – from the heights of joy to the depths of despair; written on 3 continents – Asia, Africa & Europe; written in 3 languages – Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

The Old Testament contains over 300 references to the Messiah that are fulfilled in Jesus. 450 BC is the historic date for the completion of the Old Testament. The 'Septuagint', the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, was written around 250 BC so if the Septuagint is in existence in 250 BC, this will indicate at least a 250 year gap between the prophecies being written down and their fulfilment in the person of Jesus Christ'.

Some prophecies that Jesus fulfilled are noted during the Christmas period.

Born of the seed of woman; born of a virgin; born the Son of God; born of the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; born of the tribe of Judah, family line of Jesse, of the House of David; born in Bethlehem of Judea. The children are killed by Herod.

David F Mills

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

BURSTON NEWS

Fish and Chips Supper Quiz

While meant to be purely a fun evening, the usual competitive spirit soon took over with inter-table rivalry coming to the fore...and the question master (which unfortunately was me!) being challenged on the accuracy of some of the questions and answers. No doubt the quantities of drinks being consumed on some tables contributed to this! The Church had been decorated with flags and bunting and this also contributed to a party atmosphere.

With spirits running high, the role of scorer becomes a dangerous occupation, so we again enlisted the support of Linda and Steve Critchley. Living in Suffolk, they would be out of harm's way if any disputes over the scores arose after the event. In reality this is an arduous task and we are indebted to them for supporting us each year!

Linda and Steve also ran a raffle at this event boosting considerably the amount of funds we are able to raise. Prizes this year were donated by Rod and Margaret Tuck and Jan Frankland and it is worth noting that the prize donated by Jan was initially donated by Chris MacLean for the Gala Auction on 16 September. Jan successfully bid for it at the auction and donated it to us for the Supper Quiz, so this generous donation raised funds for St Mary's on two occasions!

Thanks are due to the Friends of Burston Church for the planning of this event and for the preparations that preceded it but, as with any fund-raising activity, it is the generosity of our supporters that really counts, so a big 'thank you' to all those who joined us on this successful and enjoyable evening.

Len Hobson

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

There have been no dramatic events, but a lot has been happening. We have applied pressure to landowners to keep footpaths clear and have met with the Norfolk Council Highways to bring their attention to various things that they ought to be doing. A new mower has been purchased and we hope that we have solved the problem of the 'shed'. As well as

all the heritage notice boards being refurbished all the village benches have been repaired where necessary, and have been painted. Nevertheless there is still plenty to keep us busy over the coming months!

Nigel Frankland

Treasurer Needed

Burston Parochial Church Council is in urgent need of a new treasurer. Anyone wanting to make a valuable contribution to Church and Village should apply to the PCC care of David Crow, 'Crewbear', Diss Road, Burston. Tel.741518. The appointee will have available the use of a very able bookkeeper to do the routine work.

Thank you! Carlton Brothers

Burston Church and churchyard has a new look. The hedge has been reduced and is now manageable and visible to passersby. Thank you, Carl and Stuart, for the use of your machinery and providing a skilled workman, without charge, to accomplish this.

Thanks also to Jim and Lyn Howard and Erin Hall for clearing the ditch and Churchyard, ably assisted by young Jack acting as traffic warden.

British Legion Poppy Collection

Thank you to all who contributed this year to the Earl Haig Fund for Veterans and also to our loyal volunteers who give of their time to go door to door. Our total this year was £421.81

St Mary's Church

Carols by Candlelight

All welcome to this service at St George's Church, Shimpling on Thursday 15th December. Please remember that the track can be muddy and dark so please consider wearing boots and bringing a torch!



Christmas Services

Please note that there will be no services at the Church on Christmas Eve or 1st January – see Chapel

St Mary's Church
18th December 10.30am Christmas Spectacular

Tivetshall Church
24th December 11.30pm Holy Communion

Burston Chapel
18th December 6pm Carols by Candlelight
24th December 5pm Carols outside the Strike School
25th December 10am Christmas Day Service
1st January 11am New Year Service

Gala Auction

Massive thanks to everyone who supported our 'Gala Auction' at the Park Hotel in September. We were bowled over by the support in both items to auction and the very generous bids on the night. We were so fortunate to have the professional services of Mike Sarson (from TW Gaze) as our auctioneer on the night as he helped to create a fun, relaxed atmosphere in which people clearly felt in the mood to bid. We took nearly £4,500 on the night, and after expenses had been paid our profit was £4,000.

Lottery Fund

As part of our Heritage Lottery Fund grant, we were required to produce a heritage trail in the church and churchyard, an information leaflet, a quiz for children and a noticeboard. Our very grateful thanks to our small team that beavered away to great effect to produce these items: Janet Whiteside, Norma Ajdukiewicz, John Atkinson and Len Hobson. Do drop by the church and see the fruits of their hard work!

Christmas Spectacular

In order to mark the project's completion – and to thank everyone locally who has, so patiently, put up with scaffolding, builders vehicles and equipment, and the church interior at times messy with parts portioned off – we are having a Christmas Spec-

tacular on Sunday 18th December at 10.30am. This will be a never-to-be-forgotten Christmas celebration for all the family – with mulled wine, carols, hot dogs, mince pies – and entertainment from 'Magical Mark'. Book it now in your diary!

Rachel Hobson



Burston School

We have been busy in the outdoors as we are rejuvenating our pond area and also creating a wildlife garden. We have been fortunate enough to receive a grant from Tesco to help fund this. Tim Page, from Wildside, has helped us with our project, still in the early stages, but already keeping us busy. We have already received help from volunteers, Harry and Simon, who kindly brought in a digger to help clear the pond area.



This half term we are going to be carrying out craft activities based on different festivals and celebrations: Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance Day, St Andrews Day, Christmas and Hanukah.

Last half term we began a topic about 'People who help us' and as the class have found the subject so interesting, we are continuing for the beginning of this half term. We will think about the emergency services and completing activities based on this topic. The children have been set a challenge to learn their address, to learn the number 999 and have found out what events would be classed as emergencies.

In science lessons we shall learn about changes that take place during the seasons and we will also learn about animals, including humans.

Towards the end of the half term, we will move onto our next topic of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.' The class will also be busy preparing for the nativity, which will take place in the last week of the school term, and they will have the opportunity to carry out multiskills at Diss High School in November. Children in Year 1 have just completed their road safety 'Step on It' training.

What an action packed half term! Class 3 have learned about the Rain forest, the different layers, animals and plants found within them, what foods we eat that are grown there and the effect of deforestation. We have also been working on the story Hugo Cabret and all our English work has been based around this and is going to continue in the following weeks. We are moving onto Ancient Egypt with our topic and will find out about pharaohs, pyramids, mummification and much more.



Our half term culminated in a brilliant Harvest Festival held at the Church. Class 1 sang a lovely song, which was followed by Class 3 performing a play based on Noah's Ark and the importance of knowing that everyone is equal. We say a massive thank you to Yvonne Priestly who helped set up the church for us; nothing was too much trouble for her.



Farewell

The funeral of Peter Bullman was held in Gissing Church on Tuesday 4th October. Peter and his wife Audrey were long time residents of Gissing before moving into assisted care some months ago. For many years Peter held the responsibility for locking and unlocking the church, and he and Audrey were active and popular villagers. We'll miss him.

Friends of Gissing Church

Fantastic news! We have heard that we have been successful in securing a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for major structural repairs and improvements to Gissing church.

In addition to the urgent repairs, this will enable the building to have a heating system installed and a more sensitive replacement to the current lighting system, which will not only light the church but will illuminate the wonderful Angel Roof.

Along with the repairs and renovations we will develop the website, information guides and leaflets, erect new church signs outside, develop story boards for inside the church linking into the Diocesan 'Angel Trail', holding events in the church and so on.

The structural work cannot start until February 2017 but the heritage interpretation work started in late October with a weekend where a tower scaffold was erected in the church enabling historians, including Michael Rimmer (the author of the 'Angel Roofs of East Anglia') and photographers to study the angels and capture the details of their carving and symbolism from 6 metres up!!

As part of the heritage aspects of the HLF grant, a wildflower and plant survey has been done by Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) to identify where the key plants are located. This will enable us to develop a conservation management plan, with NWT help, for the churchyard. Some of it will be left to grow long but other areas will be mown as usual. This year has had to be a trial year for undertaking the wild plants survey. In future it is likely that the conservation areas will be smaller – very helpful when we need to do the late summer rake off!

Looking to the near future, the Friends will be at the St Nicholas Fayre in early December, and their stall will be selling pottery, costume jewellery and cards. Even though the church has managed to secure an HLF grant, this is purely for capital works and so we still have to raise funds to cover the day to day running of the building such as insurance, routine maintenance, electrical servicing, etc – currently requiring about £3,000 per year.

It has been an amazing few months with the success of both the Heart of Gissing bid for the new community building and the PCC/Friends grant for repair to the church. We are sure that 2017 is going to be a great year for the village as a whole and future editions of Cock Crow will keep you updated on both projects.

We wish you a Very Merry Christmas and all good things for a Happy New Year. We hope you will join us for the annual New Year's Eve ringing of the church bells to welcome in 2017. See you there!



Cycle Ride

This year two resolute individuals carried out our tradition of completing the annual Church Cycle Ride organised by the Norfolk Churches Trust. Paul Wright cycled around 25 churches while Veronica Manly walked round the 5 churches in our benefice. Between them they raised £880 – the best we've ever done! Thanks also to all who manned St Mary's during the day to sign in riders from other churches. Well done to all – riders and walkers, attendants and sponsors.

Gissing Children's Centre

During the late Autumn and early Spring term, we shall watch with interest the coming together of the new building on the site adjacent to us. The children very much enjoy seeing the builders, the cranes and all the machinery at work in constructing the new community space. We shall prepare items to go into

a time capsule, to be hidden in the wall of the new building. We are looking forward to Christmas; we will be making lots of decorations this year and something very special (and edible) to take home for our families near the end of term.

There are still some spaces left for the Spring Term 2017, 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 lindamarynash@yahoo.co.uk Ring 01379 677300 9–3 Monday to Friday or leave a message on 07796 204367. We would be very pleased to see you. Do visit our website (www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) and our Facebook page to see the sort of things we do.

We are running two Playschemes on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December for primary school age children at the Children's Centre. The cost, as usual, will be £15 per child and the sessions will run from 9 - 3.30 with the option of a shorter session from 9 - 1 for £12. Children will need to bring a packed lunch and some money for tuck. A wide range of activities will be on offer. Places must be booked and paid for in advance, by ringing 07531 810704 or by emailing: playscheme@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk

Heart of Gissing

(Charity No: 1161599)

Heart of Gissing congratulates Gissing PCC on their grant funding for the church repairs and improvements. What a fantastic achievement!

The New Community building is progressing well with the timber frame now in place. We are still on course for completion at the end of February, weather permitting. The Trustees will be looking at a new programme for 2017 and the next issue should have some details of what to expect.

If you are looking for a venue for a party or celebration or wedding reception in 2017, please be aware that we will have a beautiful new facility on offer and you might like to add Gissing's new Community Building to your list of possibilities. For more information contact Rose Eddington on 07504 895182 or email admin@heartofgissing.org.uk

Time and Place series of talks started with a most interesting one about local heritage in Gissing with Kate Argyle from Historic England. It was a

fascinating look into the past with lots of helpful information about how to conduct our own investigations. There will be follow up evenings to look out for. Contact Rose Eddington on 07504 895182 or admin@heartofgissing.org.uk

Winter Gift Fair Saturday 3rd December 2–6pm at Gissing Church and the Crown. Enjoy a festive atmosphere whilst choosing from a range of gifts from local producers. Father Christmas is in Gissing Crown. A variety of refreshments plus a Christmas hamper grand draw. Free admission. Contact 01379 677511 or admin@heartofgissing.org.uk



Performing Arts East We are holding a family Christmas Carol concert on Friday 16th December at 6.30pm at the Church, featuring short performances from the Musical Theatre Performing Arts East classes, a cello and vocal duet from the fabulous Rebecca Chamberlain and Gill Armour and a visit from SANTA! Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a heart-warming sing along to classic carols!

We shall present *Sleeping Beauty* at Aslacton and Great Moulton Coronation Hall on Friday 13th at 6.30pm and 14th January at 2pm and 7pm. Email paraarcher@googlemail.com or call 01953 798627 or 07825 325110 for tickets or more information.

Youth Adventure Sessions with Adam Osborne These sessions for 8–13 year olds, largely held outdoors, have been a great success in the past and have included activities such as catapults, campfires, air rifles, orienteering etc. The highly supervised, stand-alone sessions are a great experience for youngsters. More programmes are planned from the February half-term. If you are interested, contact Sarah Willett on 01379 677567 or 07917 645867 or email at swillett_ip22@yahoo.com for further details.

Allotments

Anyone who might be interested in renting the newly available allotment should contact the Charities Treasurer, Mr Colin Mobbs, on 01379 644859.

Pam Ross

Village Hall News

Following his appointment to a senior financial post at SKF in Toronto, Tig Ross sadly had to resign as chairman. The committee is greatly indebted to James Easter of Manor Farm who has agreed to take on this responsibility.

The village hall is a well-used facility with yoga, Pilates, railway modelling and social activity for the disabled taking place on a regular basis. The football pitch is well used and the hall is an attractive venue for private parties.

The committee would like to see more 'home generated' activities taking place and to this end an Art Group providing time and space to practice and chat has been started, meeting on Mondays at 1pm.

A Village Quiz Night has been arranged for Saturday 3rd December 7 for 7.30 pm; to get entry details for this mind-exercising event, phone James Easter on 01379 640431.

New Year's Eve There will be a convivial gathering from 9pm on New Year's Eve. All villagers are welcome, especially those bearing a plate of food! The bar will of course be open so that 2017 can be seen in the traditional way. Be prepared to join in Auld Lang Syne and possibly the Conga; a chance to celebrate safely without having to drive.

Finally, if you live in Shelfanger and have perhaps not seen the inside of the Village Hall and its excellent facilities, why not come up to the Social Club any Friday evening 8pm to 11.30pm and see what the hall has to offer?

Shelfanger Parish Council

We are very grateful to Ivan Lord for his continued maintenance of the footpaths and also to Dave

Masters, Ivan and his team for erecting the new foot-path posts.

The village sign has gone to have some much-needed maintenance to keep it in good repair. Steve Eggleton is undertaking the work and we are grateful to him. Take a moment to appreciate the work on the sign when it is back in situ.

Shelfanger Stitchers

The group continues to meet fortnightly, knitting hats, gloves and scarves for the Norwich St Martin's Night Shelter. There is also a big bag of children's cardigans, jumpers, hats and scarves going to the Salvation Army 'Toys and Tins' appeal in Norwich to give families something extra for Christmas.

For further details about the group phone Helen on 652199.

Christian (Tig) and Jane Ross

At the end of October the parishes of Shelfanger and Winfarthing gave a great 'send off' to Tig and Jane at the start of their Canadian adventure. To thank them for their huge input to the Shelfanger Fete, Village Hall and Social Club, a special meeting was called on Thursday 13th October when they were presented with giant cards from the various committees, a painting of Shelfanger, some refreshing alcoholic beverages and a snow-shovel! A few days later, a hog roast at the Winfarthing Fighting Cocks saw nearly 200 people partying, chattering and, for some, camping out in the Cocks' field. We're sure a copy of this Cock Crow will find its way to Toronto so –Tig and Jane – thanks for everything and every good wish for your future happiness.

Get Well Soon

Finally, as we write this copy in early November, we know several members of the Shelfanger Village Family are suffering illness. To them and to those who care for them, we send our very best wishes.

All Saints' Church, Shelfanger

We send very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all readers.



Harvest Festival

9th October saw the church decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables to a standard surpassing previous years. As ever, our sincere thanks to all who contributed produce and flowers from gardens and allotments. Also to Lorna, Brenda, Pam, Marilyn, Jean, Marian, Sheila and Anne for their terrific flower arrangements; wardens Roger and Peter for their eye-catching produce display; to Marian, Pam, Pat, Anne and Marion for their harvest service readings; to Helen for the intercessions and to Rector David for his oversight and address. The festival was well-attended and many of the congregation appeared again at the sale of harvest produce run by wardens Peter, Roger and Pam. £50 was raised for church funds.



Norfolk Churches Annual Bike Ride

On 10th September the church was open for this annual Cycle Ride. Around twenty cyclists and walkers visited and 'signed in', raising much needed funds for this important organisation. Thank you to all those stalwarts who manned the church that day.

Gift Morning

This was held on 29th October as part of the church's patronal festival weekend. Wardens and church members were present to chat and talk about the church, to receive gifts and share refreshments during the morning. The parish has again responded magnificently, a very generous start having been made with just over £1,000 raised on the day and further funds still being received.

RBL Poppy Appeal

The annual door to door collection for the Earl Haig Poppy Fund is now taking place. Well done Alan Holmes and Peter Harries for undertaking this work; thanks go to all those generous in their giving. The full result of the collection will be announced in a later edition, as will an account of the Service of Remembrance.

Services

The annual Candlelit Carol Service will take place at 3pm on Sunday 11th December. This atmospheric service with its decorations, carols and candlelight really sets the scene for Christmas. Do come.

The main five parishes Midnight Communion takes place this year at St Margaret's, Tivetshall commencing at 11.30pm on the 24th.

The Christmas Day Communion Service is at 9am at All Saints'.

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.

Church Building Update

The PCC has been continuing to look at the improvement and maintenance of All Saints' Church. Under the leadership of Fabric Officer, Keith Day, ideas for the possible provision of lavatory and kitchen facilities are being explored and meetings with Norwich Diocesan Advisors are taking place. As you might imagine, the introduction of 21st Century facilities to a near 1000 year old Grade I listed building is fraught with difficulties. 4 feet thick flint walls, limited interior space and all surrounded by consecrated burial ground present some serious challenges. We sincerely thank Keith for his continuing efforts.

The Churchyard Team

As the autumn leaves fall and the grass continues to grow it's again time to say thank you to Ray, Des, Peter, Roy, Roger and Francis who make up the mower-pushing 'rotary club.' Their year-long work on the church surround makes such a difference to the appearance of the churchyard.

Tivetshall St Margaret

The PCC thank the volunteers who helped keep the two churchyards clean and tidy this year. Special thanks to Steve West who singlehandedly has made huge improvements to St Mary's. I understand that he has also cleared Church Lane. Similarly, our thanks to David Brown for all his good works at St Margaret's with help from Maurice Webstell and Paul Dack.

The lime trees on the verge at St Margaret's are beginning to cause problems with parking, and also difficulties with hearses and wedding parties. They are also keeping much light from entering the chancel window and causing the ground around that end of the church to dry out. We have contacted SNDC who have no problem with us felling, pollarding or removing the lower branches of any or all of the trees. If anyone has a view on this or any recollection when they were planted and by whom please email Maggie Rowan at maggiearowan@gmail.com

The Harvest Festival service raised £25.36 from the sale of produce which has been sent to Tear Fund.

Christmas at St Margaret's

There will be a Christmas tree inside the church and as usual everyone is invited to hang a memory star from its branches.

On Wednesday 7th December the school will be holding its annual Christingle at 6.30pm

There will be Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 18th December at 3pm. We hope as many of you will be able to join us at this very popular service. Refreshments will be served after the service.

The 5 Parish Midnight Service is on the 24th commencing at 11.30pm.

Tivetshall Families and Friends

There will be a Christmas Craft Fayre in village hall on 27th November at 2pm. The PCC will be holding a tombola stall and are appealing for prizes please. These can either be given to Maggie Rowan or Ian Henson at the school. All profits towards Tivetshall Families and Friends.



We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Village Hall news

Since it's opening in 1997 the Hall has hosted many events, ranging from private birthday celebrations, Jubilee celebrations, to regular hirers such as the Bowls club, Pilates classes and the Monday club. It has always welcomed children's parties and family events and has more recently been hired by a new group in the village called Tivetshall families and friends (apply via Facebook to join in).

Their recent Macmillan coffee morning was well supported and provided an opportunity to meet and chat to other villagers (the cakes were delicious too!). They have organised a special Christmas craft fayre on the 27th November, starting at 2.p.m, the hall will be decorated for the festive season and there will be many different crafts stalls, mulled wine and festive foods to tempt us all and get us into the festive spirit. TFAF were set up to provide events for the village to enjoy and to raise funds to support groups in the village, so please come and join in, you will be very welcome and may even pick up a unique Christmas gift for that 'difficult to buy for' relative.

Some years ago the hall was set up as a wifi hot-spot, allowing people in the local area to get on line, some computer courses were also run at the hall but sadly the funding for this was cut so the village was left with just our ageing BT infrastructure. Nineteen months ago a public meeting was held at the hall to discuss whether or not the Tivetshall's would

be brought into the 21st century by the provision of Superfast broadband, which would improve our internet and telephone service, we were advised by Karen O'Kane (Programme Director, Better Broadband for Norfolk) that we were to see the first connections by the end of 2016. Unfortunately this is not now going to happen and we are now being quoted dates of 2018 and 2019 for some parts of the village, it is currently planned that most properties in the village will be connected via the existing copper and aluminium cable network to a fibre junction box, thus installing state of the art technology to the junction box and then relying on the existing network of ageing cables to bring the signal to your door. A few lucky properties in the village will get fibre to their property, but it is only a few.



Loading

The difference between fibre to your property and fibre to the junction box can be compared to the horse and cart verses the car. I understand this issue is now on the agenda for a Parish Council meeting at the hall on 7th December 2016 at 7.30pm, if this issue affects you and you are interested in seeing what can be done to improve the services to the Tivetshall's then please attend the meeting.

Finally, after many years of keeping the hall clean and tidy Linda recently 'retired' from the post, she did a wonderful job and TVHMC would like to publicly thank her for all her hard work. There is currently a vacancy for this post, anyone looking for a couple of hours cleaning work each week should contact the committee for details on 01379 676723

Tivetshall Primary School

As always we enjoyed our usual blackberrying expedition, joined by many mums and grandmas. The weather was exceptionally hot but everyone coped very well with quite a few full collecting pots and even more full tummies.

The theme of Class 1's café this year was Harvest

when Mrs Green worked with the parents to demonstrate how singing is taught in school. Well done to all of the brave parents who took part and thank you to Mrs Brown who organised all of the activities. Making popcorn was especially popular.

Thank you to all of you who contributed cakes and came our Macmillan coffee morning. We raised £.68 for this very good cause.

The older children had the opportunity to take part in two sports tournaments at Diss High School. In the netball competition one of the teams finished fourth and some of our girls are through to the next round in the cross country finals. Well done to everybody for taking part.

We are very proud to be one of only 107 schools in the country to receive a Centre of Excellence award for teaching financial maths and now have a very smart trophy in school following a presentation during which financial expert Martin Lewis spoke and expressed his continued support for the scheme.

Sandra Potter, Head of School

Clerk to governors

We are looking to appoint a new clerk to the governors. This will involve 18 evening meetings a year with a salary of £9.27 an hour.

Please apply to chairofgovs@btpartnership.net

WINFARTHING NEWS

All Saints' Primary School

A message from the children

Last half term 12 new reception children came and joined and after 3 weeks we were all in the hall together and an author came in to see us. Her name was Ella Burfoot and she told us all about her life being an author.

Also in September, a karate man came and taught us some karate and told us about his life being a karate member. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 went to Diss High School for cross country and the top 10 made it through to the finals. Every Thursday year 3 and 4



go to Diss swimming pool to improve their swimming skills. The last day of term after school we had a school disco, with pumpkins surrounding us from the pumpkin competition earlier in the day.

South Norfolk Christmas Bin Collection

Bin Calendars will be hitting your door steps at some time in November. These calendars are for two years so please keep them safe.

Collection days changes for Christmas 2016 are:

Usual Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Change
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December	1 day late
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December	1 day late
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December	1 day late
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December	1 day late

And don't forget, you can recycle more than ever this Christmas. For advice and tips on how to reduce your waste please visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/recycling.



From the Registers

Bressingham Group

FUNERALS

Charles Ephraim Berry 5th October, North Lopham, ashes interred on 25th

Brenda Oates 17th October, Bressingham Memorial service following interment of ashes

Margaret Sayer 1st November North Lopham

David Huggins 7th November South Lopham

Winfarthing Group

FUNERAL

Peter Bullman Tuesday 4th October, Gissing

CHRISTENING

Theo and Archie Blake Sunday 6th November, Tivetshall

