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Whilst the editorial team do not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by contributors, they believe that the magazine is here so that local people can 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.  
**Please note photos and pictures will only be used if there is a colour page available.**  

Where possible please send copy by e-mail to  

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**Subscription**  
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If you would like a single line entry it is just £1.00  

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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

### Happy New Year, Starston

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### 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

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Copy Date for February edition: Monday 12th January

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
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**Goodbye and Hallo**

**Farewell**
We have to say goodbye to James and Clare Richards and their family who have recently moved out of Orchard Cottage, Railway Hill. We hope they’ll be very happy in their new home.

**Welcome**
Welcome to Tabitha and Andrew King and their 5 year old son, Dainton, who are moving into Orchard Cottage where they will also be joined by Andrew’s parents, Ken and June King. A warm welcome to Starston to you all.

---

**Pennoyers Film Night**
The January film, to be shown on Friday 16th, will be ‘Pride’(15). Pennoyers is delighted to have secured this film ahead of its release date. Based on a true story of gay and lesbian support for the striking miners in 1984, it stars Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton and Dominic West and is a feel-good movie which will keep you smiling for days.

---

**Apollo Club - Party Night**
Saturday 10th January. Delicious fork style buffet with tempting deserts and coffee. Party the night away with all your favourite party music from our DJ - £14.95 a head. Call 01379 854205.

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**Starston Poppy Appeal**
This year the Starson Poppy appeal raised £89.20.

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**Meet and Mardle**
New Year event on 1st January. Come along to this informal meeting at St. Margaret’s to greet 2015. Bells at noon, Meet and Mardle at 12.30 pm. All welcome.

---

**Coming Up in Starston in 2015**
Saturday 18th April: Auction of Promises. Friday 19th June: Wine tasting. Both events in the Jubilee Hall.

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**New Year’s Day Concert**
At St. Andrew’s Hall, Norwich at 3.00 pm. Traditional Viennese favourites including the Overture to the Merry Widow and the Blue Danube with the Norwich Pops Orchestra.

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**Snowdrop Day**
At Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery at Langmere near Dickleburgh on Sunday 1st February. Snowdrop lectures and sales. Details to be confirmed nearer the date.
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Safe

EFTSC
First and foremost a Happy New Year to all Pigeon Post readers and thank you for all the positive comments we receive about the Starston Village magazine. It’s a good time to thank the Pigeon Post team and advertisers as well, without whose support it would be impossible to produce, fund and distribute the magazine each month. And then, of course, there are all those who contribute items or articles that go to make up the varied content of Pigeon Post.

As Editor of a magazine people tend to tell you things and over the past few weeks I have been picking up a lot of anger about the new toilet block in the car park next to Budgens. Most of the comments concern the ugliness of the new building (why didn’t they just refurbish the old one) but the main anger is directed at the fact that it now costs 20 pence each time you want to use it.

Although it is usually referred to as “Budgens’ Car Park”, you probably know that the main area in front of and to the right of Budgens actually belongs to South Norfolk District Council and it is that council that made the decision on the toilets. I did some ferreting around (which is what Editors do) and discovered that when SNDC announced they were going to build a new toilet block, rather than refurbish the old one, they discussed the matter with Harleston Town Council who eventually agreed on the grounds of health and safety, the old toilets apparently having passed the hygienic point of no return. The one thing HTC did insist on, though, was that the toilets should be free to use, a request that SNDC in their usual “Let’s ignore local opinion” fashion took no notice of and have gone ahead and imposed a charge.

We are, of course, used to SNDC paying no attention to those of us who pay their salary and allowances and this is just another example. All I can suggest is that if you want to “spend a penny” (as my mother used to say) then you do so before you go into Harleston to avoid having to spend 20 pennies while you are there.

Michael

**Missing Pigeons**

I was recently presented with a large number of old copies of Pigeon Post from the 1990s which encouraged me to have a look at the Pigeon Post archive. I am pleased to say we have a copy of every single Pigeon Post since the first one in March 1991 with only 2 editions missing. These are **January 2000** and **July 2005**.

If anyone who lived here then could have a look in loft, garage, shed or any other hidey hole to see if you have either of these editions then we could fill these 2 gaps and have a full set.
A meeting of the Parish Council took place on 25th November with a significant percentage of the discussion centring around the roads in Starston. It was recorded that another serious accident has taken place recently, this time along The Street, in conditions that were by no means adverse. The Council has again clarified with NCC its position on speed restrictions in villages and is continuing to research methods of securing improvements. It was strongly felt that although the village has received an amount of resurfacing and repairs, certain areas still needed further work. Enquiries are being made.

As forecast, Councillor Libbey attended the Local Plan meeting with SNC on 18th November. It transpired that unbeknown to the small villages in attendance, the District Council has a ‘Frozen Development Policy’ on villages without amenities, thus making them unsustainable. This was not the view expressed by the majority of parishioners when Starston issued its own Local Plan document in 2008. Furthermore, this information had not been made available by SNC to parishes and the public prior to this meeting. Research and discussions are continuing.

The Council is requesting a few more volunteers to assist with the maintaining of the SAM around the village. With enough assistance, the minor maintenance required need only be undertaken once every six months and would take the consistent pressure off Rev Norman Steer and the few who are at present managing it all. Please contact either myself or Rev Steer.

Thus far, response to our request for more councillors has raised some interest and it is very much appreciated. However we do still need more people to come forward if we are to avoid having our lovely village controlled by South Norfolk District Council. Even if you are unsure, the Councillors and myself are very willing to introduce you to the process and let you make your own decision without pressure. There is little administration involved and most of that is my responsibility, leaving, I hope, our Councillors free to consider issues concerning the village!

It remains for me, on behalf of Starston’s Parish Councillors to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sonja Burnett
Parish Clerk

Duties and Powers of a Parish Council

For anyone who may be thinking of standing for election as a Parish Councillor there is a summary of the Duties and Powers of a Parish Council on the Starston village web site. Go to the site – [www.new.starstonvillage.co.uk](http://www.new.starstonvillage.co.uk) – click on the Parish Council tab and then click on Duties and Powers of the Parish Council. In Starston these duties are not onerous but having our own Parish Council does ensure the village has a voice.
Harleston Players – Bugsy Malone

New York, 1929. A war rages between two rival gangsters, Fat Sam and Dandy Dan, who is in possession of a new and deadly weapon, the dreaded ‘splurge gun’. As the custard pies start to fly, can all-round nice guy Bugsy Malone stay one step ahead of trouble, avoid the clutches of the seductive songstress Tallulah, and win the heart of Blousey Brown?

Harleston Players are proud to present the ultimate gangster musical, Bugsy Malone, at Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston on 30th / 31st January and also on 6th / 7th February. Performances at 7.30 pm, with extra 2.30 pm matinee performances on the Saturdays. Tickets cost £8 and £6 and are available from Harleston Pet Stores, or by phoning 01379 676324. So come and join the party at Fat Sam’s Grand Slam, for an action-packed explosion of songs, dances and custard-based warfare.

Don’t miss it, or Fat Sam’s gonna make you pay…!

For more information, find us on Facebook.
A Christmas Turkey’s Lament

I’m a poor little left over Turkey,
And sadly, I’ve now had my day;
There I was in me prime
Life was, oh, so sublime,
But now I’m completely passé.

Life was fun when we strutted the farmyard,
Though we knew we had not long to live;
We were all growing fat
But we didn’t mind that
When we thought of the pleasure we’d give.

We gobbled and gobbled with gusto,
We pecked at our pellets with zest;
With such fine nutrition
What keen competition
There was for the meatiest breast.

Came the day when we all met our Maker,
And I proudly prepared for my fate;
(Though Marilyn Monroe,
For all she could show,
Would excel me if put on a plate.)

But then came the final denouement,
Which I thought would be ritual and rare;
My vitals were ripped,
My assets were stripped,
Just look at me now – if you dare!

Just a poor little left-over Turkey,
No thought for me suffering and pain;
Just a chorus of moans
And agonised groans:

NOT COLD BLOOMING TURKEY AGAIN!
Christmas Tree Success

Congratulations to Archbishop Sancroft High School. Their "A" Team came 3rd in the Children's Section of the 50 Christmas Trees in a Church at Dickleburgh and a group of Year 8 Maths students won the Nick Arnell Plate for the most innovative tree. They exhibited a tetrahedron tree (right hand picture).

Well done to all concerned.
Your Glebe Meadow
(Still) Needs You!

If you can spare an hour or so this winter, please join us at one of our sociable Volunteer days on **Saturday 17th January and Saturday 21st March**.

We will be on Glebe Meadow from 09.30 on both days, and would love to see you. Tea, coffee and cake will be on call courtesy of Sue’s wheelbarrow, with a chance of something stronger.

Rakes, hooks, loppers, bow saws, pruners, strimmers and barrows always welcome. And boots, gloves and waterproofs of course.

It is due to Starston volunteers that we have such a wonderful meadow which is now very much part of our village. So thanks to everyone who has helped to keep it that way over the last year. If you would like to help but can’t make one of those dates, please give me a call.

See you in the Meadow.

**Peter Grimble**
852819

Happy Volunteers
Winter 2014
On “a winter’s day in a deep and dark December” I stand at the window, looking out at my Starston garden where gloom and decay rule. Or do they?

The hanging bird feeder is alive with finches and tits which fly in, grab a sunflower heart and fly off - or are chased off by one of the others; patient queuing isn’t their strong point. The greenfinches are the biggest bullies, seeing off all comers, while the goldfinches, with their scarlet heads, engage in aerial tussles among themselves. A chaffinch, which according to my bird book is a ground feeder, has learnt how to perch precariously for long enough to take a seed before losing its balance.

A wood pigeon waddles round under the feeder, hoovering up the seed which rains down from above; table etiquette is not the small birds’ strong point either. I keep an eye on the comings and goings while I’m at my desk in case one of the rarer visitors pays a call – a siskin, nuthatch, woodpecker or my favourites, the long-tailed tits.

Beyond the feeder the spreading branches of the Cotoneaster horizontalis are aflame with berries and the remaining leaves. To think that I nearly grubbed it out! That will teach me to be snooty about a plant just because it’s over-used (and badly used) in supermarket car parks.

There’s another smudge of flame on the other side of the garden where the dogwoods (Cornus sanguinea and the inappropriately named Cornus alba) are coming into their winter glory, the bark of this year’s growth catching whatever light there is. That same light also brings out the yellows of the leaves that still cling to the hazels and silver birch, as a legacy of the mild and quiet autumn. When they’re all down I’ll rake them from the grass and sweep them from paths and patio. I don’t have a special bin for making leaf mould; instead I’ll put them (wet) in old compost bags, tie the necks and punch a few holes in the plastic, then store them round the compost bins. The bags will help to insulate the bins, assuming we get bin-chilling frosts.

Less obviously colourful at the moment are the leaves of the elephant grass but I know that the low sun of winter, especially when it’s setting, will transform the muted yellows and browns to burnished gold and the tall stems will look like the towers of some ancient fabled city.

There are other, less glamorous, reasons for cheer. The leeks and parsnips and sprouts have done well this year and I’ll have the satisfaction of going out on Christmas Day to harvest what I need for supper. The other vegetable beds are covered in a thick layer of compost which will protect and enrich the soil so that it’s ready for next year’s crops.

I offer one more reason to be cheerful. It lies in the very decay of foliage and fallen leaves that contribute to the gloom of dark December. As they die they enrich the soil and their nutrients are recycled ready to be used to generate new growth when spring comes round in its turn.

Dee The Gardener
Royal Encounter for Starston Scientist

Dr Rachel Wells, who lives in Starston and is a researcher at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, was a member of the panel of experts at a recent event to mark Agri-Tech week. Provocatively entitled “What Has Science Done For Us?” the event was organised by the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association. The aim was to help researchers to understand better the needs of farmers and to showcase some of the emerging technologies which may benefit agriculture.

The panel discussed the challenges of bridging the gap between the laboratory and the farmer’s field. One of the attendees, Starston’s Julian Taylor who is Director of The Royal Norfolk Show, said that farmers had a huge amount of useful data but as they weren’t from a scientific background the information “needs to be put in the right hands to make the analysis”.

Dr Wells pointed out that for scientists like herself to analyse it the data needs to be properly structured.

The debate was held in the presence of HRH Prince Edward who is the President of the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association. George Freeman, MP for Mid Norfolk and Minister for Life Sciences, also attended.

Dr Rachel Wells and colleague Dr Paul Nicholson meet HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Wessex.
Tower of London Poppies

We went down to London just before Remembrance Sunday to view the poppies at the Tower of London. It was a breathtaking sight, and very moving. We also spent a little time in the Tower itself, so here are a few views from both inside and outside the Tower.

Norman and Rosemary Steer

Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red saw 888,246 ceramic poppies planted in the Tower’s moat, each poppy representing a British military fatality during the war.
In Memoriam
Catherine Joyce Springthorpe
Known to most of us as Katie

Many people in the village will remember Katie Springthorpe who, with her husband Eric, lived in the village for many years before moving into Harleston and then, more recently, to Ipswich to be nearer their family. Katie died suddenly on 29th October 2014 and following a thanksgiving service for her life in Starston Church in December, her ashes were interred in St Margaret's churchyard.

Katie was one of the founder members of the village play reading group which I joined when I first arrived in Starston. She always liked to grab the amusing and Bolshie characters, because of her great sense of humour and assuredness. The village embraced Katie's strength of character, honesty and her determination to do things right and more importantly to do things to completion. Katie was loved for her open, uncomplicated personality, you received what you saw. Her ebullience and smile were her trademark and gave people confidence. Her witness of sharing and caring, her demonstration of love, her display of kindness and warmth at times of need will never be forgotten.

Katie had strong convictions of what was right and wrong and was ever prepared to speak her mind. She never deliberately set out to hurt anyone and was quick to stand up and be counted if she found that she was wrong. A determined advocate for those who found themselves in difficulties, which endeared her to many people whose lives she touched. A wonderful example to her family and a person we are all pleased to have known. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, especially Eric and their sons Nigel and Robin.

Norman Steer

Harleston U3A

January often brings a wish for self improvement.- usually a result of recent over indulgence! U3A already offers cycling and walking groups and is now proposing a new group focused on regular but gentle exercise led by an experienced teacher. That’s the physical aspect of the fitter, slimmer you taken care of then! U3A also provides plenty of social and interest groups including lunch groups.

Contact Judith on 01379 852123 for more information or click on to our website: www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston
Starston French Evening

Ooh la la! What a hilarious evening at Cafe Rene. French food, French wine, the sound of the accordion, Tricoleurs flying, saucy young French women running around....well perhaps some were not that young, none were actually French, and one not even a woman, but who cares!

The hall was suitably decorated with appropriate bunting, table cloths and decorations and amazingly lifelike flameless candles for safety reasons.

Background French cafe music and many attending in costume dress created the ambience for a great evening. We had a truly excellent meal thanks to Debbie and Stuart for their magnificent Boeuf Bourguignon, Bryan & Joy for their shopping trip to France to provide the authentic French wines, cheeses, paté and Normandy apple tarts.

During the evening a lighthearted quiz was enjoyed, interspersed with a few very non pc French jokes and the highlight of the evening was the fancy dress parade unanimously won by “Yvette” Hanner, looking 20 years younger than her normal youthful self and by Dave “Mimi Labonk” Miller looking as though he was expecting to be arrested any moment in his lacy waitress outfit!

A great night was had by all and we raised over £200 for Jubilee Hall funds.

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Starston 100 Club

A 100 Club draw was made at the French Evening and the prize winners were:

1st Prize £60 Paul Grimble
2nd Prize £50 Frank Self
3rd Prize £30 Rob & Christine Munro
4th Prize £25 Bob & Irene Waugh
5th Prize £20 Mrs Patricia Gilbey
6th Prize £15 David Page & Jane German

Continual thanks to all our members who support the Jubilee Hall and the Glebe Meadow in this way. We are constantly looking for new members – for details contact John Formston: Tel.853042 or email: jformston07@talktalk.net
Charles Grazebrook

I mentioned some while ago that I had been unable to find any connection between Starston and Charles Grazebrook, whose name appears on the village war memorial. Only one man of that name was killed during the First World War, Captain Charles Alverey Grazebrook of the King’s Royal Rifle Corps, who was born at Stourton Castle, Stafford and seemed to have no local connections.

However, I have now found his name on the 1915 electoral register (probably compiled late 1914), resident at Hillside, the house set back from The Street, opposite the Church Hill entrance to the church. According to his biography in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919, Grazebrook was a regular soldier. He married in 1912 and had a daughter the following year, retiring from the Army in early 1914 and then re-joining following the outbreak of War. He was killed in action in March 1915 and has no known grave.

My best guess is that he and his family came to Starston on his retirement, possibly because of a link with the Taylor family, who may have owned Hillside at that time. Ronald Taylor, Richard’s uncle, was killed at Ypres in 1915, but so far I have found no link between Charles and Ronald, such as school, university or regiment. I will continue to investigate, and keep you posted.

William David Frost

William Frost, whose name appears on the Starston and Harleston War Memorials, was killed in 1918 while serving with the Canadian forces, though according to his Canadian attestation records he had already served with the Norfolk Regiment for over 13 years, possibly in the Territorials. I have now discovered a little more about the unusual circumstances surrounding William’s war service.

He emigrated to Canada in 1912, but returned to England a month after the outbreak of War and re-joined the Norfolk Regiment, serving in France from November 1914. He was discharged from the Norfolk Regiment in 1916 and sailed almost immediately back to his home town in Canada where he enlisted in the Canadian forces. He thus served for almost the entire War, being killed by a shell on 28th August 1918 while advancing with his section near Arras.

His brother, George, also served with the Norfolks, enlisting on September 15th 1914. He was killed in April 1917 and is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial as well as those in Harleston and Starston.

Rosemary Steer
Be A Super Sleuth in Starston

Don’t miss the chance to come to ‘Hamlet’s Danish Diner’ in Starston Jubilee Hall at 7.30 on Saturday 31st January when you can enjoy a delicious 3-course meal while watching *The Case of the Dead Dane* unfold.

Hamlet Senior is dead and the family business is under new management with step-dad Claudius at the helm, determined to take the place upmarket. Whilst Hamlet Junior agonises over the menu and Ophelia struggles to master the art of silver service, the restaurant’s fate looks uncertain. And when a detective arrives from Copenhagen (complete with woolly jumper) asking awkward questions about the old man’s death, things can only get worse.

Tickets cost £13.50 (which includes the 3-course meal) and can be purchased from Debbie Griffin – Tel: 01379 854233 or Email: stuart.griffin@live.co.uk  We are limiting numbers to 25 due to the size of the Jubilee Hall and because we do need room for the actors. Please let Debbie know of any dietary requests.
Harleston Cinema

The film for January to be shown at the Archbishop Sancroft School will be ‘The Hundred-Foot Journey’. (PG) 122 minutes. This is a charming comedy drama starring Helen Mirren as the snooty owner of a Michelin-starred restaurant in rural France who is very unhappy to catch a waft of curry when an Indian restaurant opens across the road. A game of one-upmanship ensures as each tries to get punters through their door. An elegant and highly enjoyable film.

Date: Friday, 9th January. Doors open: 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Entry: £4 plus £1 for interval refreshments. To book seats, please telephone Harleston Information Plus on 01379 851917 – you pay on the door.

Seats are padded but you may like to bring a cushion for extra comfort. Chairs will be available at the front if you prefer them, rather than the tiered seats.

County Council News

Help us to keep Norfolk warm and well this winter. Agencies across Norfolk are once again working with Norfolk County Council Public Health – leading the campaign – to help vulnerable and older residents stay warm and well. To support this, NCC Public Health re-launched its Warm and Well Fund – this year totalling £20,000. Grants of up to £2,500 have been awarded to community projects across the county that help people facing very difficult challenges as the weather gets colder, including older people, those with chronic medical conditions and the homeless. For help and support please go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/warmandwell or call 0344 800 8020

I recently attended the Stars of Norfolk Awards which is organised with the Eastern Daily Press, NCC and all the district councils across Norfolk. These awards recognise the fantastic work done throughout the County by many volunteers who do exceptional things and expect no recognition or praise. I was honoured to present the winner of Carer of the Year category to George Harbour, who is 14 years old and looks after his mum, grandmother and young brother and sister.

Looking ahead to 2015 one event I am looking forward to is the Tour of Britain. Organisers of the UK’s biggest professional cycle race have confirmed that at least one stage of the week-long race will be returning to Norfolk in September. Thousands of people lined the streets and attended the finish at the Norfolk Showground back in 2012 so I’m sure this year’s race will be just as popular.

Contact me any time at martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk
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Regenerating Diss

There is currently an ambitious plan to completely regenerate the historic heart of Diss. The project includes

* Regeneration of the Heritage Triangle
* Restored and improved Corn Hall
* New Mere Boardwalk and Gardens

**The Heritage Triangle:** For centuries the Heritage Triangle was the commercial heart of Diss; in fact it was so busy that 100 years ago Park Road was built to ‘bypass’ it. But along with the traffic, much of the shopping left the area. Now the aim is to encourage shoppers and tourists to come back, stroll around the area and enjoy its historic buildings, its award winning museum, its cafes and its unique ‘yards’ with their excellent specialist shops. And to bring alive the story of Diss and its people through signage and contemporary ‘apps’.

Modifications to pavements and road surfaces will create a more harmonious balance between motorist and pedestrian. Benches, planters and a quieter atmosphere will make it a more enjoyable place to spend time in and explore. The plan is for the Triangle to become a ‘destination’.

**The Corn Hall:** Since the Corn Hall was reopened in 2010, its cinema, live theatre, comedy, music and art have entertained the people of Diss and the surrounding villages. But there’s trouble ahead. The building suffers from significant structural problems that may force it to close in the next few years. Something has to be done. And that has to be more than just papering over the cracks.

Restoration work will return the Hall to its former glory. Sympathetic new building will incorporate features making it fit for the 21st century. Visitors will be able to approach the theatre through a redesigned, attractive courtyard. The foyer and box office will be larger and more welcoming. There will be a new heating system which will cope with the coldest winters. Improved acoustics and retractable seating will provide a more enjoyable and comfortable experience. It is intended that the Corn Hall will be open during the day as well as the evenings. There will be a new studio space, an interactive study centre, an enlarged gallery and more events and activities for young and old.

**The Mere:** The Mere is unique; it lends distinction and beauty to Diss. All that’s missing is a spotlight to show off its best features. A boardwalk has been designed to take pedestrians across the Mere from Mere Street and Kings Head Yard to a floating island. Landscaped gardens will lead up to Market Hill. A viewing platform above the gardens will give splendid views over the town. Planting around the boardwalk will support the Mere’s biodiversity, and only native plants will be used in the wildlife garden. The boardwalk, garden and views over Diss will complement the Park on the other side of the Mere, making a marvellous attraction for tourists and residents alike.

To find out more about this project visit: [http://www.heritagetriangle.co.uk/findoutmore/](http://www.heritagetriangle.co.uk/findoutmore/)
And After Christmas...

The shepherds have gone back to their cold hillside to keep watch for wolves. The wise men have brought their presents and are on their way back to their own country. 

...and now the real work begins.

How do you bring up the Son of God? We only have three brief snapshots of how Mary and Joseph set about the task.

♦ First, they took him to the Temple to give thanks to God for the gift of a child.
♦ Second, they found a place where he could be safe – even though it meant a long and arduous journey to Egypt.
♦ Third, they made sure he knew his heritage, the stories of the patriarchs and the prophets, as well as the politics of the Roman occupation. When he was twelve years old the priests at the Temple were amazed at how much he knew and understood.

Wise parents have done the same all through the ages. We want our children to be loved, to be safe, and to understand how to take their place in the world. As Christians we want to extend that to all children, so we were very pleased that our Christmas Tree Festival in early December supported two children’s charities - Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope, and Ormiston Families.

This year during Lent our churches will be supporting the suffering church in the Holy Land – in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. At home we continue to support the Waveney Food Bank. Each month we help children and adults connect with their Christian Heritage in the 11.00 am “Great and Small” service on the last Sunday of the month.

God does not promise that we will never have to face difficulties, but He does promise that we will always be loved, that our souls will be safe with him wherever life leads us, and that we can all be inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven.

May God bless you throughout this year.

Gale

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Thank You, Team Starston

A big thank you to all those hardy souls who gave so much time and effort into helping with the catering for the Christmas Tree Festival. There were many wonderful cakes which contributed so much to the success of the event. We are hoping that the catering will make around £1000 for the two charities we are supporting this year - Elizabeth’s Legacy of Hope, and Ormiston Families.

Margaret Griffiths
Starston From Old Newspapers

I thought Pigeon Post readers might be interested in some news of Starston and Starston folk in times past, so this month’s piece is taken from the Yorkshire Gazette from 29th May 1830 and concerns the late Robert Paul of Starston Hall who was ‘by far the most scientific rat-catcher’ of the writer’s acquaintance. Not only was his method effective in catching rats, but his skill was “tempered with humanity” and “he dealt even with ‘varmint’ like a Christian.”

His method involved placing a box or trough with a falling bottom and open at both ends over a conical brick dry cistern, so the rats could not climb back up. The cistern had an exit at the bottom into a covered pipe that led to a cistern of lime water ‘into which the rats were compelled to throw themselves’. Mr Paul could not therefore be regarded as their murderer as the rats were committing suicide!

I had a similar method, although rather less efficient and not involving lime water, in that I left a bucket underneath the outside tap to collect the dripping water when the hosepipe was removed. Over a period three young rats drowned themselves in the bucket! Ahh.

Rosemary Steer

Answers to the December (Christmas Tree) Crossword

ACROSS

2. Doc
5. Touch up
8. Sax
9. (also 1 and 16 down)
   Ho ho ho
10. AC
12. The
13. Say
15. Christmas Tree
18. Out
19. Kids
20. Mince pies
21. Spa

DOWN

1. (See 9 across)
3. Coho
4. Boxes
5. Tahiti
6. Chimney Pot
7. Pastie
8. Strum
11. Cards
14. Yes
16. (See 9 across)
17. Ski
January Crossword by Darv

CLUES ACROSS

1&4 Across & 6 Down. No apples for Dobbin on Spooner’s order to disregard the armed services (2,3,4,3,6)
7. Weed in Plymouth (3)
8. Reasonable punishment (4)
10. Screamed soundly drawn out (4)
13. Get rid of French author without public relations (4)
14. Compelled corn feed distribution (8)
16. So this is what 1,4 Across, 6; 12,2,3; 12,24,17,23; 19,21; 20,31,11, are all about, in our assessment (4)
17. See 12,24,17,23 (4)
23. See 12,24,17,23 (8)
24. See 12 Down
25. Run away from crash and feel conscience thus (4)
27. This region sounds less claustrophobic (4)
29. Get relief from a primitive urge (3)
30. Races to the top and becomes lachrymose (5,2)
31. See 20 Down (2,3)

CLUES DOWN

2. See 12,2,3 (3)
3. See 12,2,3 (3,5)
4. A tentative enquiry for the price the French require initially (6)
5. Sheep gets directions - from Birmingham to Lowestoft and back again and back again (3)
6. See 1 Across
9. Deduce Dante’s work is endless (5)
11. See 20
12/2/3. Horticultural instruction not to molest an informer (4,3,3,5)
12/24/17/23. Chastisement for the big bad wolf - as seen on a plastic bag (4,4,4,8)
15. Improvise drill to a musical instruction (8)
18. “Marry me Reg”! (5)
19/21. Advice from the tooth fairy on public transport hazard? (4,3,3)
20/31/11. Grow beef tea? Doh! Stupid. Something for the postman to avoid (6,2,3,3)
21. See 19
22. Doctor with an unknown amount of pain (3)
26. American bum is a fool (3)
28. The smokers’ tree? (3)
# Benefice Services in January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4th Epiphany</th>
<th>11th Baptism of Christ</th>
<th>18th Epiphany 2</th>
<th>25th Epiphany 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dickleburgh</strong></td>
<td>9.30am PC</td>
<td>9.30am PC</td>
<td>9.30am BCP Communion 10.00am CC</td>
<td>9.30am PC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pulham Market</strong></td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>8.00am HC 10.45am Service in Memorial Hall</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>9.30am SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pulham St Mary</strong></td>
<td>8.00am BCP Communion 9.30am Messy Church</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>9.30am BCP Matins</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rushall</strong></td>
<td>11.00am BCP Matins</td>
<td>11.00am HC</td>
<td>11.00am SW</td>
<td>11.00am SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Starston</strong></td>
<td>11.00am BCP Communion</td>
<td>11.00am BCP Matins</td>
<td>11.00am BCP Communion</td>
<td>11.00am Great &amp; Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thelveton</strong></td>
<td>11.00am HC</td>
<td>11.00am BCP Matins</td>
<td>With Dickleburgh</td>
<td>11.00am SW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key To Services

- **HC**: Holy Communion
- **PC**: Parish Communion
- **SW**: Sunday Worship
- **BCP**: Book of Common Prayer
- **CC**: Café Church

Web Site for Information on all Services:  [http://www.thebenefice.org.uk/](http://www.thebenefice.org.uk/)
Starston Parish Council

Edward Libbey  Chairman  01379 855355
Bruce Colman  Tree Warden  01379 854542
John Formston  Footpaths  01379 853042
Lara Griffin  Highways  01379 855271
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Sonja Burnett  Clerk to the Council  01379 309347

To contact Starston Parish Council: startonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Starston Village Web Site: www.starstonvillage.co.uk
To contribute information to the web site contact the Pigeon Post Team at editor@pigeonpost.org.uk

Local Councillors

Martin Wilby  County  01379 741504  martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk
Keith Tilcock  District  07935 357909  ktilcock@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 - this is a dial-a-ride service based around Harleston and is available to anyone who has no access to alternative transport.
To register and for more information ring:  01379 854800

Police - (non-emergency)
Ring:  101

NHS Emergency and 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
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