

PIGFEON POST



STARSTON

19

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December 2016 Issue 299



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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

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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

Sunday 18th December 6.00 pm

Carol Concert - St. Margaret's church

Friday 23rd December 4.00 pm

Christingle Service - St. Margaret's church

Friday 23rd December 5.00 pm

Youth Club Christmas Party - Jubilee Hall

Monday 16th January 2017 7.30 pm

Parish Council Meeting - Jubilee Hall

Saturday 21st January 7.30 pm

Vintage Archers Evening - Jubilee Hall - see Page 16

Want to book the Jubilee Hall? At Any Time

Ring Joy or Bryan Hanner 853200 or 07484 721758



- 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 January 2017 edition:
Saturday 10th December - Note earlier date**

Starston Village Website: www.starstonvillage.co.uk

Jubilee Hall Wi-Fi Hot Spot: Network: *Jubilee Hall* Password: *Starston*

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davisonmike@outlook.com



Around and About the Village

Festival of Christmas Customs and Traditions

This festival will be held at St Andrew's Church Weybread, on 26th and 27th November from 10.00 am to – 4.00 pm. There will be craft stalls and refreshments in Weybread Hall Farm Barn near to the church. More details from Paula 01379 852110, Sue 01379 586434 or sueofnunnery@btinternet.com

Advent at St Leonard's Billingford

A warm welcome to join us on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Come and enjoy coffee, tea, cakes, bacon rolls or soup and see our Snowmen in disguise (can you guess who they are?) Also please join us for our Advent Carol Service by candlelight 4.00 pm on Sunday 27th November. Don't forget your torch. Mulled wine and cake after the service.

Pennoyers Annual Beer Festival and Gin Bar

The 6th Annual Beer Festival at Pennoyers will run from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th December. A great weekend is promised with plenty of local real ales to sample (and a local cider), as well as our first ever gin bar with 10 artisan options to try, each with a tailored garnish. PLUS we are switching on our Xmas lights at 7.30 pm on Friday 2nd December, with GBBO contestant Kate Barmby doing the honours. Cafe open serving hot food and bar snacks, fully licensed bar, all welcome. Free entry.



Harleston at Christmas

On Saturday 3rd December the town will have a day of festive activities for all the family, starting with a colourful street market from 9.30 am onwards. Then soon after 5.00 pm the darkness will be dispelled by the switching on of the Christmas tree lights in the town by Harleston's own local hero, Carol Wiles MBE.

Pennoyers Children's Xmas Party

Thursday 15th December from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Once again Pennoyer's is able to offer a free kids' Christmas party this year. There will be a party entertainer and disco, plus your child can get their photo taken with a children's TV character who will be making a surprise visit. FREE ENTRY or £3.00 with a kid's meal. Booking essential, contact Kerri on 07810 188631.

Ceilidh at Woodton

Fancy trying something different this New Year's Eve? Then come to a ceilidh at Woodton Village Hall (NR35 2NG) from 8.30 pm and dance to Charlie Emmens. Tickets cost £15 and include a sumptuous buffet. Bring your own drinks. Large Raffle. Tickets from J & H Websdell, 01379 853967. Proceeds to Cancer Research and Village Hall funds.

Pennoyers New Year's Eve Party

Join us for Hogmanay at Pennoyer's on Saturday 31st December 7.30 pm to 1.00 am. Boogie on down to disco music provided by 'Groove Brother' Alan and 'Funk Rider' Kim. This event will be supporting the charity Parkinson's UK. Early-bird tickets £7.50 before 1st December, standard tickets £10 thereafter. Buy at the Centre or via Eventbrite. Fully licensed bar. Sorry no children under 10.



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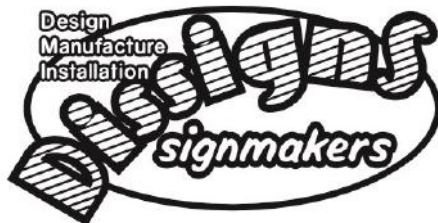
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Notes From The Editor

Not much space this month for me to rabbit on (stop cheering at the back).

However I would like to draw your attention to the article on Page 19 about the proposed car park charges which are planned for Harleston next year.

I think it's also worth mentioning the Wi-Fi Hot Spot which is now available in and around the Jubilee Hall. You can access high speed Broadband from the

Hall, its car park and anywhere in the immediate vicinity – see the notice on Page 10. From now on there will also be a permanent reminder of the Network and Password on Page 3 of Pigeon Post.

Apart from that, let me just wish you all a very happy Christmas from everyone on the Pigeon Post team.



Michael

Coffee Morning for Christian Aid

Thank you to all who once again kindly supported the Coffee Morning for Christian Aid at Starston Grange on 11th November. Wonderful cakes were baked, jams and garden produce provided, craft gifts made and raffle prizes donated. All run by a team of willing volunteers. The day was bright, bringing many people from surrounding villages and making it a very sociable occasion!

A total of £405.80 was raised for Christian Aid, and a further £237.20 for Traidcraft Christmas cards.

Christian Aid's appeal this Christmas is 'Light the Way'. All over the world, people are searching for safety and refuge, having been forced from their homes by violence and fear. Our donations will go towards projects supporting these very needy people.

Thank you so much.

Sue Grimble

Local Police Update

Jason Selvarajah is the new police inspector responsible for local policing at Harleston, and his priorities are to improve visibility of policing, support rural communities and improve road safety. There is a new interactive website in place and any local queries can be directed via SNTHarleston@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.

PC Jim Squires has moved to another station in the area and a new beat manager for Harleston has also been appointed - PC Heather Field - who will take up her post in January. A temporary beat manager has been appointed in the interim - PC Andy Baker. PCSO Pete Williamson is still with us in Harleston.



Notes From A Starston Garden

Autumn. Season of mists - yes we've had a few of those - and mellow fruitfulness. Apple trees in particular have been very fruitful this year, or as Keats put it this autumn has conspired "to bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees". He was also spot on about the "wailful choir" of small gnats. Working in my Starston garden on balmy days in October I was bitten half to death by the little blighters which seemed to find the small of my back and my ear lobes particularly tasty.

What Mr Keats didn't mention in his *Ode To Autumn* was leaves – the huge quantities of fallen leaves which, depending on how you look at it, are either useless rubbish or a valuable resource. Whichever way you regard them there's a conundrum. Do you clear them up regularly - in which case you'll be out with your broom or leaf blower every few days for a couple of months - or do you let them accumulate until the trees are bare, and then have a mega tidy? Maybe the answer lies with the weather. A session with broom and leaf rake is an invigorating, feel-good pastime when it's crisp and sunny but when it's dank and drizzly and there's a chilly breeze curling round the garden a cup of tea and *Countdown* have much more appeal.

Then there's the question of how thorough your leaf clearing efforts are. I'd certainly recommend removing them from paths and patios to prevent the build-up of a sludgy, slippery mess that could send you sprawling. And the RHS suggests that leaves should also be raked off lawns as "they may kill the sward beneath". Elsewhere in the garden it's a matter of choice. Leaves could well harbour slugs, but on the other hand are a happy hunting ground for foraging blackbirds in search of a winter snack. You may like to have your flower beds neat, with all decaying plant material removed and bare soil showing between the plants, but a covering of leaves will protect it from heavy winter rain and by spring they'll pretty much have rotted away, returning nutrients to the soil.

And that brings me to the useless rubbish/valuable resource argument. I'm firmly in the latter camp. Why destroy material that can be converted to a useful soil conditioner which helps my sandy soil hang on to water? How you make leaf mould depends on the amount of material available. For huge quantities a wire mesh bin is recommended. But, with more manageable quantities, I take a different approach. The leaves I clear from my paths and sward are stuffed (damp) into plastic sacks. For this purpose I hang on to the sacks in which I bought potting compost in the spring. Then I tie them at the neck, prong them with a fork to make some air holes and sling them behind the greenhouse. Fifteen months later I have wonderful, sweet smelling leaf mould with which to feed my soil. Mellow fruitfulness isn't just about apples.

Dee The Gardener



Parish Council News

I thought the December edition of the Pigeon Post would be a good time to provide you with an update on what I have been working on since being in post as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Starston Parish Council. I will provide you with details from the November Parish Council meeting in the next edition.

I have now met many members of the village and been shown around The Glebe and the Jubilee Hall. Everyone has been very supportive, informative, patient and enthusiastic. It is a pleasure to be part of such a proactive and positive village.

I have started posting relevant notices provided by the District and County Council onto the front page of the Starston Village website. I would like to thank the website team – they really have been very patient with me! If there is any specific information that residents wish to see on Parish Council pages of the village website, please let me know as I would like to include as much relevant information as possible. There have been several planning applications, the details of all planning applications in Starston are on the village website.

The Superfast Community Wi-Fi in the Jubilee Hall is up and running and the official launch will take place at the Jubilee Hall on Friday 23rd December between 5.00 and 6.00 pm during the Starston Youth Club Christmas Party. The District Councillor's ward budget has provided the village with funding for this project and Cllr Clayton Hudson is delighted to be opening the scheme. The Wi-Fi network is called "**Jubilee Hall**", and the password is "**Starston**".

I am planning on working from this fabulous facility once a month for a couple of hours. Obviously this would be a trial basis but I would like to give you the opportunity to pop in and see me and have a chat and a cuppa and discuss any concerns or ideas you have with regards to the village. I will confirm a date and time in the next Pigeon Post and on the website.

The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) proposals on changes to ward boundaries were published on 8th November. They can be viewed at <http://consultation/lgbce.org.uk>. I am delighted that LGBC has listened to the views of Starston Parish Council, and the proposal from District Councillor Clayton Hudson. The LGBC draft recommendation is that Starston Parish remains with other rural parishes, rather than be incorporated into Harleston ward, as proposed by South Norfolk District Council. The Parish Council is most grateful to Cllr Hudson for his support on this matter.

The Parish Council members will be setting their 2017 meeting dates very soon and these will be published in the January Pigeon Post and on the website. Your Parish Council wishes you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Clare Crane
Clerk and RFO to Starston Parish Council



Village Contact List

The Parish Council would like to create an email and telephone contact list for every household in Starston so we can ensure that everyone is aware of issues which affect the village. We want all residents to have the opportunity to voice their opinion, should they wish to do so. Such issues might include:

- Proposed ward boundary changes
- How the Parish Council spends grant monies given to it for improving community facilities
- Alerting you to planning applications in your immediate vicinity so you can comment within the specified timescales to South Norfolk District Council.

We appreciate that not everyone uses email and the regular Parish Council News items will continue in Pigeon Post, but that is a slower method of communication if there is a tight time scale for comment.

I am asking if you would let the Starston Parish Clerk have your preferred email address and telephone number. This data will be governed by the Data Protection Act so rest assured that you won't be bombarded with emails, your details will not be passed on to third parties or anyone in the village and you can opt out at any time.

This contact list will be for the exclusive use of the Parish Clerk and only used for Council business. If you want your neighbour or friends to have your contact details, then you have to provide these directly to that person yourself. Your contact details will not be provided by the Parish Clerk to anyone without your consent.

If you would like to "opt in", please email Clare Crane, Starston Parish Clerk, on [*starstonparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk*](mailto:starstonparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk) via your preferred email address and give your preferred telephone number.

Many thanks for considering this request as we seek to maintain a strong and engaged community in Starston.

Ann Leitch
Parish Council Chairman

Wi-Fi Hot Spot in Jubilee Hall

There is now a Wi-Fi Hot Spot in the Jubilee Hall which can be used either in the hall itself or outside in the immediate area. The network is called ***Jubilee Hall*** and the password is ***Starston***. A big thank you must go to Peter Grimble and Clayton Hudson who have battled their way through the incompetence and inefficiency of BT/Openreach to enable this facility to be installed.



Mad Science

This Summer I attended my first Teddy Bears Picnic ... and I loved it... as did my Teddy, Mr Big Bear! I am Dr Dee Enay (aka Laura Bird) and I run Mad Science Norfolk. On the 21st August I had the pleasure of presenting several Mad Science shows on The Glebe Meadow. Children had a hair-raising experience on our Van de Graaff generator, shot lightning from their fingertips and formed a human circuit. Lucky (brave) volunteers took part in the 'burning bogies' experiment and created chemical reactions that produced their very own pot of oozing slime to take home.

I often get asked 'So, what is your *real* job?' People are always shocked with my answer - this is my real job! I am a full time Mad Scientist and have been since I opened Mad Science Norfolk over 8 years ago. Yes, I really do spend most days presenting cool explosions, launching rockets and getting covered in Slime. I am fortunate to work with a wonderful and knowledgeable team all with a passion for inspiring minds. There are currently 6 of us working within schools and communities in Norfolk.



We are so proud to be based in Norfolk as we believe it is a region of Science and Innovation. Not only does Norfolk have two Nobel Prize winners, one third of working people here are involved in businesses with some science element to them. We have one of the largest life science clusters in Europe in the Norwich Research Park and the two of our rather brilliant Mad Scientists are currently studying at the UEA. Mad Science realises that it is essential that we capture children's interest at an early age. Science needs to be fun, colourful, hands-on and full of wonder, sparking children's imaginations allowing them to investigate it for themselves.

The Mad Science aim is to let children touch, feel, and taste what science is really all about. Build rockets, make slime, learn why airplanes fly and volcanoes erupt. We work within schools, offer birthday parties, summer camps and corporate special events. We have presented shows on the beach in gale force winds, in a replica Hadron Collider, a Santa's Grotto and around a witches cauldron (there's science behind all magic you know). Every day is different and we wouldn't have it any other way. All our programmes have been designed to appeal to children ranging from 4-11 years in age and to complement the current scientific curriculum. But: You are never too old to appreciate Mad Science!

I hope to see you all at the next Starston Teddy Bears Picnic. In the meantime if you ever require a Mad Scientist you know where to come! Dr Dee Enay -
mad.science@btconnect.com



Secret Wireless Station

A Second World War underground wireless station in Norwich, which was part of a secret communications network set up in 1940 by Churchill in response to the increasing threat of German invasion, has been protected as a scheduled monument by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of Historic England.

Discovered in 2012 by a retired groundsman in the gardens of a Norwich country house, this wireless station, also known as an IN-Station or Zero Station, is thought to be one of just 32 built in England during the Second World War. Only 12 have been found and this is one of the most intact examples discovered so far, complete with a fake bookcase to conceal the wireless room and an escape tunnel. The tunnel was constructed so soldiers operating the station could get away if the enemy discovered the dugout.

By June 1940 the increasing threat of German invasion and potential occupation prompted Winston Churchill to set up a secret army unit called GHQ Auxiliary Units with a particular branch known as “Special Duties”. This branch, also known as the “British Resistance Organisation”, used civilian volunteers living in areas like the south-east of England and East Anglia, as these were seen as most under threat of invasion, to spy and report on German military activities had the UK been invaded.

These civilian spies communicated with the army by a secret wireless network. Messages were transmitted from OUT-Stations in enemy occupied areas to IN-Stations, like this one in Norwich, which were outside the occupied area and manned by the military, usually female Auxiliary Territorial Service officers.

Historic England’s Tony Calladine said: “*This amazing place that has survived intact played a highly secret but vitally important role in preparing us for a feared invasion during the Second World War.*”

By July 1944 3,500 civilians had been trained and over 125 civilian-run OUT-Stations had been established, often hidden in dugouts or behind dummy walls in houses. In that same month the “Special Duties” branch was closed down, equipment stripped from the stations and their entrances hidden. Details about their locations and construction were kept secret and very little documentation of the stations exists. Information was protected in case they should be needed again in the future.

Historic England is asking the public to come forward with information about family members who were trained to be a civilian spies, or any clues as to where the remaining 20 IN-stations lay hidden. If anyone has any information they can get in touch by emailing communications@HistoricEngland.org.uk.



Secret Wireless Station

Photo - copyright
Evelyn Simak and
Adrian Pye

Secret Wireless Station

**Black felt on
doors**

Photo - copyright
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Adrian Pye



Secret Wireless Station

Escape Tunnel

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Starston Youth Club

Fireworks Party 5th November: Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who nobly helped with this event, from putting up the safety fencing in the Glebe Meadow, welcoming people on the door, cooking the sausages for the hot dogs, making toffee apples, bringing cakes/biscuits, lighting the sparklers, organising the parachute games and helping to clear up at the end of the party.



We had over 20 Starston children at the club, with a similar number of adults joining in what was reported to be a “fantastic youth group”. The new table football, purchased with a donation from an anonymous villager, was very popular. We asked for a donation of £3 a child, slightly higher than our normal £2, to cover £70 of fireworks plus food costs. Feedback on this event will help us to decide whether we run a similar event next year, as we would need to ask for either some level of sponsorship or a slightly higher donation, as we didn’t quite cover our costs.

Christmas Tea Party, Saturday 23rd December, 5.00 – 6.00 pm, Jubilee Hall:

A warm welcome is extended to all families (parents, grandparents and siblings) with pre-school and primary school age children either living in Starston or connected to Starston. The Starston Youth Club Tea Party will follow on from the Christingle Service which is at 4.00 pm in St Margaret’s Church. The party will be held in the Jubilee Hall. Please can you let Ann Leitch know by **Tuesday 13th December** if you are planning to join in this seasonal gathering so that we can arrange catering. Please note that parents need to provide a wrapped Christmas present with your child’s name on it, with a maximum value of £5.

Cllr Clayton Hudson will be visiting us during the party to officially launch the new superfast community Wi-Fi hotspot. We understand that Father Christmas also has the Jubilee Hall on his visiting schedule, so do join us!



Table Tennis and Soft Play Ball Pit: These resources are kept at the Jubilee Hall and are available to everyone in the village so please feel free to make use of them. To access the outdoor table tennis please contact Ann Leitch (01379 423387) or Peter Grimble (01379 852819).

Starston Youth Club 2017: After our first successful year, we are looking afresh at what are the needs of Starston pre-school and primary school age children for 2017. With some children having started new primary schools this autumn and a number of children being born in the last year, we are considering setting up a mid-week, day time club, in addition to the drop-in club for older children. The drop-in club is activity based, for example indoor table tennis or table football at the Jubilee Hall and outdoor parachute games, rounders or football on the Glebe Meadow. There is also the opportunity to meet alpacas and miniature pigs, all who live in Starston. If you would be interested in either attending or helping with the youth club, whether as a parent or grand-parent, please get in touch. The proposal for 2017 so far is:-

Pre-school: Wednesdays 9.30 am – 11.15 am fortnightly

Primary school: A weekend afternoon, probably monthly

Starston Teddy Bear's Picnic, Sunday 20th August: Please put this date in your diary and invite your children/grand-children to come and stay for a weekend in Starston. If you haven't been involved with this event in the past, but would like to volunteer in 2017, again, please contact me.

Ann Leitch

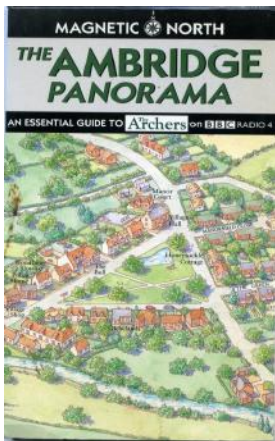
Tel: 01379 423387 Email: a_leitch@live.co.uk



Jubilee Hall ready for Youth Club Party



Vintage Archers Evening



On Saturday 21st January we are holding a Vintage Archers evening in the Jubilee Hall. We will have some scripts of short scenes from actual Archers episodes from the 1980s and anyone will have the chance to actually play an Archers character.

Have you ever wanted to be Eddie or Clarrie Grundy, Jill or David Archer, Shula or Phil, Brian Aldridge or Caroline? Well, now's your chance.

Even if you not an Archers listener then come along anyway, watch your friends and neighbours become real radio acting 'stars' and enjoy a sausage and mash supper. Perhaps you'll even have the chance to create a few sound effects to accompany the performances.

Tickets cost £10 and can be bought from Debbie Griffin 01379 854233 or Michael Bartlett 01379 852318. Further details in the January Pigeon Post.

Can You Help?

We are sending another consignment to the refugees in Syria and Iraq in late January and so we are again appealing for good quality warm clothing, shoes and blankets. All donations can be left in our back porch at Denbridge on The Street and will be gratefully received.

Thank you in anticipation!

Verona and Rob McWhinney



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Harleston Choral Society

Harleston Choral Society's Christmas Concert is on Saturday 10th December at 7.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston. Come and join us - we're singing Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, 'The Shepherds' Farewell' from Berlioz' *L'Enfance du Christ*, Franck's *Panis Angelicus*, and carols (some with audience participation), with professional soloists and orchestra.

Tickets £10 (accompanied children free) from choir members, or on the night.

Our Spring Term begins on Monday 9th January 2017, at 7.00 pm for collection of subs. We'll be singing Mozart's *Requiem* and works by Haydn and Handel, in preparation for our Summer Concert on 17th June. Do come and sing with us: we welcome *everyone* - especially Tenors ! - whether experienced singers or not, and although it's an advantage to be able to read music, it's not essential. There are no auditions, and music is provided free. Subs are currently £35 per term (some concessions are available). Further information on the HCS website www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk or from Jo Curry on 01986 875494, jo.curry@sky.com

Your Christmas Bin Collection

Bin Calendars should have hit your doorsteps during November. These calendars are for two years so please keep them safe.

Collection days changes for Christmas 2016 are:

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

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

Sycamore Farm Shop at Hempnall Green

Sycamore is now open under new management and has many excellent Christmas offers. You can find them at 17 Alburgh Road, Hempnall Green NR15 2NP. They are open Thursday to Sunday. Call 01508 499979 for times and details of Christmas offers.



Good News, Bad News

There is good news and bad news from Harleston Town Council.

The Good News is that the controversial South Norfolk Council imposed toilet block in the car park at Bullock Fair is to be removed. Harleston Town Council is set to take over the running of the old toilet block after it has been refurbished at an undisclosed cost to the district council. The whole exercise – the closing of the old toilets, the installation of the new automatic, ‘self-cleaning’, pay toilets and now their removal - is said to be at a cost of around £150,000 to the tax payer.

Kay Mason Billig, district cabinet member for environment and recycling, said: *“I think it’s safe to say that the modern toilets have not been popular with the people of Harleston and so we have listened and have agreed to reuse the toilet block, without the electronics, elsewhere and refurbish the old loos.”*

The Bad News is that SNC plans to impose car parking charges in Harleston from September 2017. Both Bullock Fair and Broad Street car parks will be taken over by South Norfolk Council, new parking machines will be introduced and although the first hour will be free, thereafter there will be a charge.

Comment: The above information is based on a report in the EDP and confirmed by an SNC source. However, what the report does not make clear is that the imposition of car park charges in Harleston is not yet a done deal. Harleston Town Council still has the opportunity to negotiate a continuation of the current deal whereby they lease the car park from SNC and keep it free for Harleston and the surrounding villages. This is the arrangement that was reached several years ago when SNC first wanted to impose car parking charges. Starston Parish Council (along with other local villages) has been paying a contribution towards the car park costs to Harleston Town Council for several years. Many people feel that the imposition of car parking charges could kill the town and force shops to close. The question is, will Harleston Town Council agree with that view?.

South Norfolk Community Awards

Volunteers are the shining stars in our communities and we hope the awards will help recognise the work that they do. Nominate your shining star for a South Norfolk Community Award and they could be in with a chance to win £250 for the charity or community group of their choice. Nominations close on Sunday 8th January. To nominate go online to www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/champions or call 01508 533945.



RoughCast Theatre - A Christmas Carol

As their first Christmas show RoughCast are presenting an original adaptation of that perennial seasonal favourite, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The story of the reclamation of that self-confessed 'Humbug' Ebenezer Scrooge never fails to delight audiences of all ages with its colourful cast of famous characters both real and ghostly.

RoughCast's involving promenade performance with carols to sing and dances to join (for those so inclined) should guarantee to get your festive season off to the merriest of starts - even if Christmas tends to bring out your own inner Scrooge!

Performances at Huntingfield, Stowmarket, Hoxne, Southwold and Wingfield Barns from Dec 9th-18th.

For further details and to book tickets visit www.roughcast.co.uk or phone 01379 586745

Harleston & District Dementia Friendly Community

Since our successful launch in October we have been very busy working behind the scenes. We have hosted two successful 'Dementia Friends' workshops, raising awareness of dementia. We would like to thank Emma Eltringham and Lynn Arnold for facilitating these sessions and also the residents who have taken part. We will be announcing more sessions in the near future.

We are very pleased to announce that our 'Dementia Drop-In' session will be held on January 19th from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm at The Swift Piano Bar at the Swan Hotel. This event is for carers and people living with dementia and will give us the opportunity to talk to you, listen to your views and assess what services we can facilitate in Harleston to support the community. There will also be a representative from South Norfolk District Council in attendance to provide advice with respect to their 'Forget-Me-Not' grants, for residents living with dementia.

Please do come along and join us for a cup of tea and a slice of cake whilst listening to some nostalgic piano playing. You are very welcome to drop in at any time between 2.00 pm and 4.30.00 pm and we very much look forward to meeting you then. Finally we will be in attendance at the Harleston Christmas Lights Switch On event on Saturday 3rd December. Please come and say hello.

For further information please contact patricia.simmonds@mail.com 07593 391684 or frances.bickley@harlestantowncouncil.co.uk 07462 229920



He's Behind You... ..Oh No He Isn't

A guide to some of the local pantomimes this Christmas

Jack And The Beanstalk: Theatre Royal, Norwich

13th Dec 2016 to 15th Jan 2017

Starring Richard Gauntlett as the Dame, and Ben Langley as Silly Billy. Down on his luck and barely able to afford the rent, Jack is tricked into selling the family cow for a handful of magic beans. Website: <http://www.theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk/>

Beauty And The Beast: Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

2nd Dec 2016 to 15th Jan 2017

A journey of enchantment and magic in one of the most loved fairytales of all time! Set in the depths of Beastly St Edmunds, the story of Beauty and the Beast is brought to life in a traditional family pantomime! Who is the mysterious beast hiding in the shadows? Will Beauty overcome her fears? And will love conquer all? There will be plenty of music, wonder, fun and laughter in a story to warm your heart and make your spirits soar.

Website: <https://www.theatreroyal.org/shows/beauty-and-the-beast/>

Sinbad: New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich

24th Nov 2016 to 28th Jan 2017

Performed in the New Wolsey Theatre's ever-popular actor-musician style, this brand new adaptation of the amazing adventures of Sinbad is bursting with music, mayhem and magic. Sinbad, determined to win the hand of the beautiful Princess Pearl, sets sail aboard the Saucy Sausage on his most dangerous voyage yet – past the Island of the Sirens, and the Plughole of Poseidon to the paradise of Nirvana itself! But can he save the Princess from the clutches of the evil sorcerer, Sinistro? Will his mother, Dame Doner Souvlakia, find true love in this tropical Paradise? Can fair winds blow Sinbad to fame and fortune, or will the perfect storm shipwreck all his dreams?

Website: <https://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk/shows/sinbad>

Aladdin: Stradbroke-based Puzzle House Pantomimes touring production - St Edmund's Hall in Hoxne – 3rd January, Little Bealings Village Hall – 9th January, Crowfield Village Hall – 10th January, St Michael's Room in Framlingham – 16th January, Wingfield Barns – 17th January.

A traditional family pantomime based on the story of Aladdin, the son of Widow Twankey, a poor washerwoman in the city of Peaktoosoon. Dreaming of Princess Jasmine, he is unaware that he is the only one who can unlock the powerful magic of a lamp hidden in the Mountain of Dragons. Join in with the songs, solve puzzles along the way and try to ensure that the magic lamp does not fall into the wrong hands. All of the shows start at 3.00 pm and end at around 4.45 pm. Tickets are £7 from 01379 384656.



Christmas In Starston

The Church Wardens and congregation of St. Margaret's wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope to see you at one of the following services and events.

- ◆ Sunday 18th December at 6.00 pm: our traditional carol service followed by refreshments. There is no morning service on this day.
 - ◆ Friday 23rd December at 4.00 pm: a Christingle service for all, please bring children however small. This is an opportunity to witness the ancient beauty of St Margaret's bathed in the candlelight of the many Christingles when the main lights are momentarily switched off. The Starston Youth Club has organised a simple party for children in the Jubilee Hall to follow the Christingle service at 5.00 pm.
 - ◆ Saturday 24th December at 11.00 pm: Midnight communion service.
 - ◆ Sunday 25th December at 11.00 am: BCP Christmas communion.
 - ◆ Sunday 1st January at 11.00 am: BCP communion followed by Meet, Greet and Mardle at 12.30. This is Starston's way of greeting the new year, an informal gathering in church to meet friends, old and new, and greet 2017 in the good company of Starston residents with a good mardle accompanied by mulled wine, soft drinks and a selection of eats. There will also be an opportunity to see and try bell ringing. Please bring "littlies".
-

County Council News

A countywide crackdown on blue badge fraud is hoped to make life easier for disabled drivers. NCC has revealed it is to place greater focus on ensuring blue badges are being used correctly after it was estimated that 20% are misused in some way. We currently have over 42,000 blue badges across Norfolk and we realise that they are a real lifeline for the users. We have been working with Disabled Motoring UK who have given their support to our initiative. Already since the campaign has started we have had many blue badges returned from people no longer requiring them.

We can all help vulnerable people in Norfolk '*Stay Well This Winter*'. NCC's Public Health team and its partners are encouraging people to look out for others who may struggle to cope during colder weather with their *Stay Well This Winter* campaign. This campaign aims to make people aware of what they can do to keep themselves and their family, friends and neighbours in good health during the colder months. As well as promoting advice and useful information, NCC has joined with Community Action Norfolk to create a Stay Well fund, which is open for applications. For more information visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter

May I wish everyone a very enjoyable and Happy Christmas

Martin Wilby
01379 741504 martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk



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Local Films in December

Pennovers Film (Pulham St Mary)

No film in December. Next film night is on Friday 20th January 2017

Harleston Film (Masonic Rooms, Thoroughfare, Harleston)

No film in December.

Alburgh Film (Alburgh Village Hall)

Title: The Grinch (PG)

Date: Wednesday 21st December **Time:** 2.30 pm

Cost: Free entry. Ice cream and popcorn available.

Inside a snowflake exists the magical land of Whoville. In Whoville, live the Whos, an almost mutated sort of munchkinlike people. All the Whos love Christmas, yet just outside of their beloved Whoville lives the Grinch, a nasty creature that hates Christmas and plots to steal it away from the Whos which he equally abhors. Yet a small child, Cindy Lou Who, decides to try to befriend the Grinch.

A Christmas film for children.

Other Carol Services

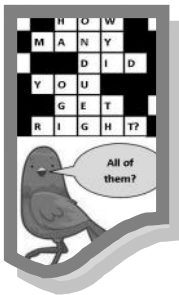
As well as the various Sunday Carol Services - see page 26 - there are also the following:

Shimpling Carol Service: Thursday 15th December at 7.30 pm.

Frenze Carols by Candlelight: Tuesday 13th December at 7.00 pm



Answers to the November Crossword



ACROSS

1. Omelette
7. Punch
8. Customary
9. Opt
10. Ruin
11. Detain
13. Sledge
14. Gillie
17. Grotto

18. Warp
20. Who
22. Emergency
23. Shard
24. Impaired

DOWN

1. Occur
2. En suite
3. Eyot

4. Tea set
5. Union
6. Shuttle
7. Pyramid
12. Ignored
13. Slowest
15. Learner
16. Stream
17. Gonad
19. Payed
21. Agra



December Crossword by Puffin

1			2		3		4		5			6
		7								8		
9									10			
					11							
12				13			14	15				
16					17		18					19
					20							
21			22						23			
		24										
25							26					

CLUES ACROSS

1. Aromatic balm (6)
4. To complete (6)
7. Asked for advice (9)
9. Reared or raised (4)
10. Work station (4)
11. Age (3)
12. Vent or exit (6)
14. Vegetable (6)
16. Not as hard (6)
18. Setting agent (6)
20. Poem (3)
21. Found on a farthing or in the garden (4)
23. Musical rope (4)
24. Take a letter, Miss Jones (9)
25. To rule (6)
26. Spin or turn (6)

CLUES DOWN

1. Tree-like grass (6)
2. Provided with shoes (4)
3. Antique gun (6)
4. Dutiful son (6)
5. Want (4)
6. Neck feathers or ruffle (6)
7. Guaranteed the quality (9)
8. Subtract the PAYE (9)
13. Female sheep (3)
15. Suffolk village (3)
16. Scattering seed (6)
17. Putrid (6)
18. Harass or vex (6)
19. A knot or lump (6)
22. Pleasant (4)
23. Price (4)



Benefice Services in December

	4th Advent 2	11th Advent 3	18th Advent 4	24th Christmas Eve	25th Christmas Day
Dickle- burgh	9.30am HC	9.30am HC	9.30am BCP 6.30pm Carol Service	3.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm MC	At Pulham St. Mary, Rushall or Starston
Pulham Market	9.30am HC. 6.30pm Celebration	8.00am HC 10.45am Memorial Hall	9.30am HC	11.30pm MC	10.30am Methodist Church
Pulham St Mary	8.00am BCP Communion 9.30am Messy Church	9.30am HC	9.30am Morning Prayer 5.00pm Carol Service	6.00pm Crib Service	9.30am Christmas Communion
Rushall	11.00am BCP Matins	11.00am HC	3.00pm Carol Service		10.00am Christmas Celebration
Starston	11.00am BCP Communion	11.00am BCP Matins	5.00pm Carol Service	11.00pm MC	11.00am Christmas Communion
Thelveton	9.30am HC	11.00am BCP Matins	11.00am Carol Service		At Pulham St. Mary, Rushall or Starston

Key To Services

HC: Holy Communion

PC: Parish Communion

BCP: Book of Common Prayer

SW: Sunday Worship

CC: Café Church

MC: Midnight Communion



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	jakast@toucansurf.com
Bobbie Formston	Tree Warden	01379 853042	jformston07@talktalk.net
John Formston	Footpaths	01379 853042	jformston07@talktalk.net
Sam Carter		Not available	sam@samuelcarter.com
Helen Gale		Not available	helengale00@hotmail.com

VACANCY

Clare Crane Clerk to the Council and RFO 01379 608590

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

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Harleston Information Plus

Ring: **01379 851917**
hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk



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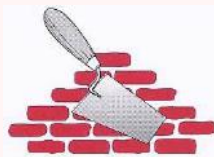
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