

PIGFEON POST



STARSTON

www.starstonvillage.co.uk

19

80

April 2016 Issue 291



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 'For Starston People' <i>The Production Team</i> | | Copyright © 2016 PIGEON POST |
| Co-ordinating Editor: | Michael Bartlett: Tel: 852318 | The Red Cottage, The Street Email: editor@pigeonpost.org.uk |
| Editorial Team: | Christina Davies: Sue Moore: Stella Rice: | Email: davieschristina@btinternet.com Email: suemoo@tesco.net Email: ricestar@aol.com |
| Treasurer: | Mandy Carter: Tel: 854600 | Brick Kiln Farm, Cross Roads Email: mcarter@carrotech.com |
| Advertising Manager: | Liz Stacey: Tel: 853427 | The Old Coach House, Starston Email: elizabethstacey99@hotmail.com |
| Distribution Organiser: | Sue Moore: Tel: 852387 | Cranes Watering Farm, Rushall Road Email: suemoo@tesco.net |
| Distributors include: | Brenda & David Beech, Mandy Carter, Jo Dye, Patricia Lombe-Taylor, Alison Miners, Rosemary Steer, Anita Weatherley, Liz Woodley and others. | |
| ISSUE EDITOR | STELLA RICE | |

Whilst the editorial team do not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by contributors, they believe that the magazine is available for local people to air their views. Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Editor reserves the right to alter or amend any copy received. Items for inclusion in the next issue **MUST** reach the Co-ordinating Editor by the 12th of the preceding month, (usually earlier in December). Space in the magazine will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Photos and pictures are welcome and will be used wherever possible.

Please send copy by e-mail to: editor@pigeonpost.org.uk

Advertising

For advertising rates please contact

Liz Stacey: Tel: 01379 853427 **Email:** elizabethstacey99@hotmail.com
or **Michael Bartlett:** Tel: 01379 852318 **Email:** editor@pigeonpost.org.uk

Distribution

Pigeon Post is delivered free to every home in Starston.

It can also be sent by email in PDF format.

To request a PDF version please contact the Co-ordinating Editor

If you know of any new residents in the village please tell **Norman Steer (854245)**
or **Michael Bartlett (852318)** so that we can welcome them in Pigeon Post.

Village Diary

Saturday 9th April

Time 2.00 pm

Starston Youth Club - Farm Visit - Contact Ann Leitch

Saturday 23rd April

7.30 pm

St. George's Day Dinner - Jubilee Hall See page 10

Monday 16th May

7.30 pm

Parish Council AGM and Village Meeting - Jubilee Hall

Saturday 11th June

Starts 3.00 pm

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration - Glebe Meadow

Monday 4th July

7.30 pm

Parish Council Meeting - Jubilee Hall

Want to book the Jubilee Hall?

At Any Time

Ring Joy or Bryan Hanner 853200 or 853509



- Let us know of anything happening in the village for this Diary page

- Smart phone bar codes above: left Village Web, right Facebook Page

- Personal adverts and events are free so long as they are not for personal profit

**Copy Date for May edition:
Tuesday 12th April**

**Pigeon Post and Information about Starston can also be found on-line
www.starstonvillage.co.uk**

Or like us on Facebook <http://facebook.com/starstonvillagenorfolk>



CHRIS CLARKE OIL BOILER SERVICES

- Servicing • Commissioning
- Oil Tanks • Breakdown Repairs

01508 536573
07912 146619



M J PROPERTY MAINTENANCE and LANDSCAPING

Patios, driveways, fencing, decorating interior and exterior, all types of tiling, bathrooms, roofing and much more.

Over 10 years experience
Competitive prices and references available.

For friendly advice and free quotations call home on **01379 853486** or mobile **07917 468917** (Justin) or **07522 978710** (Matthew)

Genty's

Barbers

*for
Men*

7a Bullock Fair Close
Harleston
IP20 9AT

Mon 9am-1pm

2pm-5pm

6pm-8pm

Tues 9am-1pm

2pm-5pm

Wed 9am-1pm

2pm-5pm

Thurs closed

Fri 9am-1pm

2pm-6.30pm

Sat 8am-12.30pm

01379 854047

Support Your Local Pigeon



*Write me an article and
impress your friends*

SINDALLS

ANTIQUE & MODERN
FURNITURE

14 London Road, Harleston

01379 853720 (24 hr phone/fax)

9 am to 5 pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Saturdays

I pay cash for antiques and good
quality modern furniture and
appliances.

ACORN TREES

Tree Surgery



Crown reductions, precise dismantling, dead wooding, hedge management, felling, gardening work, planting and fencing.

Established over 15 years.

For a professional insured service
contact Adam on:

01379 588122 or 07776 235006

Orchard Cottage, Mill Lane, Weybread.



Around and About the Village

Bullock Fair Charity Shop

Fantastic results from our charity shop - £1,500,000 raised in total since 1999. An incredible total and all gone to local good causes. Well done Sally and all the team!

The Red Feather Club - Horham

April events include Saturday April 2nd a fun general quiz night from 7.30 pm. Tickets are £7.50 per person on the door, including hot food (vegetarian option available). For details contact 01379 854587. Bar open.

On Saturday April 23rd there will be a special Lend-Lease DJ Jamboree to help raise funds for the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation's new exhibit in Arizona. 7.30 pm 'til late. Tickets are £10.



Pennoyer Music Quiz Night

Friday 8th April. How good is your music? Test your musical general knowledge with Quiz Master, Gray King. Get together a team of up to 6 people, and pit your wits against the rest. Fish/Chicken/Veggie and Chips served in the interval, and bar open throughout. £8.50, or £4.00 without food. Bar opens at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. Booking essential 01379 676660.

Ceilidh at Brockdish Village Hall

Saturday April 16th 7.30 pm. Bring your own drinks. Admission £10 on the door, under 12's free - includes refreshments. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to Billingford Windmill restoration. Space limited so you need to pre-book. Contact 01379 853967

70s/80s Disco at Pennoyer

Saturday 16th April. Bar open from 7.30 pm. By popular request due to the great success of this previous event we're doing it all again! So, boogie on down to Pennoyer for the best selection of 70s and 80s disco music, retro snacks, cocktails, prizes and more. Tickets: £5 on the door or £4.50 in advance. Booking advisable.

Paws in the Park

Calling all dog owners, ramblers, and countryside lovers, Sunday 15th May. A challenge to walk a 2 mile, 5 mile or (new) 7 mile route on the private picturesque Ditchingham Estate by kind permission of The Earl Ferrers to raise money for All Hallows Healthcare Trust. £5 per Adult, Children and Dogs Free (dog optional). Meet at Beaters Retreat, Hall Farm, off Belsey Bridge Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk NR35 2JX at 10.30 am.

Harleston Lions Spring Charity Walk

A reminder that this year's Spring Charity Walk will take place on Sunday 5th June at Gawdy Hall Estates. Details to follow.



Rosedale FUNERAL HOME

The Rosedale
Funeral Plan
enables you to
select and pay
for the
arrangements
of your choice
at today's
prices.



A family
business
- we believe
it makes a
difference

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP



ADVICE ON
FUNERAL GRANTS



Rosedale House
63 Victoria Rd, Diss
**01379
640810**

12a Upper Olland St
Bungay
**01986
892790**



FARM SHOP AND EATERY

Open Tuesday to Saturday 8.30 to 4.30
(hot food to 2.30)
Sunday Brunch 10 to 12.30



HEARTY
BREAKFASTS

DELICIOUS LUNCHES

HOMEMADE CAKES

FRESHLY GROUND
COFFEE & LOOSE
LEAF TEA

FARM SHOP WITH
LOCALLY SOURCED
PRODUCE

AFTERNOON TEAS

FARMERS KITCHEN

The Dove
Station Road, Alburgh,
Harleston, IP20 0EP

www.farmers-kitchen.co.uk

Tel: 02986 78825
hello@farmers-kitchen.co.uk



SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF WOODBURNERS

Norfolk's agent for Aga, Hunter & Parkray Stoves

AGA
CAST IRON STOVES

Hunter
STOVES

PARKRAY
STOVES

01508 498393

www.norfolkwoodburners.co.uk



Advertise with

Pigeon Post

Reaching parts other
birds and magazines can
only dream of..!



Polytrade

Direct Ltd

01379 854445

Suppliers of

CALOR Gas



Notes from the Editor

At last! As I write this the sun is shining and our two cats are ‘sunbathing’ in the garden. The daffodils and crocuses add that extra splash of colour and, joy of joys, the clocks spring forward at the end of March – happy days and lighter nights.

I love all the seasons and their diversity but there is something so uplifting about spring, the regeneration, rebirth and revitalisation that the warmer weather brings. Each year it is like a miracle starting all over again.

There has been a revival as well at the Jubilee Hall with the outside work and now the redecoration completed. Our heartfelt thanks to all who have given their time and worked tirelessly to achieve this – and not least to Ann Leitch for her magnificent fundraising.

There are many exciting events to look forward to as we move further into spring; the St. George’s dinner, events at the Pennoyer Centre and at Brockdish and of course the Queen’s birthday celebrations. Enjoy!

Stella



Plodding in May

With spring weather arriving, why not dive into the back of the cupboard and pull out those walking boots, or in my case, give your boots a good clean to remove mud and debris from previous enjoyable escapades. Then, consider joining us for a local walk, a Wymondham figure of eight, on Sunday 8th May. The walk is 5.5 miles long and includes town pavements, meadows, a railway embankment and steps. The landscape is Tiffey Valley water-meadows, a lovely old town and a disused railway line.

We leave Starston Jubilee Hall at 9.45 am prompt or at 10.00 am from the village green in New Buckenham. The walk starts from the Market Cross (now the tourist office) in the centre of Wymondham at 10.30 am. There is a pay and display public car park on Market Street. If you would like to join the walk, and particularly if you want a pub lunch at the 14th century timbered Green Dragon pub, the oldest in Wymondham, please contact Ann Leitch (Email: a_leitch@live.co.uk) by **Tuesday 19th April**.



Starston Youth Club

“Brilliant” declared Ella Wilson, “good” commented George Thompson, when asked how they found our first club meeting in the Jubilee Hall. The highlights identified by the 12 children who attended were “the bouncy castle” (many thanks to Dr Rachel Wells for the loan of this), making Mothering Day cards and playing with games and toys that are different to those at home. The refreshments were also highly rated!

Our next club meeting is on Saturday 9th April when the club will again be open from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall. A donation of £2 per child is appreciated towards club running costs.

In addition, on 9th April there will be a visit to Crane’s Watering Farm to see the calves being fed. If you and your children would like to join in this visit, please be at the Jubilee Hall at 2.00 pm as the group will be on a first come first served basis. Please note that we may need to restrict numbers for safety reasons. Depending on the weather, we will either walk up to the farm or travel in parents’ cars. However, the club will run as usual at the hall for the duration of the farm visit for primary school age children not participating in the farm visit.

We have started the club with nothing other than some donated children’s paints and brushes, so if you have any “pre-loved” toys or equipment suitable for pre-school and primary school age children that you would be willing to donate, such as table football, a badminton set, computer games or you would be happy to make a tray bake for the club, please contact any of us on the organising group – Ann Leitch, Jen Roope, Jane Thompson or Nicola Wilson.

As the club is new, we are keen to have feedback and ensure that we shape it going forward in line with the wishes of Starston children and their parents. Hence, the format is likely to change in the coming months to ensure that we meet the different needs of both pre-school and primary school age children. If you have pre-school age children and would like to join the organising group, please let us know.

If you are not already on the email or text distribution list for a reminder about the date of the next club meeting, and would like to be, please email Ann Leitch at a_leitch@live.co.uk

Many thanks for all your support.

Childhood is that wonderful time of life when all you need to do to lose weight is take a bath.

Anon



Vacancy for Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Starston Parish Council

PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Applications are invited for the post of part-time Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Starston Parish Council.

Applicants should have sound IT skills and have access to a computer and printer. They will also need basic experience in financial accounting and budgeting, be able to prepare an agenda for meetings and then take accurate minutes of those meetings. They will also be required to update and maintain the Parish Council area of the village web site for which training will be given.

Applicants will need to be self-motivated and be able to work on their own. They will also need attention to detail, resilience, diplomacy, tact and good communication skills, (written and verbal). Some evening work is involved.

Previous experience as a parish clerk is not essential as training is available for specialist aspects of the job such as planning legislation and the legislative framework in which parish councils operate. However the role carries legal responsibilities within local government and following the Localism Act 2011 more responsibilities are being passed to Parishes. Hence, the applicant needs to have an interest in local democracy i.e. the voice of local people being heard and influencing what goes on in the village.

The salary will be within the NALC/SLCC Scale LC1. The starting salary will be £10.26 an hour and 25% of phone and broadband expenses will be paid.

Formal applications, including a current CV and covering letter explaining why the person is interested in the role and what they think they can bring to the post, should be sent to Councillor Ann Leitch, Chairman of Starston Parish Council, Hillside, The Street, Starston, Norfolk IP20 9NN Tel: 01379 423387.

Further information can be obtained from Ann Leitch or the current Parish Clerk, Sonja Bumett: starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 15th April





Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

On Saturday 11th June there will be another "not to be missed" village event, this time to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Activities will be held on the Glebe Meadow from 3.00 pm for all villagers to enjoy. The outline of the programme is as follows:

- ◆ 90 firings of the church bells, one for each year of the Queen's life
- ◆ Children's outdoor activities eg table tennis
- ◆ All age church service on the Glebe Meadow to celebrate the Queen's life
- ◆ Sit down afternoon tea party
- ◆ All age team games – north vs south of the Beck
- ◆ Bring your own BBQ and drinks
- ◆ Live music and dancing

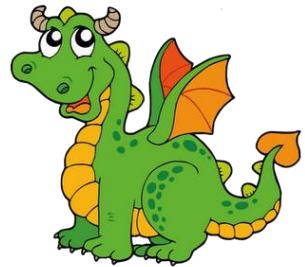
As with the 2012 Queen's Jubilee celebration, there will be a cake competition, but this time on the theme of the Queen's birthday. We would love as many people as possible to participate. There will be 3 competition categories – under 12's, 12-18 years and over 18's. More details on this in May's Pigeon Post.

Every household is asked to bring a plate of savouries (eg home-made quiche, sausage rolls, cheese straws etc) to contribute to the afternoon tea party. If you would be willing to help with the tea party, either providing a loaf of bread of sandwiches or helping on the day with refreshments, please contact Stella Rice on ricestar@aol.com.

John Formston, Bryan Hanner, Ann Leitch

St George's Day Dinner

Saturday 23rd April is St Georges Day and we are going to celebrate the feast of St George with a traditional English dinner at 7.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall. Three courses for £10 a head, including decoration and background music. Bring your own drinks. Come (in costume if you wish) and enjoy an evening of good English fare and jollity. No dragons please!



For reservations please contact either Bryan Hanner 853200 or Debbie Griffin 854233.



Red Feather Club - Horham

Visiting the Red Feather Club museum in a former NCOs' club has been described as like “stepping back in time”. The museum commemorates the “friendly invasion” of WW2 that saw East Anglia play host to tens of thousands of American servicemen. In 1944, for example, there were more than 71,000 in Suffolk and for much of the later part of the war one in seven people in the county were from the US.



The arrival of the 95th Bomb Group's B-17 Flying Fortresses at Horham airfield in June 1943 had a huge impact on the surrounding villages – the influx of 3,000 US servicemen swamped this quiet corner of Suffolk. Part of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, the 95th flew 321 missions from Horham, including the first daylight bombing raid on Berlin on 4th March, 1944. They were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation on three occasions, the most of any Bomb Group.



Glenn Miller famously played in one of the hangars at Horham airfield on his final tour before his disappearance. The club now has its own in-house big-band – Skyliner – which regularly plays at dances at the club. The 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association, which operates and manages the Red Feather Club, holds other events throughout the year such as quizzes and film shows.

The period-perfect Red Feather Club is in itself a living memorial to the men of the 95th but in recent years three memorials have been unveiled on the site. Famously, one room in the complex even houses original murals painted by one of the men of the 95th. The Red Feather Club is also now home to the 1285th Military Police Company re-enactors group, Liberation 44, with their own guardroom.

Public open days are the last Sunday of the month from April to October, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. The association welcomes group visits from schools and other organisations. For details of prices, times, ticket availability and other Red Feather Club events visit our website at www.95thbg-horham.com or contact our membership secretary Helen Krawczynszyn on 01728 628138. The Red Feather Club is four miles south-east of Eye off the B1117 (IP21 5DG).



Harleston Players

Moonlight and Magnolias by Ron Hutchinson

Hollywood, 1939: film producer David O. Selznick has just five days to produce a script for the most eagerly anticipated movie in history - *Gone with the Wind*. Engaging the reluctant services of ace script doctor Ben Hecht - possibly the only person in America who has not read the novel - and the movie's new director Victor Fleming, and with nothing but a stockpile of peanuts and bananas to sustain them, Selznick locks himself in his office with his two collaborators, and a marathon creative session begins.

This is a frenetic, fast-paced comedy based on true events that is guaranteed to provide a hugely entertaining night out. Performances will take place on 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th and 30th April at Archbishop Sancroft High School. All performances are at 7.30 pm, and we are using our popular 'café-style' seating plan, so why not get a party together? Tickets priced £8.50 and £6.50 (concessions) are available from Harleston Pet Stores from 29th March. Telephone bookings from Val on 01379 852845. Tickets also available online from www.harlestonplayers.co.uk.

Youth Theatre - Johnny and the Bomb by Terry Pratchett

Johnny Maxwell and his friends have to do something when they find Mrs Tachyon, the local bag lady, semi-conscious in an alley - as long as it's not the kiss of life! But there's more to Mrs Tachyon than a squeaky shopping trolley and a bunch of dubious black bags. Somehow she holds the key to different times, including the Blackbury Blitz, when Johnny's street was flattened by enemy bombs. Can Johnny and his friends change history and avert the catastrophe?

Terry Pratchett's time-travelling musical adventure will be performed at Archbishop Sancroft High School on Friday 15th April (7.30 pm) and Saturday 16th April (2.30 pm and 7.30 pm). Tickets go on sale on 29th March, priced £4, available from Sue Read Shoes, or online from www.harlestonplayers.co.uk.

Does Your Dog Have a Microchip?

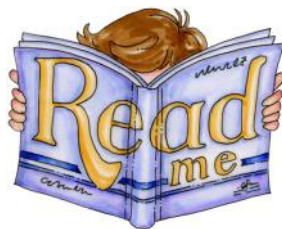
A new law, which makes it mandatory for owners to microchip their dogs, comes into force in England on 6th April. Supporters of this law say that it will promote animal welfare and help owners be reunited with lost pets faster.

The Government believes the legislation could save councils and charities up to £33m a year. Owners who have failed to microchip their pets after the 6th April will be guilty of a criminal offence and could face a fine of £500.



Pigeon Post Short Story Competition

This month we have two more of the stories entered for the Pigeon Post Short Story Competition. We plan to run this competition again in the autumn so keep your eye on Pigeon Post and have your ideas ready. The Pigeon Post team would like to thank everyone who took part and we hope you've enjoyed reading these stories from Starston.



Michael

The Man With The Elephant Tattoo by Tim Kirkwood - Pages 14/15

When Autumn Leaves Fall by Jenny Crisp. - Page 16



EDP Community Chest Vouchers

A big thank you to everyone who is collecting EDP community chest vouchers for Starston each month – please continue!

Our grant application in January for an outdoor table tennis table for the newly formed Starston Youth Club was successful. The table was delivered on 7th March and is now available for use in the Jubilee Hall. In February, we again achieved the necessary 500 tokens to submit a grant application, which has been submitted on behalf of the 2016 Teddy Bears' Picnic, to be held Sunday 21st August on the Glebe Meadow. We will let you know the outcome of the application in the next edition of Pigeon Post.

The church is also seeking to raise money to install a kitchenette and toilet, which will make the venue much more usable as a community resource. Again, if we are able to achieve the 500 voucher target, we hope to submit a grant application for this too.

Collection boxes for the vouchers are located in the BT telephone box on The Street and in the church porch. Vouchers **MUST** be deposited in the boxes by the end of each month, as the turnaround time for any grant application is very tight – it has to be submitted with 500 vouchers by the Friday following the month end.

Thank you!



The Man With The Elephant Tattoo

by Tim Kirkwood

(with apologies to Stieg Larsson)

Stop! We heard the shout, together with the sound of running feet coming towards us. We turned to see two men chasing us down the path in the direction from which we had just travelled. They each were holding something in their hands. As they got closer we could see that in fact they were holding pistols. It seemed that we were about to be attacked.

We were a mixed group of tourists - mostly young or, if not, trying to relive their youth - who were on a five day, guided trek backpacking through the semi-mountainous area to the north of Chiang Mai. The route took us close to the borders between what was then Burma, Thailand and Laos, crossing the famous or perhaps infamous 'Golden Triangle' of drug trafficking fame.

Our guide was a tough looking guy who claimed to have fought alongside the Americans in Cambodia and Vietnam some ten years or so before. The route that we followed took us through a number of hillside and mountain villages inhabited by the Karen peoples where we slept in wooden huts each night. The main local activity apart from farming was logging (now banned) - involving the use of teams of elephants to provide the heavy lifting.

The walk had gone well. Apart from having had the opportunity to observe at close quarters a different way of life, we had enjoyed the amazing scenery and wild life, and swum in clear if chilly streams that flowed down through the jungle, whilst the more adventurous or perhaps misguided of us had taken advantage of the opium pipe which our guide had passed around each night. We were now on the last day, which was due to finish with a boat ride down the Mekong River back towards our base.

Maybe it was a drug induced euphoria and the attitude of our guide that suggested to me initially that the arrival of the two men was just a planned part of the walk, with a pretend robbery being staged that was meant to add an additional harmless touch of colour and excitement to our journey through what was known to be a potentially dangerous area. Certainly our guide appeared totally relaxed and nonchalant about the whole event, standing a little way off from the rest of us and just watching what was going on.

It soon became clear that in fact we were being robbed at gun point. One of the men stopped at the rear of the column whilst the other made his way to the front, where I



The Man With The Elephant Tattoo... cont'd

happened to be standing. He stood guard, waving his (very rusty) gun vaguely in my direction, but I could not help noticing the smile on his face and the depiction of an elephant which he had had tattooed on each hand.

His companion worked his way along the line of walkers, relieving them of their money before eventually reaching me. I took out my wallet and offered it to him. He ignored the credit cards but seized the notes that I was carrying before handing the wallet back. Nothing else was taken. They wanted cash only. Having completed their task, the two men disappeared back up the jungle trail.

My emotions veered from initial intense fear, especially since the guns appeared capable of going off on their own accord, to anger about being robbed, and then a sense of relief that it could all have ended much worse-and the realisation that the amount that I had lost was not really that great - only just about enough to buy a modest dinner in a Chiang Mai restaurant. Later on, as we discussed what had happened, my feelings turned to irritation when it transpired that my more worldly (or jungle) wise companions had lost even less than me, with most of their money having been hidden down their socks!

A few years later I found myself in the Soho district of London late at night and anxious for something to eat I wandered into a Thai restaurant. On finishing my meal I asked for the bill. When it arrived I glanced up at the waiter who had a smile on his face which brought back images of a certain mountain path. The hands which held the bill were marked by elephant tattoos.

I went to pay by credit card but the waiter stopped me, politely explaining that it was cash only (more memories). By then, however, whenever I was walking anywhere I considered dangerous I made sure that my money was well hidden. I reached down to one off my socks and withdrew the required amount. I paid, thanked the waiter, and left.

My route to the nearest underground station took me down a dark and lonely alley. I was half way along when I heard the cry of stop and turned to see a man running towards me holding something in one of his hands. It was the waiter from the restaurant and he was returning my wallet, which in my confusion I had left on the table.

I returned to the restaurant some months later but there was no sign of the tattooed waiter. I never saw him again. I would like to think that he had returned to his home in those beautiful mountains to the north of Chiang Mai. And that now he always remembered to check out the socks.



When Autumn Leaves Fall ***by Jenny Crisp***

Most people know Lisa-Marie, she's often seen driving along the lanes in Norfolk. Before passing her driving test — it was a bike — riding it or pushing it along, if windy, always a transistor radio on the handlebars.

Lisa-Marie has a heart of gold always ready to help, especially the elderly.

Getting her blue mini, with CD player, made all those hours driving with 'L' plates worth it. Alan her instructor had confidence she would pass. Driving along in October with the leaves falling, which were fantastic colours red, orange-yellows but not Lisa-Marie's favourite time of year. She always remembers in October how a normal day at work - turned into a nightmare! She had just left off her work at lunch-time. Closed the main gate when a silver/grey car pulled up beside her.

She thought the grey haired woman was lost, she soon realised, she was a traveller. So before vulnerable Lisa-Marie could be on her way, this woman had reeled off her life-story all of which was true, including personal things only a few people would know.

When the woman did eventually go off in her big saloon car Lisa-Marie was shaking, hoping it was a bad dream. She stopped her mini for a moment and thought "What have I just done! I've given my wages plus a lot more in return for a small cloth."

Next day she reported what had happened, the Police said she was a vulnerable person, they said it was a scam, the woman knew exactly how to go about getting Lisa-Marie to hand over all the money she had on her. Two years passed and Lisa-Marie was caught up in another scam and again was vulnerable, said the 'judge' but as they say, that's another story.

I meet Lisa-Marie about every two months. We have a coffee and chat. We have been friends since School-days.

Maybe, Good Luck will come her way, I am blessed to call her my best friend.

**A writer without interest or sympathy for the foibles
of his fellow man is not conceivable as a writer.**

Joseph Conrad



Parish Council News

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on 29th February. As you may already know, the BT cabinet on Church Hill is now fully functioning and providing access to superfast broadband for some Parish residents. Following a meeting on 26th January, the Jubilee Hall Management Committee and Trustees have agreed to progress a community superfast broadband WiFi hotspot being established at the Jubilee Hall (and car park), if funding can be secured by the Parish Council. This is at present being investigated. Discussions are continuing at many levels of Government to increase availability to those unable to connect directly to such cabinets.

As was probably anticipated, for the first time in 7 years, Norfolk is to raise its portion of the Council Tax by 3.3%, which equates to £4.75 for Band D residences. The Government incentive to freeze Council Tax charges came to an end in November 2015.

As you will see from page 9, a vacancy has arisen for Parish Clerk. I took on a large teaching post last September, and in wanting to continue working for the Parish, tried to maintain both that post and my role as Clerk. Unfortunately this is proving untenable and, reluctantly, a choice has had to be made. We currently have a wonderful and very enthusiastic Parish Council and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them over this past year.

In the light of Starston's planned Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations, a grant application to SNC has been successful, and the Parish has been given £400 to spend on the event.

Sonja Burnett
Clerk to the Council

Health Promotion Event

Harleston Medical Practice and the Patient Participation Group are hosting an open evening on Wednesday 13th April at Bullock Fair Close Surgery from 6.30 - 8.00 pm. The presentation will focus on common childhood illnesses, from warts and measles to chickenpox and tonsillitis, how to identify these and how to care for your child in these situations. Please contact the surgery on 01379 853217 to book your place or email harleston.reception@nhs.net. In order that parents and prospective parents can get as much out of the evening as possible we kindly ask that you do not bring children to this event.



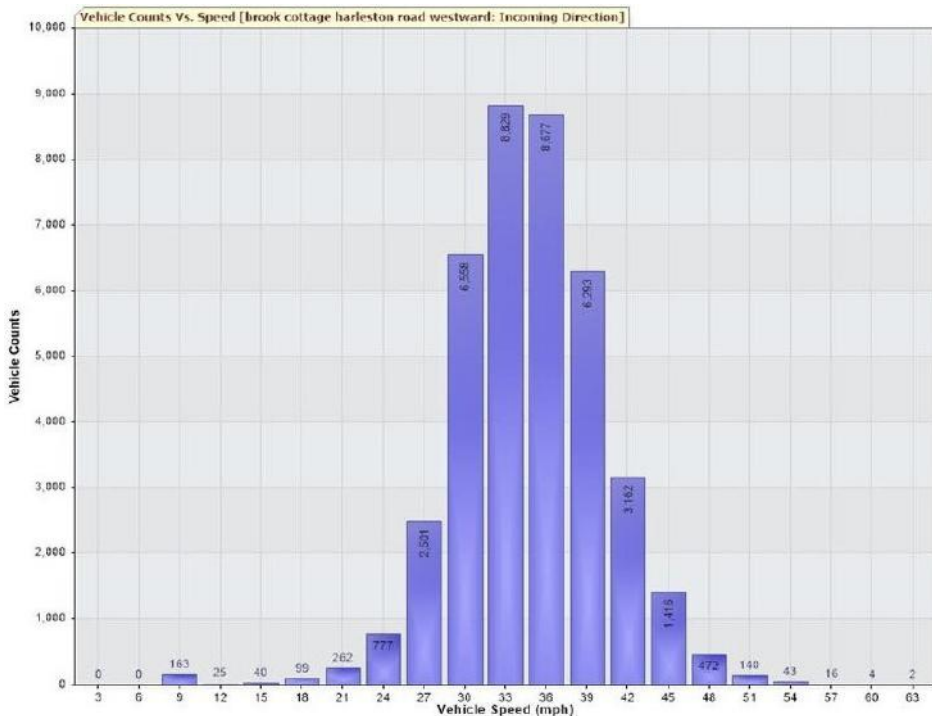
Starston Community Speed-Watch

This is some of the data which the Speed-Watch team gets from SAM2 which shows what is happening with speeding traffic in the village. This particular Traffic Analysis Report covers the period from 27th January to 24th February this year. The road surveyed was from Brook Cottage on the Harleston Road for traffic travelling from Harleston into the village.

The maximum speed logged was 63 mph. The total number of vehicles during this period was 39,479.

The chart below shows the number of vehicles and what speed they were doing. As you can see over 73% of them were breaking the speed limit.

*Frederic Coats 851949
Community Speed-Watch Co-ordinator*






**D.A.
Browne
& Son**
High Class Family Butcher

Supporting local produce
and local businesses

35 The Thoroughfare, Harleston
01379 852235
Also in Diss 01379 642105
www.dabrowne-butchers.co.uk

ALM Taxis..
"Getting you to your destination safely,
on time and very competitively priced"

*Airport Transfers
Chauffeur Services
Seaters 4, 5, 6, 8
Long or Short Distance
Contract Work Welcomed*



01379 608602
www.almtaxis.co.uk

www.dissigns.co.uk

Design
Manufacture
Installation



**SIGNS, BANNERS &
VEHICLE GRAPHICS**

DISSIGNS 01379 740606

LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY
RESEARCH SERVICES 

Rosemary Steer

Archivist -Historian -Genealogist

Want to know more about your family tree
or the history of your house?

Norfolk, Suffolk and online research
Other areas by arrangement

Tel: 01379 854245
Mobile: 07941 473256

Email: localfamilyhistoryresearch@hotmail.co.uk

Karl Lugo

Joinery and Carpentry Services

For all your purpose-made joinery and
carpentry
Windows, doors, units, etc.
Supply and fit

Tel: 01986 782276
Mobile: 07879 477137

Robinson's
TRADITIONAL STATIONERS
Your local stationers and copyshop

New in store

Epson D7 Studio
High quality instant photo
prints from 6x4" to 8x39" direct
from various media - including
iPhone and Facebook!
Come and see what this machine can do!



We are open Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm
28a The Thoroughfare · Harleston · IP20 9AU
01379 855027 mail@robinsonstraditionalstationers.co.uk



Notes from a Travelling Starston Gardener

The folk of Funchal in Madeira love their gardens. The town is built on steep hillsides so most of the houses don't have much growing space but just about everyone has created a garden, whether it's an orange tree planted in a tiny yard, a row of identical pots on the steps up to a front door or a bougainvillea tumbling over a wall.

The effort and the ingenuity are especially apparent as you travel on the cable car from the sea front up to the village of Monte, where we were staying, or take the bus down into the town. It was rare to see an unkempt, unloved plot.

Besides the private gardens there were public spaces to enjoy - The Botanical Garden, the parks, like the Jardim de Sao Francisco, right in the centre of Funchal and, my favourite, the garden of the Governor's official residence. The

house is, of course, closed to the public, but its fine garden is open for anyone to wander through.

All in all I think that if Funchal was eligible to enter the Britain in Bloom competition it would do rather well.

Dee the Gardener



All pictures are taken from the cable car from Funchal to Monte



April - from the Latin verb 'aperire', to open

As I write this short message for the April magazine, I am engulfed in sunlight. Earlier, Roscoe, my dog, took me for a walk in our garden. As we walked, Roscoe's tail was flying around as if mimicking the dance of the whirling Dervishes. He was happy and content and very interested in the new things about him. He picked up bits of twig that had fallen off the trees in the wind overnight. He sniffed at the daffodils and hyacinths. I kept a close eye on him as, though he is learning fast what he can and cannot do, if the mood takes him, which is quite often, his own wants override his learned common sense and the scented colourful heads of plants become a gourmet's delight. As I watched, I began to take a greater interest in what was in front of me and I could almost hear the noise of the opening shoots of flowers in the borders and other parts of the garden. I could enjoy all of this because the weather let me open up too; I was not wearing my woolly hat nor my gloves, my scarf was not around my face distorting my vision.

Spring, the time of opening, was here, what a feeling of release and beauty as nature began its spring ritual of opening up too, showing us its buds and new shoots, the trailer of things to come. Colour, wonderful perfumes filling the air, fresh vegetables all enticing, the wakening of the bees as they strengthened their wings to fly free and find nectar. The hive, so silent in the cold days of winter, was coming alive with the exciting sound of buzzing active bees. Thinking about the newness of spring, I was reminded of a quote from the actor John Wayne: *"Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday"*.

The coming of spring is also a time to put things right, changing those things that are wrong. We start with a clean sheet as the Serenity Prayer written by Reinhold Niebuhr also encourages us.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

My wish for you all this springtime, is that you can leave the bad bits of last year behind and start afresh with renewed hope and purpose. May I leave you with these words from 2 Corinthians 5.17:

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

With my Love and God's blessing

Norman



County Council News

An increasing number of schools in Norfolk are 'good' or 'better' according to updated information from Ofsted. By 31st December 81% of Norfolk schools were graded 'good' or 'outstanding', compared to 71% at the same point a year earlier. Also, good luck to Harleston Primary School which has been shortlisted in the Norfolk Eco awards celebrating their eco-friendly achievements.

At NCC our Highway Parish Partnership Scheme is funding 122 local highway related schemes which have been identified as a priority for local residents. This fund supports these schemes with 50% of funding, with the other 50% coming from the town and parish councils. One of the main issues for local people is speeding traffic and this year we had 39 successful bids for SAM2 machines which will be used by local volunteers.

It was good to see so many local residents and groups at the recent South Norfolk Community awards evening. Shortlisted were Peter Grimble, for his involvement with the Glebe Meadow, the Jubilee Hall and Bee group; the Pulham Crown, which has set up quarterly local community group meetings, collected money for charities and set up a food awareness scheme with the local school; and Harleston's Future, the many volunteers from the town who commit their spare time to put on events such as the antiques fair, summer street party and the Christmas lights switch-on.

On a personal note, thank you to local paramedic Steve Hammond and the local ambulance service for their speedy response and help to my mother-in-law when she recently had a fall.

Contact me at martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk or 01379 741504. My next surgery is at HIP On 16th April at 10.00 am.

Martin Wilby

Pennoyer Film Night News

Since starting a Film Night at The Pennoyer Centre in 2011, we have shown over 45 movies. Initially, our priority was to achieve the best possible sound system that we could afford. A lot of money was spent but we think it is fair to say that it has been a big success and works well.

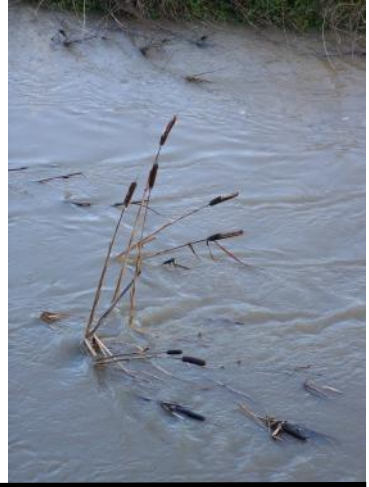
Unfortunately, we were unable to also afford a high quality screen and so we have always simply projected the image on to the far wall of the guild chapel. This has been an adequate solution but we always knew that this was the weakest part of our set-up. We are therefore delighted that through the generous auspices of our District Councillor, Clayton Hudson, we have been able to purchase a state of the art screen and we are very grateful to him for his support.



**Frozen
Beck**
←

**Flooded
Beck**
→

**Pictures by
Rosemary
Steer**



E&D Boiler Maintenance Ltd



Upper Church Farm, Finningham Road, Rickinghall, Suffolk, IP22 1LP

SPECIALISTS IN
Oil, Gas & LPG

Boiler Maintenance, Breakdowns, Repairs and Installations.

All makes covered including:

Worcester Bosch, Boulter Camray, HRM Wallstar, Vaillant, Baxi.

Boiler insurance, annual maintenance reminders and controls work.

edboilers@btinternet.com
www.boilerrepairsuffolk.co.uk

Tel: 01379 898574

Mob: 07771 880525



Polytrade

Direct Ltd

Tel: 01379 854445

Email: polytradedirect@aol.com

www.polytradedirect.co.uk

Suppliers of High Quality Plastic Building
Materials:

FloPlast

GUTTERING, FASCIAS AND
UNDERGROUND

Double Glazed Units and Glass Cut to Size

PVCu WINDOWS AND DOORS

Mastics, Adhesives, Screws, Glass Cleaner

POLYCARBONATE AND PERSPEX



Local Films in April

Pennovers Film (Pulham St Mary)

Title: The Lady In The Van (12a)

Date: Friday 15th April **Time:** 8.00 pm (Bar opens at 7.15)

Cost: £5.00 in advance, £5.50 on the door.

This charming and hilarious British film is based on Alan Bennett's real experiences with the lady who lived in a van on his driveway.

Booking advisable - phone 01379 676660. Ices available.

Harleston Film (Masonic Rooms, Thoroughfare, Harleston)

Title: Brooklyn (12a)

Date: Thursday 28th April **Time:** 7.30 pm (Doors open at 7.00 pm)

Cost: £4.00

An Irish immigrant in 1950s New York falls for a tough Italian plumber, but faces temptation from another man when she returns to her homeland for a visit.

Book with Harleston Information Plus on 01379 851917

Alburgh Film (Alburgh Village Hall)

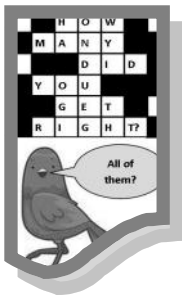
Title: The Lady In The Van (12a)

Date: Friday 15th April **Time:** 7.30 pm (Doors & bar open at 6.45 pm)

Cost: £4.00 - pay on the door. Fish and chips available.

A man forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her car that's parked in his driveway.

Answers to the March Crossword



ACROSS

1. Pulley
4. Decamp
9. Riviera
10. Viral
11. Strut
12. Climber
13. Morris dance
18. Titular
20. Sepia
22. Prowl
23. Nameday
24. Eunuch
25. Adjoin

DOWN

1. Peruse
2. Lover
3. Elector
5. Envoi
6. Aerobic
7. Paltry
8. Latchstring
14. Outworn
15. Assumed
16. Staple
17. Banyan
19. Lilac
21. Pedro



April Crossword by Puffin

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | 9 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | 11 | | | 12 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | 15 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | 18 | | | 19 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | 22 | | | | | | 23 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | 25 | | | | | | |

CLUES ACROSS

1. Upper or lower gnashers (colloquial) (7)
5. Renowned (5)
8. Beating corn (9)
9. Heir (3)
10. Party giver (4)
12. Tantalising or teasing behaviour (8)
14. Carrier of sweet ale (6)
15. Reveal – with another six to go (6)
17. Guard in a box (8)
18. Second hand (4)
21. Headless last request is unhealthy (3)
22. Opposed to all government (9)
24. Tern (5)
25. Nobleman went before (7)

CLUES DOWN

1. Continental sharing (5)
2. Neither (3)
3. A bear in the sky (4)
4. Fit for consumption (6)
5. Small statue (8)
6. Slightly foggy (9)
7. Situated in the north of Ireland (7)
11. Throttled (9)
13. Religious academy (8)
14. St. Matthew at Easter (7)
16. Conduct yourself well (6)
19. Put off (5)
20. Remains of a wound (4)
21. Chemical company is 'here' in France (3)



Benefice Services in April

| | 3rd Easter 2 | 10th Easter 3 | 17th Easter 4 | 24th Easter 5 | |
|---------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Dickleburgh | 9.30am PC | 9.30am PC | 9.30am BCP Matins 10.00am CC | 9.30am PC | |
| Pulham Market | 9.30am HC | 8.00am HC 10.45am Memorial Hall | 9.30am HC | 9.30am SW | |
| Pulham St Mary | 8.00am HC 9.30am Messy Church | 9.30am HC | 9.30am BCP Matins | 9.30am HC | |
| Rushall | 11.00am BCP Matins | 11.00am HC | 11.00am SW | 11.00am SW | |
| Starston | 11.00am BCP Communion | 11.00am BCP Matins | 11.00am HC | 11.00am Great and Small | |
| Thelveton | 11.00am HC | 11.00am BCP Matins | With Dickleburgh | 11.00am SW | |

Saturday 23rd April - 9.30am HC Service at Shimpling

Key To Services

HC: Holy Communion **PC:** Parish Communion

BCP: Book of Common Prayer **SW:** Sunday Worship

CC: Café Church



Starston PCC Secretary: Ruth Cawcutt.

Tel: 01379 852087 Email: rcawcutt1@btinternet.com

Web Site for Information on all Services: <http://www.thebenefice.org.uk/>



Starston Parish Council

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Ann Leitch | Chairman | 01379 423387 | a_leitch@live.co.uk |
| John Akast | Highways | 01379 852877 | Not available |
| Bobbie Formston | Tree Warden | 01379 853042 | Not available |
| John Formston | Footpaths | 01379 853042 | jformston07@talktalk.net |
| Tom Banks | | 07765 561310 | tjhbanks@hotmail.com |
| Sam Carter | | Not available | sam@samuelcarter.com |
| Helen Gale | | Not available | helengale00@hotmail.com |
| Sonja Burnett | Clerk to the Council | 01379 309347 | |
| To contact Starston Parish Council: starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk | | | |
| Starston Village Web Site: www.starstonvillage.co.uk | | | |

Local Councillors

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------|--|
| Martin Wilby | County | 01379 741504 | martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk |
| Clayton Hudson | District | 01379 676259 | chudson@s-norfolk.gov.uk |

Community Services

| | |
|---|---|
| Local Buses - from Starston to Harleston and Starston to Long Stratton and Norwich | For information Ring: 0871 200 22 33 |
| Border Hoppa - dial-a-ride service | For information Ring: 01379 854800 |
| Police - (non-emergency) | Ring: 101 |
| Safer Neighbourhood Team | Email: sntharleston@norfolk.pnn.police.uk |
| NHS Emergency & Urgent Care Services (Including Emergency out of hours chemist) | Ring: 111 when it's less urgent than 999 |
| Refuse Collection and Queries | Ring: 01508 533830 |
| Harleston Information Plus | Ring: 01379 851917 hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk |



Glover Bros.

A FAMILY RUN M.O.T.
& REPAIR GARAGE

- M.O.T's & Servicing
- 24 Hour Flat Bed Recovery
- Car Valeting
- Collection of Vehicles
- Body Work and Repairs
- Free Estimates

T: 01379 676284 (weekdays)

T: 01379 676730 (evening & weekends)

A: The Workshops, Rectory Rd,
Tivetshall St Mary



Kitchen-Sense Of Harleston



For Quality Fitted Kitchens and Appliances

Kitchen Sense - Common Sense

62 London Road, Harleston, IP20 9DZ

Tel: 01379 852592

Fax: 01379 854411

staff@kitchen-sense.co.uk

www.kitchen-sense.co.uk

Experience Gingerbread Cottage Haircutters

www.gingerbreadcottageharleston.co.uk

 **WELLA** Premier
Colour Salon

Now open,
Beauty
at Gingerbread,
our fabulous new
beauty salon
01379 851212



Gingerbread Haircutters
Church Street, Harleston IP20 9BB
Tel: 01379 852483
Open: Monday - Saturday

Denny Holloway Bricklayer



Brick Work, General Building,
Hard Landscaping etc

01379 853471 or 07939 144446