

Cock Crow

*NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES*

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

Issue No: 1



Early spring cultivation: Mr John Webster at work in Shelfanger



Editors' Notice Board

Volunteers needed

Norfolk Police Authority has Independent Custody Visitors who are volunteers working pairs. They attend Norfolk's custody facilities unannounced to check on the welfare of detainees and the conditions in which they are held. This work is largely unseen but one of the volunteers has written a piece about his experiences of a typical visit which is entitled *A day in the life of a custody visitor*. If you would like a copy of the transcript please contact the South Lopham correspondent. The Police Authority is keen to recruit more volunteers for this service. For more information on the role of the Independent Custody Visitors, please visit: www.norfolk-pa.gov.uk/visiting.cfm

Computer course for beginners

Book now! This course from Breckland Council is designed to give people who have little, or no computer knowledge, tuition and practise to enable them to confidently operate a computer to a basic level. We are now taking bookings for our 10-week course which starts this Spring. For further information call 01362 850130 or 01362 695388

*Do you want
to make a
difference?*




At local, national and international levels, Lions are supporting in many ways.

From re-roofing a local pre-school storage shed, to supporting St Dunstan's rehabilitation centre for service personnel, to helping short and long-term in international disaster zones, Lions are active.

Lions are now launching a nationwide recognition programme for 11 to 18 year olds, as we know they are not all jobs, that there are many community minded teenagers who need to be honoured.

All this is made possible by people like you, in towns like yours holding fund raising events from Bingo nights, raffles, bric a brac stalls to carnivals, street fayres and much more.

If you feel this is something you would enjoy and you want to make a difference, please give me, Lion Mandy Hawksley, a ring on 01986 872710, or email mandp.mart@virgin.net Let's start a new exciting Lions Club in your community. Male or female, any age, all you need to be a Lion is to CARE.



Other items the Editors think you might like to know about

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ACTIVE NORFOLK VILLAGE GAMES 2012
Sport Coordinators Needed!



We are looking for a keen, enthusiastic individual or two, who have a vested interest in sport, community and local life – someone who may be looking for a new challenge in 2012. We are looking to recruit people who would enjoy being part of a thriving network of Village Games Sports Coordinators across Norfolk, keen to create and open up sporting opportunities for the local people in their village. There is a small financial incentive to the right person.

The aim is to enter a village team (can comprise up to 4 small neighbouring villages) into the South Norfolk Village Games on Sunday 10th June 2012 at Framingham Earl Sports Centre. The day comprises of a range of sports - Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis, Darts, Archery, Rounders, Short Mat Bowls, Fitness Triathlon (5 minute time on Treadmill, Rower & Exercise Bike), Football, Climbing Wall challenge and Athletics (several disciplines). It offers the opportunity for people to take part in fun high-quality events, in their own villages, supported with coaching and ongoing support to encourage sustained participation. The intention is also to create hundreds of new members for the County's sports clubs.

Think a road show or a taster day in your village might help generate interest? I can help coordinate this with the Village Coordinator, using the local facilities and look to use the local clubs that would serve as exit routes.

Need Equipment? Active Norfolk can help with that, at no charge. We operate an equipment loan scheme. Drop me a line for more information.

Interested in coaching? Active Norfolk can help with that through our Coaching Bursaries programme. Get in contact and I will be happy to discuss this.

If you think this could be you or you want to find out more information, please give me a call, Alex Bond, Rural Sports Development Officer on 07795 291256, or email alex.bond@activenorfolk.org

Jonathan Veira



Banham Community Centre Saturday 11th February 7.30pm

You are invited to a night of comedy and music from Rock to opera as TV, radio and international opera star Jonathan Veira shares an insight into his life, work, faith and music

Tickets £5 available from:
Banham Post Office
or phone:
James 07584 572663,
Mel 01953 860615
or www.rhc3.co.uk

A COMMUNITY CHURCH EVENT

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

Valley Fens Local Group Talks

Talks start at 7.30pm at Redgrave and Lopham Fen Visitor Centre. £2 entry includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Contact 01379 608313

Tuesday 28th February: Pip Wright *The Diary of a West Suffolk Woodman 1827-1842*

Tuesday 27th March: Ashly Seabourne
The Work of Green Light Trust
(Community environmental projects)

Winfarthing Group Rector writes...



A Thankful Heart

Are you a person for whom the glass is half full or half empty? I find this an interesting question to ask someone. I have the type of face that when you first look at it seems to be that I am permanently tired; this could well be true!

Over the years I have learnt not to judge a person by first impressions. I know this is contrary to some of the so called accepted norms of society, but I am far more interested in the inside of a person than what the person is wearing. First impressions only act as a guide. What I ask myself is the following; is there a sparkle in the eyes? Are they confident or too confident? Are they cheerful?

The real question that I would love to ask is 'are you a person for whom life is half full or half empty' and, if the answer is half full, 'What is it that makes you so cheerful?' In Christian Ministry, I find that there are some people for whom life seems to be a continual struggle, who seem to be always fearful, who give the impression of being frightened by their own shadow. For these people the glass is forever half empty. I could easily be like this myself.

I was recently thinking about this whilst I was preparing an address on the Sunday of the year when we remember the 'Baptism of Jesus'. The meaning of the word Baptism 'is to be rooted, grafted, and immersed into Christ'. I also thought about the subject of Thankfulness, and questioned how we reflect our Thankfulness to God for what he has done for us in Baptism. Do our lives reflect his glory back to the world in which we live? The reason for me why the glass is half full, is simply what God has done for me, hopefully with a thankful heart. The reason and ground of my life is Christ, anything else is shifting sand. Or as St Paul put it 'For me to live is Christ, to die is gain'!

Revd David Mills

BURSTON NEWS

Burston Community Primary School

We wish everyone a Happy and prosperous New Year and hope everyone is ready to start another busy term, having enjoyed the Christmas break.

Our Nativity and Christmas Play were both enjoyable again this year. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with this and to everyone for coming to watch. The children (and staff) really do put in a lot of hard work.

Thanks must also go to the 'Friends' for putting on a fabulous Christmas party with delicious food and entertainment. This was a great start to Christmas for the children.

We welcome our new members of staff this term. Mrs Wareham has joined as Assistant Head Teacher and Class 3 teacher and Mrs Wilson will be starting full time in Class 2 at the end of January. We do hope they will enjoy working with us at Burston.

Class 1 will be attending a Dance Festival at Diss High School on the 17th January. This term we

are talking about 'people who help us'. We are currently organising for different people to visit us and, depending upon their availability, we are hoping to visit some of these people in their setting. We will also be carrying out topics about Florence Nightingale and forces.

Class 2 are learning about teeth and healthy eating in science. They will be designing healthy menus and preparing and sampling the food for these. We will also be exploring places with cold climates.

This term class 3 will be studying 'The Victorians'. We are also going to further develop our skills in broadcasting with our own 'Burston Radio'. Our first broadcast was on Friday 6th. We hope to continue with a weekly broadcast. In literacy we will be covering journalistic writing plus work linked to the topic. In science we will be covering forces. All key-stage 2 are going to be learning to play the clarinet on Tuesday afternoons with Tivetshall Primary.

Pupils will be attending a sports hall event at Stradbroke Leisure Centre on 25th January.

Lastly, is anyone interested in helping us to look after the school garden? We would hope to start after half term and your help would be much appreciated. Please contact the school if you are interested.

Events at the Red Feather Club

Grand Open Day, Sunday 13th May 10am–5pm

In addition to the normal attractions there will be military vehicles, trade stands, exhibits from other aviation societies and a refreshment stand. Several overseas visitors should be attending (including veterans and their families). Admission £1.

Open Days: all Sundays, 10am–4pm

27th May • 24th June • 29th July • 26th August • 30th September [with vintage softball game, 95th BGHA 'Wallopers' versus the 1285th Military Police Re-enactment Group 'Snowdrops'] • 28th October

The Red Feather Club, run by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association, is the official UK museum of the 95th Bomb Group. The museum houses only uniforms and memorabilia relating to the 95th Bomb Group who were based at Horham during WW2. The Red Feather Club is also the home to the 1285th Military Police Company re-enactors. The Red Feather Club, Horham, Suffolk, is four miles south-east of Eye off the B1117 (IP21 5DG).

During the year quizzes, film shows and dances are held at the Red Feather Club and there are regular monthly open days on the last Sunday of the month from May till October (inclusive). Opening times are 10am to 4pm. American visitors from the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation will be making their annual reunion visit to Horham from Thursday 10th May to Wednesday 16th May.

Website: www.95thbg-horham.com

Public enquiries

Tel 01728 860930 (James Mutton, chairman of the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association)
Email jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net

Press officer:

Mike Ager, Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU. Tel: 01379 678835. Email: mike@gn.apc.org (Newspapers only)

95th Bomb Group Heritage Association
charity number 1119769

GISSING NEWS

Heart of Gissing

The Heart of Gissing is a charity made up of local people with an interest in securing the future and the regeneration of the centre of Gissing including the proposed refurbishment and extension of the Old School building and site. The Trustees are keen to develop the potential of the site as a meeting place for local organisations, community and interest groups of all ages and as a venue for small scale 'one off' events of social, cultural and educational kinds. They see it as one of their main roles to promote and foster such 'sharing' activities. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 for a membership form and/or further details.

A date for your diary

Good Friday, 6th April, Easter Egg Hunt starting from Gissing Children's Centre. 10.30am to 1pm, cost: £2 per child.

A really 'eggsellent' family event: a lovely walk, a bit of a brain teaser, designed for all ages, some tasty refreshments, an egg for each child and there are always some extra attractions for the young ones. Look forward to seeing you there. If you went last year, tell your friends that it's good fun.



St Nicholas Fayre – a thank you

The Heart of Gissing and Children's Centre events team thank all those who came together to provide a lovely festive evening. We hope that all those who attended had a fun start to the Christmas season and that they enjoyed the crafty/tasty products, many of which were made locally.

Gissing Baby and Toddler Group

Gissing Village Hall every Monday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am. All parents, carers and their children (under school age) are welcome to come and have a chat while the children have fun.

Contact Vicky on 01379 674437 or 07946 212779 or email vhcullum@hotmail.com.

Gissing Youth Club

For 8–13 year olds, runs every Tuesday 6.30–8.30pm during term times (6.30–8pm after the clocks go back) at Gissing Children's Centre.

Anyone interested in helping or who has skills to share, contact Bernie on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email berniecalton@talktalk.net.

Gissing Reading Group

Meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm at the Old School.

Contact Jim Philip on 01379 677352 or just come along.

Gissing Gardening Group

Generally meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month.

Contact Andy Jolly on 01379 674590.

Gissing Singers

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

Pilates

Continues to run (two classes) every Wednesday evening at the Children's Centre (the Old School). Call Sharon Calton on 07979 411644 or email sharon@scalton.orangehome.co.uk

The Hegarty School of Dance

Offers a variety of dance classes to children and adults and runs from both the Children's Centre (the Old School) and from Gissing village hall. For further details, contact Sam on 07825 325100, email samiwatt@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.hegarty-schoolofdance.co.uk.

A musical theatre class is starting every Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm at Gissing Village Hall for anyone over 7 years of age. The class will include

singing, dancing and acting, working on scripts from popular musicals. The group will then do recitals for family at the end of term. The cost will be £28 for the term. For further details, contact Sam.

Stage HOGers

This local theatre group currently works towards performing an annual pantomime, staged in January each year. Anyone interested in treading the boards, contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email samiwatt@hotmail.co.uk.

Friends of Gissing Church

Contact Fiona Turton on 01379 677811 or email fionaturton@btinternet.com.

Over 60s Group

Contact Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email rose@roseeddington.co.uk.

History Group

Contact George Hammond on 01379 677633.

Gissing Children's Centre

We are very pleased to report that all the Pre-School children and staff team's hard work was once again recognised in a placing in the Dickleburgh Fifty Christmas Trees in a Church Festival in early December. We always enjoy preparing for this event and it is always such a good way to encourage team work with the children. The proceeds from our winnings will be spent on renewing puzzles and other resources for the children to enjoy.

The Pre-School runs during term time, from 9.30am to 12 noon (standard session), to 1.15pm (extended session) or to 2.30pm every Monday to Friday inclusive. Early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions. We take children unaccompanied from 2½ years to 5 years old. Any families who wish to come and take a look are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am–3pm during term time) or 07531 810704 (out of hours) or to send enquiries to email email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk

Spaces are fairly limited until September 2012,

but we do operate a waiting list so we will aim to meet your requirements, wherever possible and we will be offering Open Afternoons in the summer.

Our Christmas Playscheme in December proved such a success that we are planning to run a similar Playscheme during the February half-term. It will run from 9.30am to 3pm for children of primary school age and will cost £10 per child, bookable in advance. The precise date for this Playscheme will be advertised in advance through posters and flyers distributed to local primary schools.

St Mary the Virgin Church

Carol Service

A large congregation was in attendance for Gissing St Mary's traditional 'festival of carols and lessons' on 11th December, 2010. This popular service was enhanced once again by the Gissing Singers, who not only joined in with the congregation on traditional carols, but also contributed several less familiar and very moving selections on their own. After the service, refreshments were served in the Kemp Chapel, offering the opportunity to warm up, eat,



drink and chat. Thanks are due to all those who worked so hard through reading, catering and of course decorating the Church for the festive season. The carol service was originated, designed and developed by John Sherman, who organized it for many years. Sadly, John was unable to participate in this year's service, but we owe him a debt of gratitude for all his work in the past, and hope we've managed to carry on successfully the tradition he established.

Special thanks also to John Nash and Howard Dyke this year, for setting up and lighting the Christmas tree in the churchyard, and to Bob Steel, for floodlighting the tower for all the seasonal events.

And as always, our thanks have to go to our recitor, David Mills, who gives unstintingly of his time, advice, help and encouragement to us, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Friends of Gissing Church

In addition to the traditional church carol service, a new carol concert was added to the church's seasonal festivities this year in aid of the Friends of Gissing Church. We would like to thank everyone who put together, performed, supported and attended this concert on December 17th. We are especially grateful to Sam Watt and Helen Vallier for arranging the young community choir in their Dickensian costumes and the Gissing Singers who made this such a festive and enjoyable evening. Thanks, too, to the generosity of people on the night. The concert raised some much needed funds towards helping to preserve the church building, which provided such an atmospheric, (if rather chilly!!) setting for the event. The warmth of the evening offset the cold.

New Year's Eve

Shortly before midnight on December 31st, a hardy crew of the Church Friends made their way to St Mary's bell tower, and literally rang in the new year. These 'Gissing Clangers' included both experienced bell ringers and novices having their first 'go' at the bell ropes. The proverbial good time was had by all, and it's hoped this will become a New Year's tradition for the village.

All Saints' Church

On the second Sunday in Advent, Shelfanger Parish Church was ablaze with candlelight and colourful with red-banded oranges for the Moravian tradition of Christingle. The well-attended service, arranged with the help of All Saints' School, supported the work of the Children's Society. Collecting boxes full of coins were brought by local children and added to those presented at the School's end of term assembly. Leading the service, the lay reader spoke of how Jesus – the light of the world – overcomes darkness, and asks his followers to bring the light of love and care to those who have experienced the darkness of rejection, abuse, or addiction. During the singing of 'Away in a Manger', Christingle candles were lit and all other lights in the church extinguished. The result of the church's Christingle appeal for the Children's Society, working with the young homeless and fostered, was £185, with £80 being collected mostly in coppers by the children of All Saints' School.

Festival of Lessons and Carols. Shelfanger Church's annual candle-lit carol service was led by the lay reader. The familiar Edwardian service observed each year at King's College, Cambridge was once again used. Lessons were read by Anne Chinn, Frank Paice, Jean Challoner, Pam Harries, Roger Challoner, Sheila Churchyard and Sue Paice. Carols included many traditional favourites, as well as solo items – the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City,' Harold Darke's 'In the Bleak Midwinter and Peter Cornelius's 'Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar.' After the service, refreshments were enjoyed by the congregation.

Christmas Day Worship

All Saints' service on Christmas Day was a well-attended interactive service of carols and readings. Taking as his theme 'Two presents to take home at Christmas,' the lay reader showed how no-one today needs to go looking for Jesus in the way the shepherds and wise men did; he gives himself to all who

invite him in. Members of the congregation joined in a picture quiz, with prizes of mince pies and sweets.

Shelfanger marks New Year

A special service of prayer and rededication was held at Shelfanger on Sunday 1st January. Those present were invited to enter 2012 with three objectives – to be real, to be encouraged and to be aware. Readers were Jean Challoner and Joyce Yates.

Plough Sunday

Following the ancient pattern for the Sunday after the Epiphany – a tradition revived in Victorian England – Shelfanger once again marked the second Sunday of the year as Plough Sunday. Roger Challoner's beautiful old blue Ransome plough was



brought into church and superbly decorated with a display which included striking red poppies by Pam Harries. Readers at the service were Mr Challoner and Anne Chinn. On behalf of the local farming community, Pat Webster asked the minister's blessing on the plough and the seed. The congregation then joined in crying, 'God speed the plough!' In his address, the lay reader spoke of Jesus' challenge to his followers to 'set their hand to the plough', drawing illustrations from the life of St Richard of Chichester, himself a ploughman in his youth.

Bible Studies in Lent and beyond

All Saints' monthly Midweek Meeting continues to meet throughout the year, with February's meeting on Thursday 9th including a study entitled

'Spare the rod? Discipline and the home.' The study for Lent, on Thursday 8th March is entitled 'Penitence.' All meetings are at The Laurels and start with refreshments between 7.30 and 7.45 pm, with study and prayer lasting from 7.45 until 9. A warm welcome is extended, including to those from beyond the parish boundary!

All Saints' monthly Midweek Meeting

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Programme for February and March

Addresses at First Sunday 11 am worship, on 5th February and 4th March are the first two of a series set to run through the year on The Minor Prophets, beginning with Hosea and Joel. Meanwhile, Palm Sunday's service at 11 am on 1st April will be a devotional Songs of Praise for Holy Week.

Village

Poppy collection

Shelfanger's contribution to the 2011 poppy appeal resulted in a sum being raised of £285.30. The collection was organised by Peter Harries, Anne Lord and Vivienne Wheeler.



TIVETSHALL NEWS

St Margaret's Church

The church was full on December 6th for the school's annual Christingle service.

A carol service by candlelight held on December 18th was also well attended and £62.52 was raised for the Salvation Army for their help with the homeless. Homemade mince pies and coffee were served after the service.

Change of Service

Please note that from 1st January 2012 the monthly Home Team Service (usually the last Sunday of the month) will be shared with Gissing and held in Gissing church. This may change for special circumstances such as Remembrance Sunday.

Bike Ride

Congratulations to the Barton family, Liz Chubock, Sue Fletcher and George Otty who raised £447.30 by visiting various churches to raise money for The Churches Trust, half of which is returned to St Margaret's church.

Date for the Diary

There will be a Quiz and Chips evening to be held in Tivetshall village hall on Saturday June 9th in aid of St Margaret's Restoration Fund. More details in the next issue but please make sure to keep the date free.



Tivetshall Community Primary School

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and we wish everyone a Happy New Year.

2012 already! Doesn't time fly? Here we are all back after Christmas ready to start a new term, the children have had lots to tell us about what they did on their Christmas holiday. It seems that they have had a very enjoyable time.

On the 11th November 2011 the staff and children went to the Remembrance Service in Tivetshall, the children made some poppies which they took with them to the church. It was a lovely service and was such a wonderful opportunity for the generations to come together.

We are very proud to announce that Tivetshall have reached the finals for Tag Rugby. We are going to be playing at the UEA in Norwich, so well done to our team.

Getting ready for Christmas was great fun, we enjoyed preparing our Christingle Oranges for our Christingle Service which went really well.

On the 8th December we all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Lunch together. It was busy but really lovely to have everyone together at Christmas time, children, parents, staff and governors.

We are really pleased to announce that Tivetshall Primary School's Christmas tree that we put in Dickleburgh Church in December came 4th, so a very big thank you to everyone who voted for our tree.

On the 8th December the children had a lovely surprise. They spoke to Father Christmas through a video-conference and asked him lots of questions. He told them that nearly everything was magic and that's how he gets around to all the children in one night.

On the 12th December all of the children had a wonderful evening although a chilly one, carol singing around Tivetshall village. They really enjoyed themselves and if you were fortunate to have heard their singing then we hope that you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did. Thank you to all who contributed as we raised £95.08 for the school.



WINFARTHING NEWS

St Mary's Church

Tom and Joyce Blake would like to thank everyone who has donated prizes or helped in any way towards the two Whist Drives held during 2011. Your generosity raised £580.



All Saints' Primary School

Happy New Year from All Saints' Primary!

All Saints' have enjoyed a fantastic start to the new year. Within the first week of 2012 they joined St Andrew's Primary, North Lopham, with a trip to Theatre Royal to see the pantomime Sleeping Beauty, staying behind afterwards to ask the cast questions.

In November, All Saints' celebrated their new partnership with St Andrew's in a special dedication service; they are the first Voluntary Aided school partnership in Norfolk. This was held at St Andrew's Primary, in their newly refurbished school

hall and Canon Hartley from Norwich Diocese gave the address. The children sang songs and staff read prayers, before joining together for a special lunch and friendship activity.

At the end of November, All Saints' Home School Association held their annual Christmas Fayre, which was a huge success. They are very grateful for the kind donations and support of everyone who came. There were several great musical performances from older children on the violin, recorder and trumpet, while the younger visitors enjoyed a trip to Father Christmas.

December was a busy month for All Saints'. The children worked hard to put on a whole school production titled 'The Best Gift' at Winfarthing Village Hall. One mother said 'this was the best production to date' so congratulations to all who took part and thank you to everyone who watched! The children also enjoyed a feast of glitter and glue as they colourfully decorated the school as part of their Christmas celebrations. This was then followed by a wonderful Christmas lunch, cooked by NORSE and served by teachers and teaching assistants, and a visit from Father Christmas. The term finished with a service of readings and songs in St Mary's church.

We look forward to the term ahead. With a special lunch to mark Chinese New Year, dance festival for the younger pupils, sport hall athletics for the older, enrichment maths club and a partnership valentine disco the children are going to be very busy!



If you would like to know more about All Saints' then please visit the website at www.allsaints.schoolpartnership.org or contact the school on 01379 642767 or by e-mail to executivehead@schoolpartnership.org to come and look around. We would love to hear from you.

Louise Norgate: Executive Head Teacher for All Saints' and St Andrew's Partnership

Diss Library

Winter nights are just right for reading, whether you read print, ebooks or listen to audio books. You can borrow books including large type, or on cassette or CD from your library or website www.library.norfolk.gov.uk and download a selection of books onto your ereader, or audio books onto a portable player, from your own home PC. The library supports reading groups with long loans of multiple copies of titles, advice on choices and a dedicated 'reading groups' collection.

However and whenever you read, you can share your thoughts and get recommendations on new books online by posting reviews and commenting on reviewed books at <http://norfolklibrarybookreviewblog.wordpress.com/>

In March we will be promoting new reading choices with our '**Great Reading Takeaway**' with a 'menu' of suggestions for reading around a theme and trying new authors. Drop into your local library in March and pick up a 'menu'!

National Libraries Day on Saturday 4th February is a nationwide day to celebrate libraries and give them a metaphorical Big Hug! We will be running a **family activity from 10am-11am**, with crafts for the children and refreshments for grown-ups.

For Norfolk libraries it is also the grand finale of our annual **Join Up campaign**. Your library is open on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm and we have a fantastic Love this Library display; please come and see it and maybe add your own contribution.

Starting on Tuesday 7th February, we will be running **Surf's Up computer course for the over-50s**. These 8-week courses are for anyone, absolute beginner or enthusiastic silver surfer, who feels they need a little gentle guidance on how to get the best out of the Internet. Our next course will run on eight consecutive Tuesday mornings, starting in February. Please contact the library if you would like a place on this course

There will be **children's half-term activity** on Thursday 16th February at 2pm

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time continues on Fridays at 10.30am and new faces are assured of a welcome.

To find out more about any of our activities and services, look at the website on www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries or contact your library on 01379 642609

Events at Redgrave & Lopham Fen Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Saturday 4th February, 10.30am-12.30pm
Guided Walk Volunteer-led seasonal walk to enjoy the sights & sounds of the Fen. Adult £3, child £1. Booking preferable 01379 688333

Saturday 11th February, 10.30am-12.30pm
Wildlife Watch group A club for 6-12 yr olds £1.50, details 01379 688333


Tuesday 14th February, 10am-12noon
Live 'n' deadly Family event. Child £3.50/Adult £1.50. Booking essential 01379 688333

Saturday 18th February, 10am-4pm
Nature in Glass Beginners. An introduction to the craft of stained glass using the Tiffany technique, with professional glass artist Naomi Brangwyn. £35 plus £5 charge for materials on the day. Booking essential 01473 890089

Wednesday 22nd February, 10am-3pm
Botanical Illustration Looking at a range of illustration techniques using seasonal plant material with an emphasis on botanical accuracy, with Christine Grey-Wilson. £20 Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 10th March, 10.30am-12.30pm
Wildlife Watch group A club for 6-12 yr olds £1.50, details 01379 688333

Saturday 17th March, 10am-4pm
Nature in Glass Improvers. Build on your existing basic skills of cutting and grinding glass, foiling and soldering to produce an imaginative panel. With professional glass artist Naomi Brangwyn. £35 plus £5 charge for materials on the day. Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 24th March, 10am-3pm
Introduction to Beekeeping Learn how a hive works, how bees organize themselves, their breeding cycle, navigational skills and hive products, with Michael Doy.  £25/£21.50. Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 31st March, 10am-3pm
Botanical Illustration Looking at a range of illustration techniques using seasonal plant material with an emphasis on botanical accuracy, with Christine Grey-Wilson. £20. Booking essential 01473 890089



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

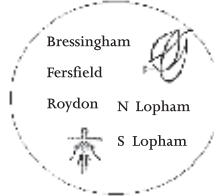
**BURSTON
GISSING
SHELFANGER
TIVETSHALL
WINFARTHING**

The Rector of the Winfarthing Group
The Revd David F Mills
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The Revd Reg Dakin
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The Revd Ben Sasada



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
February 5	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
February 12	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
February 19	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	10.00 FS	9.30 HC	3.00 EP
February 26	3.00 FSS	11.00 MP	8.00 HC	10.00 MP	9.30 HC
March 4	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
March 11	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
March 18	10.30 FS	11.00 HC		9.30 HC	10.00 FS
March 25	3.00 FSS	11.00 MP	8.00 HC	10.00 MP	9.30 HC
April 1	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 SD	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
April 2/3/4			7.30 EP/V		
April 5	7.30pm HC				
April 6			10.00 FS	12.00 M	2.00 M
April 8	9.00 HC	11.00 HC	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	10.00 HC

EP Evening Prayer | EP/V Evening Prayer & Vespers | HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer |
MW Morning Worship | 5P Five Parish Service | PP Prayer & Praise | FS Family Service | FSS Fourth Sunday Service |
FSFS/Chp Family Service in Chapel | A Advent | SD Songs of Devotion | M Meditation | PF Patronal Festival |

THE COCK CROW TEAM

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Date	Bressingham	Fersfield	N Lopham	S Lopham	Roydon	
	St John the Baptist (BCP)	St Andrew (BCP & C/W Order 2)	St Nicholas (BCP & C/W Order 1)	St Andrew (BCP & C/W Order 2)	St Remigius (C/W 1 & 2)	
Sun 5th Feb Septuagesima (Candlemas)	No Service	6.30pm ES H&R	9.30am 11am HC Family Service	No Service	8am HC	10am Family Service
Sun 12th Feb Sexagesima 2nd Before Lent	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 6.30pm FS MP&W	No Service	8am HC	10am HC
Sun 19th Feb Quinquaginta/Sunday next Before Lent	6.30pm ES	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC	8am HC	10am MP
Sun 26th Feb Lent 1	10.30am Utd FS (Chapel)	9.30am HC	11am FHC	6.30pm ES	8am HC	10am HC
Sun 4th March Lent 2	No Service	6.30pm ES H&R	9.30am 11am HC Family Service	No Service	8am HC	10am FS
Sun 11th March Lent 3	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 6.30pm FS ES	No Service	8am HC	10am MP
Sun 18th March Mothering Sunday	6.30pm ES	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC	8am HC	10am MP
Sun 25th March Passion Sunday	10.30am Utd FS (Chapel)	9.30am HC	11am FHC	6.30pm MP&W	8am HC	10am HC
Sun 1st April Palm Sunday	No Service	6.30pm ES H&R	9.30am 11am HC FS	No Service	8am HC	10am FS

MP Morning Prayers | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | FHC Family Communion | ES Evensong | EP Evening Prayer with hymns |
H&R Service of Healing & Reconciliation | MPW Non-denominational All Age Music Praise & Worship

Morning Prayer (During the Winter): Monday & Tuesday 8.30am North Lopham. Wednesday & Friday 8.30am Roydon. Thursday 8.30am South Lopham.

ASH WEDNESDAY: 9.30am Roydon & 7.30pm North Lopham (both with ceremonies).

Wednesday Communions: 9.30am every Wednesday in Roydon Church.

Thursday Communions: 10am in homes around the Group please see local notices or contact Robert 01379 688267 for locations. If you would like to host one of these Communions please let Robert know.

Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm contact Jennie Vere (687679) for location.

Holy Bingo: 2pm The Lophams' Village Hall first Monday of the month.

22nd February – Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry

A Minister, walking down the street, came upon a small group of boys, all between 10 and 12 years old, who had surrounded a dog. Concerned lest the boys were hurting it, he went over and asked, 'What are you doing with that dog?'

One of the boys replied, 'He's just a neighbourhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home and so we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will keep the dog.'

The reverend was taken aback. 'You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!' he exclaimed and launched into a ten minute sermon against lying, beginning, 'Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie,' and ending with, 'Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie.'

There was dead silence for about a minute. The reverend was just beginning to think he'd gotten through to them when the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, 'All right, give him the dog.'

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, whenever you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

Rob the Rector

Benefice notice

2012 Lent Group

There will be a Lent Group running in the Benefice. It will meet on Tuesday evenings with Bressingham Methodist Church members on the following dates: February 28th, March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 7.30pm. The first session will be in Bressingham Methodist Church. Please bring a Bible if you have one. The theme this year will be The Beatitudes and What Do They Mean To Us Today?

Hold a Fish & Chip Supper on Friday 18th May to help spinal cord injured people

Great British Fish & Chip Supper Friday 18th May

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? You can hold a fish and chip supper in your home, at work or at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5 means you will raise at least £35 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas.

Last year over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales raised £6,000. In the three years we have been running the event we have raised £20,000 to support spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips

BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

Christmas has passed but the memory of that wonderful evening, on the 23rd December, when over 50 of us met to sing carols at the Chequers still lingers; it was lovely to be back. The Rev'd Rob led the proceedings with some jokes, aided by Peter, and Jean played the keyboard. Our hosts, Andrea and Jason, laid on delicious homemade food and made us all very welcome. We are most grateful to them all for their kindness and hope for a repeat next Christmas!

We also enjoyed our Christmas services and were very pleased to see so many in church on Christmas morning. The Rev'd Reg conducted the service and our thanks go to him for all he has done for our church during the last year.

A heartfelt thank you goes from us all to those who through the year have delivered Cock Crow and to those unsung heroes who continue to give their time to the church. These include Millie, Myrna, Margaret, Jean, Geoff, David, Billy, Jeremy and Mervyn. We also especially thank those who regularly donate money, whether it be monthly or annually.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Rev'd Rob for leading our church through another year with the kindness, understanding and wisdom that we have all really appreciated.

Diana

Flower arrangers wanted

Mrs Brenda Oates is looking for new volunteers for flower arranging in Bressingham Church. If you would like to volunteer or know more about what is required please contact Brenda on 01379 687323 or Waveney View, High Road, Bressingham.

Dedication of the Peal Board

On Saturday 7th January 2012 about forty people assembled in the ringing chamber of St John the Baptist church, Bressingham.

The bells in Bressingham had been removed in 1995 for the renovation of the tower and bells and a

new steel bell frame (a gift from a local ringing family) to be fitted. The medieval bell frame and ancient tenor bell remain to act as the clock bell. Two very generous gifts from local families, a grant from the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers and local events provided the funds. The bells returned and rang out for the first time in August 1995.

The event this January was to welcome and dedicate a newly made peal board, a gift from Julie and Chris Beesley and made by Aubrey Forster. It commemorates the first peal on the restored bells on 18th March 2000, 5040 changes rung in 2 hours and 35 minutes. Chris led the restoration project and felt that the event should be permanently and publicly recorded.

Before unveiling the new peal board, Chris Beesley spoke about the peal it commemorates. He said that its inscription is to record the peal and to act as a permanent history of the restoration project. It tells of the first bells (the oldest was cast in 1480), detailing the inscriptions on them and those on the two new bells, cast in 1995. The new treble bears the inscription, 'To the memory of John Oates' who was the principal benefactor. The second bell is inscribed, 'David Hunter, Rector, For ever in joy'. David Hunter was rector of Bressingham during the project.

After the Reverend Rob Mellowship had blessed and dedicated the new peal board, he led prayers for Chris Beesley. The bells then rang out in a short five minute reprise of the peal.

Ted Curson

Bressingham & Fersfield Parish Council

The January meeting took place with seven Councillors, NC Councillor Mr Spratt and SN Councillor Mr Weeks.

Mr Spratt reported that there would be no increase in Council tax in the foreseeable future. The Saddlebow Incinerator is still in the planning process; he said that DEFRA would not issue a licence if it was not considered safe.

Mr Weeks explained the problems and costs of recycling certain plastics when asked about excess

packaging. The Parish Plan had shown the need to improve recycling facilities but finding a suitable site was a problem. The bottle and shoe banks close to the Village shop are well used and there are now clothes and shoe banks and a depository for books and music at Blooms Garden Centre.

After meeting with a representative from the Highways Department, Councillors were pleased that the pot-holes were dealt with promptly. The Airfield Road, which is sinking in many places, is of major concern.

Donations to the National Ambulance Rescue Service, the CAB and both Bressingham and Fersfield burial grounds were agreed. A written quote will be obtained for improving the path to Fersfield Church.

Parish Council money is available for worthwhile projects and can be supplemented by a District Council grant. Keep fit equipment for both Bressingham and Fersfield playing fields was suggested; a sub-committee was formed to investigate this idea.

The next meeting will take place on 5th March.

Village Hall Management Committee

Pantomime this year Treasure Island, will be performed on February 16th 17th and 18th. Bar will open 7pm. Tickets from £5; under 12 £3.

Play 'Elizabeth Blather', about a Bressingham ghost, will be performed on March 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th and 17th. Proceeds go to 'Help for Heroes' and 'Combat Stress'.

FREE Sports Roadshow Saturday April 14th on the playing field; 10am-2pm. Try a selection of sports; tennis, archery, bowls, petanque, rounders, short mat bowls, table tennis and netball. Trained coaches and equipment supplied, all ages and abilities are welcome. A supervised, children's area and equipment will be provided.

East Angles Theatre Group performing at the Village Hall on Monday 30th April. Bar open 7pm.

The Tennis/Netball court will be refurbished in March. The majority of the funds were raised from the Summer Event held at Blooms in July 2011, all thanks to your support.

We are celebrating the Queens Jubilee on Saturday 2nd June; if you have ideas for this occasion or wish to help with this one off event, please contact our Chairman Allan Byrne on 01379 688452.

Bressingham Ladies Club

We had a most enjoyable meeting in December. Heather Havers demonstrated how to make a topiary tree table Christmas decoration, then, let us loose to create our own and, surprisingly, they looked really good! The rest of the evening was spent exchanging presents while mulled wine (thanks to Julie) and mince pies were handed round.

The club's Birthday Party in January took the form of a superb buffet with a sumptuous array of dishes provided by our talented members. We ended up playing silly games and had a good laugh – the perfect antidote to the winter blues.

On 20th February, Lawrence Flatman will be spending the evening with us reminiscing about *Plants, Places and People*, and on 19th March Tom Tyler will be giving a talk with the intriguing title 'One for the Pot' about his missionary work in the Solomon Islands.

Our meetings are held at 7.45 pm at Bressingham Village Hall. You are most welcome to come along. For further info please call 01379 687541.



Community website

Liz Handy would like to remind you about your local community website.

The link: <http://www.bressinghamandfersfield.org>

Please check regularly for local news and events – some of you still do not know about it!

Village news

As you will see from Margaret Harris's article, the village has come together to raise money for charity and a wonderful job they are making of it too.

The villagers also came out in force for the family carol service on the 10th December. This was a very informal service, just plenty of hymn singing and readings by the children.

On the 17th December St Andrew's held a wedding blessing service for Sarah and James Judd celebrating 10 years of marriage. Sarah decorated the Christmas tree with red bows and hearts and red, heart-shaped wreaths were hung on the pew ends.

There were flowers and candles everywhere, even in the porch. The service took place at 4pm the church looked lovely in the late afternoon darkness.

Thank you to all readers for your support during 2011. I hope we have the pleasure of your company during 2012. Everyone is more than welcome!

Maureen

Fersfield Friends

Romantic Supper for Valentine's Day; February 11th at 7.30pm. Walnut Tree Barn Bates Lane. A champagne cocktail followed by a superb 3-course meal with a romantic theme, all for £10 per person. There'll be music, quizzes and lots of fun too.

Numbers are limited so book. Tel: Margaret 01379 688162 or Jan 687711.

It was cold, but what a great evening we had at our last event of 2011 – Starlight Sunday on 18th December. Over 40 folk enjoyed mulled wine, and a variety of delicious, hot food and luscious cakes. Christmas music put everyone in the spirit of things and the log fire kept us warm whilst we chatted, tried our luck on the bottle stall and lucky dip and waited for Father Christmas. Jingling bells announced the arrival of our special guest and the children were delighted when he gave them all sweets and wished them a Merry Christmas.

£100 was raised for 'Children in Need' and we would like to thank all those who came along and gave us their support. *Margaret Harris*

St Andrew's Primary School

St Andrew's have enjoyed a fantastic start to the new year. Within the first week of 2012 they joined All Saints Primary Winfarthing, for a trip to Theatre Royal to see the pantomime Sleeping Beauty, staying behind afterwards to ask the cast questions.

In November, St Andrew's celebrated their new partnership with All Saints in a special dedication service; they are the first Voluntary Aided school partnership in Norfolk. This was held at St Andrew's Primary, in the newly refurbished school hall and Canon Hartley from Norwich Diocese gave the address. The children sang songs and staff read prayers, before joining together for a special lunch and friendship activity.

At the end of November St Andrew's pupils remembered St Andrew's day, by raising their new flag. They also dressed in blue, ate specially decorated commemorative shortbread biscuits and carried out activities linked to Scotland.

Friends of St Andrew's School also held a wonderful pamper evening in November. They are very grateful for the kind donations and support of everyone who came. It was a tremendous success.

December was a busy month for St Andrew's. The children worked hard to put on a whole school production titled 'A Dancing Christmas Party' in the school hall. It was a wonderful feast of songs with many of the tunes sticking in people's heads for days afterwards! This was then followed by School Council organising 'Pass on Christmas' where £32 was generously raised for Quidenham Hospice. The term ended with a service of readings and songs in St Andrew's church North Lopham, a wonderful Christmas lunch, cooked by NORSE and served by teachers and teaching assistants and a visit from Father Christmas.

St Andrew's now looks forward to the term ahead. With a special lunch to mark Chinese New

Year, dance festival for the younger pupils, sporthall athletics for the older, enrichment maths club and a partnership valentine disco the children are going to be very busy!

If you would like to know more about St Andrew's then please visit the school website at www.standrews.schoolpartnership.org or contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail to executivehead@schoolpartnership.org and come and look around. We would love to hear from you.

Louise Norgate: Executive Headteacher for St Andrew's and All Saints Partnership.

Lopham Preschool

The children have been very busy this term finding out about both our New Year and the Chinese New Year. We have also been going on nature walks to look at the countryside changing with the seasons and doing lots of painting, playing and crafts.

We welcome children to our very friendly Preschool from their second birthday; children still in nappies are very welcome. Preschool opens on Mondays (8.45am to 11.45am) and Wednesdays and Thursdays (8.45am to 3.15pm.) Wednesdays and Thursdays are split into three sessions; 8.45am to 11.45am; 11.45am to 1pm; and 1pm to 3.15pm. Prices vary according to session; government funding is available for all 3 year old children.

Our home is in The Mess building at St Andrew's School, North Lopham, (the white building close to the road at the school). We have a wide range of toys and equipment for the children to use, including a large outdoor area.

We have a few spaces available at Preschool; if you would like to look around and meet our team of Tonya (preschool manager) and her assistant Laura, please call in when we're open. Tonya can also be contacted regarding preschool on 07962 219523.

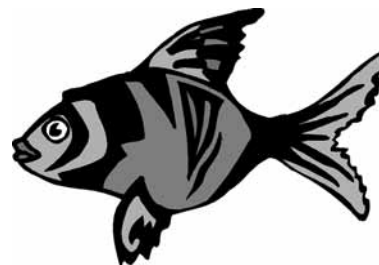
Gillian

Village news

Lophams' Ladies

Our Christmas lunch was an excellent meal provided by George, Angie and the staff at the King's Head.

In January, at the Methodist Chapel, Andy Malcolm spoke about the Mission to Deep Sea Fisherman and their support for men whose work is difficult and dangerous, yet insecure and poorly rewarded. He impressed everyone with his optimism, good humour and singing voice!



In February Roland Bugey will talk about his visit to Antarctica and in March Frances Hart's subject is 'Mrs Mozart', a highly recommended talk. These meetings are at 2pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Village Hall. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us on a regular basis or as an occasional visitor. For more information, telephone 01379 687337.

Lophams' Garden Club

Meets at Blooms Garden Centre, 1st Wednesday each month at 7.30pm.

On December 7th we enjoyed our Christmas Dinner provided by the staff at Blooms. The delicious meal was followed by an interesting and amusing talk by Mr Mike Blanchet, who shared with us some of his experiences from the world of motor racing, which rounded off an enjoyable evening.

On 1st February we welcome Mr Rodney Tibbs who will speak on 'Restoring a Cottage Garden'.

On 7th March we shall have our AGM followed by 'Gardeners Question Time'. Visitors and new members are always very welcome at our meetings.

Lophams' (Holy) Bingo

Sessions continue in the Village Hall, from 2 to 4pm on the first Monday each month. Residents from any local villages are welcome to come along – the chat between games is as important to our members as the bingo itself, so please take this as a personal invitation! For help with transport, ring 01379 687679.

Lophams' Village Hall

David Copperfield A new production by Mad Dogs & Englishmen: Saturday 24th March, at 7.30pm. All those who have seen previous productions by this Quidenham based team will know that a professional, fast moving treat is in store. Tickets are available from Jennie and committee members, £7 for adults, £5 for children & students. Refreshments will be available

The Lottery our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too – had its biggest draw yet at the November Market, then the Bonanza prize was drawn at the Christmas Market. November winners were: N Holdsworth – first Prize (£190), with C Ward and D Blanchard – second prizes (£47.50 each). December winners were: R Miller – first prize (£188), with M McCaw and J Farren-Bradley – second prizes (£47 each). The Bonanza winner, R Reeder, a long-standing supporter of the Market from the Thetford area, received a magnificent £270.50. New members, and those who need to renew are urged to get in touch: Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, 01379 687718, from other Village Hall Committee members (see the website for details), at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmers' Markets are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, on February 25th and March 24th. For details, call Mike on 01379 687 235;



Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays (details from Howard on 1379 688 258)

Dog Training is held most Tuesday evenings, trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information.

Art Classes on Wednesday mornings start at 9.30am, the tutor is Susie Turner.

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

Lopham Links

There is disappointment within the group as the application for a Lottery grant was not successful. However, the parent-led community group is continuing to look at alternative funding avenues, still hoping to raise the money to have a play area at the village hall within the next year. Anyone with any ideas is urged to contact Elaine Aldous on 01379 688342 or at lophamlinks@gmail.com

Lophams' Society

The Society held its Christmas Drop-In on the evening of Friday, 16th December at the Village Hall. Music was provided by Rona, supported by Juliet, and later by Captain Kirk's Mandolin. Father Christmas was in attendance with goodies for the children and there was carol singing. Plentiful food and mulled wine were provided by the Society and a good time was had by all.

The dates for this year's events are 17th March St Patrick's Day Quiz, 2nd June Jubilee Celebrations (with other groups), 22nd September Music Event with food and bar, 17th November Autumn Quiz and 14th December Christmas Drop-In.

The Society requests that other groups give long notice of events so as to avoid any clashes.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Preparations for the celebrations on 2nd June, 2012 are well under way. Please note the date in your diaries for the afternoon and evening. Residents of South and North Lopham are encouraged to include a short, approximately 20 words, personal greeting in the souvenir programme. For example: 'The Blogs family conveys their loyal greetings to the Queen on this anniversary and hope that the people of the Lophams enjoy their celebrations'. This will cost £3 per entry. Please contact Robert McCaw on 01379 687776 or robmad@btinternet.com to enter yours.



NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council 11th January

Mrs Eagle resigned the chair; Robert Carley was elected in her place.

The last minutes were corrected to show that NCC will adopt the footpaths to the west of the street this year.

Grit bins have been placed by the school and in Kings Head Lane.

Planning; an application has been received for a 5th house on the Meadow Farm development.

Highways and footpaths; damage to various road signs has been reported to highways. A deep pothole opposite Linen Lane will be reported. The blocked drain in Church Road is to be cleared. Church Road/The Street/The Green and Harling Road are scheduled for resurfacing this year. A dangerously rotten tree near the school will be reported to the relevant landowner.

Community Matters; Village car scheme; details of the new Kenninghall voluntary scheme were submitted for consideration.

Councillor Tate proposed that a bench be placed by the war memorial, at her expense, to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, if the PC agrees to maintain it. Agreed; to liaise with Mr Bush who currently looks after that area.

Councillor McManus reported that a local family who lost their tied house when the father lost his job were 'not qualified' to be re-housed locally. The Council sympathised but have no say in Housing Policy.

Next meeting; 14th March; reports on Jubilee Bench, Car Scheme.

Samaritan's Purse

Very many thanks to all those who supported this worthy cause; 50 boxes went off in good time, to Belarus, the area worst affected by the Chernobyl disaster 25 years ago, and the area from which children come to our part of Norfolk for a month each summer. It is so good to help some of the other children who still suffer from the effects of the nuclear contamination.

Kings Head: Carols & Auction

This event was as well supported as ever, with new faces joining the throng. We are very grateful to George and Angie for hosting this event once again. The huge array of lots were auctioned by Richard, with help from John and Gareth, (plus Jack, aged 5!), ably assisted by 'runners' Claire and Georgia who kept track of all the buyers. Many many thanks to all who donated goods for sale, or who came along to buy them. Takings on the day were boosted by the proceeds from a Cake Raffle, and a Men's decorated cake bake competition, plus the sale of a bicycle donated by Ann Coffey. To date the grand total is £1,867, which will be shared between Action for Children and AMIE, the music charity based at Church Farm House, plus cheques for local groups.

Carolling for Biblelands An intrepid band of hardy singers braved soaking fine rain to sing carols and raise funds for orphaned and handicapped children in the lands round Palestine. We are very grateful to all of them, and to the generous folk who helped raise almost £100 for the fund.

St Nicholas' Church

Church building repairs to the SE buttress are almost complete, with new stone replacing the sections that had split. Many thanks go to Paul Wright for a very professional job, and to Mr Barnes, consultant with Hogs of Coney Weston for his expert advice.

The Festival of Nativity Crib scenes exceeded all hopes and expectations! People from all over Norfolk, and as far away as Ipswich and Cambridge came to look at 63 widely different Nativity scenes, or the extra displays that filled the church. It was wonderful to hear the comments, as so many folk said that the festival really showed what Christmas is all about, and said how very welcomed they felt. Huge thankyou's to everyone who helped in any way, by loaning precious artefacts, making beautiful cards or crafts to sell, or by stewarding each day. Now that all the cribs have been safely returned, we look forward to the next time – perhaps in 2013

The Toy Service, marking St Nicholas' special day, was a lovely occasion once again. The huge pile of gifts, boosted by a similar number from Roydon Church were all taken to Prospect House in Thetford, where the team were overjoyed to know that all the families they support will now be sure of gifts at Christmas, and say 'Thank you all!'

Advent Carols: a big congregations gathered for a feast of beautiful music and readings to help set the Christmas scene. It was lovely to have over a dozen people with a specific role in the service.

Family Carols: The Nativity Story was retold by Danny, Tom, William, Mary, Charlie and Kirsty, who read the version in the Storyteller's bible to great effect., interspersed with carols well known and more modern for all to enjoy.

Many thanks to all those who have decorated the church so beautifully – it looked wonderful!

The Crib Service tradition of including young musicians was revived on Christmas Eve when Danny played his piano accordion to accompany some of the carols. It was a delight to watch the children put the figures into the stable scene so carefully.

After 5 years, having the Christmas Midnight Communion was extra special. The church was full for a memorable service led by the Rev Reg Dakin.

St Stephen was celebrated on Boxing Day with a sung Matins service led by the rector, the Revd Rob Mellowship.

2012 was welcomed with a Group Communion service, also led by the Rector.

Epiphany Sunday: was the occasion for the first visit by The Bishop of Thetford, for a Benefice Communion service, followed by a 'bring and share' lunch at St Andrew's School, with a chance to meet and speak with Bishop Alan. People from all five parishes came along, plus delicious eats! At 6.30pm the Epiphany Carol Service was a further helping of special music and readings for everyone.

The Christingle service: 29th January at 4pm will round off the celebration season, and be our chance to support the work of the Children's Society.

Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February - there will be a special Communion Service at 7.30pm, to include the Ashing ceremony.

Mothering Sunday is on 18th March - families, especially Mothers will be celebrated at the 11am All Age Service to which everyone is welcome.

Starters & Sweets in the Village Hall on Friday 3rd February at 7.30pm is the first social event of the year. Tickets have been kept at just £5, from Jennie or PCC members, so we hope many people will come along to enjoy sampling the range of delicious foods on offer. Soft drinks will be provided - bring your own alcohol if desired. More info on 01379 687679.

Women's World Day of Prayer

2nd March at 2pm in Roydon Parish Room

Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March.

In 1897 women of six denominations in Canada & the United States formed a joint committee for a united day of prayer for home missions. In 1912 The Women's Boards of Foreign Missions called for a united day of prayer for foreign missions.

By 1926 they distributed a worship service to many countries and partners in mission. The response worldwide was enthusiastic, the *Women's World Day of Prayer* came into being, and by 1930 the service reached the British Isles.

The service is not restricted to women - men are equally welcome!. The service this year has been put together by the women of Malaysia, with the theme 'Let Justice Prevail'.

It is a lovely occasion, with beautiful hymns and prayers, and a feeling of global unity, as country after country joins in 'The day thou gavest'. If you have never been before, make 2012 the first time!

Benefice Choir/Singing Group

We would love to welcome more people who enjoy singing to the benefice choir/singing group. We meet on Thursdays between 5.30 and 6.30pm in the parish room at Roydon church. We sing hymns, rounds and some 'non church' songs, and enjoy try-

ing something new. We hope to join in singing the People's Passion – a new project for people of every level of ability – during the coming months. For more details, ring 01379 687679 or come along one Thursday to meet the group.

Jennie Vere



Little Ouse Headwaters Project

Restoration work on wetlands to the east of Redgrave has won a top national award. Members of the LOHP recently received their prize at a London ceremony, their second major award in ten years.

The project was honoured for its work at Parker's Piece and Bleyswycks Bank in Thelnetham, which was partly funded by the Biffaward scheme. The LOHP, run entirely by volunteers, beat off strong competition from across the country.

Major works on the sites have made these areas now more attractive to the valley's unique wildlife – and public access has also been created on formerly private land. These works particularly impressed judges of the Biffaward Award for Rebuilding Biodiversity, a prize given annually by Biffa, the waste disposal company

Project chairman Nigel Clark said, 'This is brilliant news. Two major national awards in our first ten years shows that we are doing something that is really special.

It makes all the hard work of our volunteers worthwhile.'

SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church News

The St Andrew's Day Coffee Morning, held in Church on November 30th, with tombola, cake stall, books etc and refreshments was a very friendly and successful morning. The proceeds came to £300, many thanks to all who supported it.

On December 13th the Church welcomed St Andrew's School for its Carol Service, the pupils were brilliant and a credit to the school. After the service mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies were served by the parents. A retiring collection was taken in aid of Quidenham Hospice.

The Christingle service on Sunday 18th December was taken by Richard Hewitt, the collection went to The Children's Society.

On Christmas morning Canon George took the 9.30am family Holy Communion, which was attended by a good congregation.

At the end of another year, the Church Wardens and PCC would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have helped in any way (flower arrangers, cleaners, grass cutters, strimmers and

hedge cutters) a band far too numerous to name but much appreciated.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Carols at the White Horse

The Pub hosted a very successful evening of carols on Wednesday, 21st December including the provision of an excellent buffet. The proceedings were ably conducted by the Reverend Rob Mellowship and the music was provided by Rona on the accordion, Keith on the guitar and Juliet on percussion. A good time was had by all and the raffle raised £90.

On behalf of the residents, we thank Tony and Lesley for their hospitality and wish them every success with the pub. You have certainly made an excellent start! We gather that the restaurant will be operational at the end of January or early February.

South Lopham Parish Council

The Council is pleased to report that Stephen Reynolds (who already runs the website) has agreed to assume the Clerk's duties on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found. Accordingly, applications for the post continue to be invited. Please contact the Chairman, Robert McCaw, on 01379 687776 or robmad@btinternet.com.

From the Registers

Winfarthing Group

FUNERALS

George Lansdel 10th January Winfarthing
Pat Brown 18th January Tivetshall
Sybil Benton 25th January Burston

Bressingham Group

HOLY MATRIMONY

James & Sarah Murray 17th December
(Blessing) Fersfield

FUNERALS

Archie Berry 13th December North
Lopham
Dilys Wyn-Jones 5th January Roydon