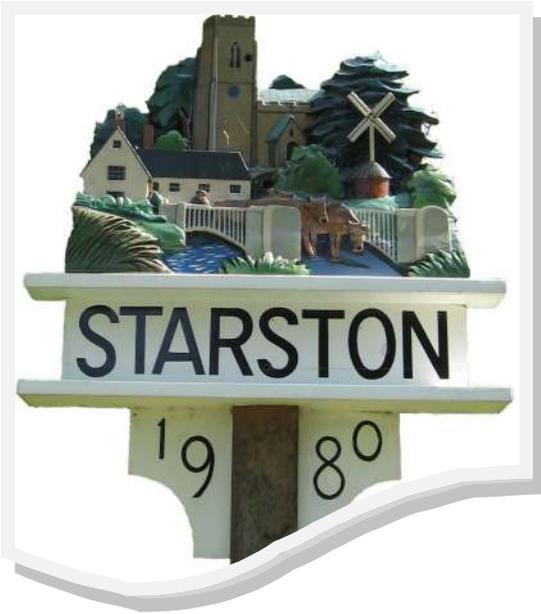


# PIGFEON POST



February 2020 Issue 337





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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: pigeonpost19@gmail.com

### Advertising

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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 **Sue Moore (852387)** so that we can welcome them in Pigeon Post.

# Village Diary

*Saturday 8th February* 3 pm to 4.30 pm

*Litter Pick and Treasure Hunt* see page 23

*Friday 21st February* 6 pm to 10 pm

*Pub Night in the Jubilee Hall* see page 7

*Monday 2nd March* 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

*Parish Council Meeting in the Jubilee Hall* all welcome

*Sunday 8th March* Afternoon

*SYC Slime Sunday* details in the next edition

*Thursday 12th March* 7.30 pm

*Talk: How to Train a Guide Dog* details in the next edition



**To Book the Jubilee Hall - Contact the Bookings Manager:**

**Robert Wood:** 01379 852535 or **Email:** [starstonrobert@gmail.com](mailto:starstonrobert@gmail.com)

**Deputy: Joy Brooks:** 01379 854755 or [joybrooks2007@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joybrooks2007@yahoo.co.uk)



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

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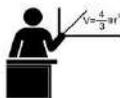
Jubilee Hall Wi-Fi Hot Spot: **Network:** Jubilee Hall **Password:** Starston

Facebook email address: [starstonFB@btconnect.com](mailto:starstonFB@btconnect.com)

**Final Copy Date for March edition:  
12.00 Noon - WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY**



## Lucy Cave BSc, PGCE



*Starston resident*

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## ***Around and About the Village***

### **Brockdish Snowdrop Open Garden**

Sunday 16th February, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Enjoy a circular walk around 2 acres of woodland and gardens that lead down to the river Waveney watching out for wildlife, birds and a beautiful display of snowdrops and spring flowers

In aid of E.A.A.A., St Elizabeth Hospice, N & N Boudicca Breast Cancer Appeal, Prostate Cancer and other Local Charities.

Teas, cakes and refreshments available  
Stalls - Jams - Craft - Tombola - Raffle and Plants

12 till 4pm ----Adults £3 Children free with an Adult. Dogs welcome on leads

### **Jobs Club**

Wednesday 5th February 2020

Offering a range of free and confidential services in order to help jobseekers on their way to employment, these include:

Help with writing a CV, covering letters and job applications

Information on volunteering opportunities

Tips and advice for job interviews

Local training and courses

1:1 careers advice

Business start up information

In addition to this, 1:1 IT help is also available where jobseekers can learn how to carry out job searches, set up an email account and learn how to use Microsoft Office.

**The Jobs Club is open every Wednesday at Harleston Information Plus, 8 Exchange Street, Harleston from 10am-2pm and everyone is welcome.**

### **Calling all arty and crafty people!**

A friendly and relaxed art and craft group meets at The Space, Burston every Tuesday morning. The group brings together people who enjoy any art or craft; knitting, drawing, embroidery, colouring, felting, crocheting... whatever you like. There is a still-life table set up for those who want to draw or paint – just bring along your own choice of materials. And for crafters, bring along your own materials or an on-going project. Enjoy a relaxing morning of chat, coffee and crafts in the beautiful new studio at The Space, Burston. This is a Burston Community Project.

Every Tuesday 10am-12pm, The Space, Sterling House, Mill Road, Burston

All abilities very welcome. Drop in sessions are £5 per session or you can book five sessions in advance for £20. No need to book. Refreshments available (additional charge).

For more details contact Julie on 01379 742704 or

email [the.peacock.emporium@gmail.com](mailto:the.peacock.emporium@gmail.com)

### **Evening Inn** with music from The Badger

Set, plus Gourmet Burgers Friday

7<sup>th</sup> February from 6.30pm Pennoyer Centre  
Pulham St Mary 01379 676660

**Psychic night-** Audience of Clairvoyance with Julia Edge Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 7pm for a 7.30pm start £6 per person. Pennoyer Centre 01379 676660



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## **Editor's Notes**

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### **Save the Date!**

We very much hope that on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band will be commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day with a concert at Home Farm Starston, by kind permission of the Taylor family. A treat not to be missed!

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### **February Pub Night**

Starston's next Pub Night will be on Friday 21st February in the Jubilee Hall from 6 pm until 10 pm. Spend the evening or drop in for an hour or two. Beer, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee will be available. There'll be the now traditional quiz - teams of up to six people, £1.00 per person to enter - but there's no obligation to take part. If you'd like fish and chips to be delivered to the Hall please tell Auriel Gibson before 7.00 pm on the day. You can place your order, or get further information about the evening, from Auriel on 01379 854661. Her email address is [aurielgibson@wh5.co.uk](mailto:aurielgibson@wh5.co.uk)

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### **A Penny For Charity**

How much does a penny mean to you? Probably not a lot. I know that if I drop a one penny coin I wonder, given the state of my knees these days, if it is worth bending down to pick it up. I do pick it up because I also have a strong anti-littering instinct but it's that, rather than the value of the coin, that is the motivator.

However, pennies can matter. If you go into the Adnams shop in Harleston and buy something for £14.99 (as I do fairly often) you are asked if you would like to round it up to £15.00 with the extra penny going to charity. I always do. Small amounts are not significant and if my purchase cost £14.95 I'd still round up to £15.00. However, if it cost £14.05 (which would mean a round up of 95 pence) then I probably wouldn't.

No matter. A lot of things these days cost £X.99p and an extra penny doesn't mean anything to me. But it does mean something to a lot of people. Adnams have 13 shops around this region and they all operate the same "Would you like to round it up" scheme. And it pays off. On average, spread across all the shops in the region, this "round up" enables Adnams to donate around £15,000 a quarter to various charities, most of them local and all with East Anglian connections.

Your penny is valuable and you don't even have to bend down to pick it up.

**Michael**



## Ken Ken

A variation on Sudoku, for those of you who like playing with numbers.

The operands represent what to do with the number immediately before each operand.

Each colour defines the boxes that relate to the number and its operand.

So, what to do:- for example – take the '4+' on the top left (coloured ochre) – those two boxes must contain numbers that, when added together equal 4, i.e.  $3 + 1$ .

Another example – the 60x, bottom right (coloured dark blue) – these three boxes must contain numbers that when multiplied together add up to 60 i.e.  $5 \times 4 \times 3$ . And so on.

What makes this more interesting is that you can only use numbers 1 to 6 and no number may appear more than once in any column or row. Answers in next month's PP.

Apparently, the puzzle is named after a Japanese maths teacher who developed it.

4+	9+		2-	2x	
	5+			11+	
6+	6+	11+		8+	4+
		6+	4+		
11+				60x	
18x			6+		




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## **Notes From A Starston Garden**

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I always find it comforting when I discover that gardeners who are much more expert than me can have their failures, just as I do. In the December *Gardening Which?* the magazine's resident vegetable expert, Steve Mercer, confided that he has never yet managed to produce weed-seed-free compost. Snap! No matter how much care I take to avoid adding the seed heads, flowers and even flower buds of chickweed and goose grass to my compost heap, nine months later when I spread the resulting compost on the soil it produces a wonderful crop of chickweed and goose grass.

Another comment in Steve Mercer's article also struck a chord. Writing about the emergence of new pests and diseases he mentioned the allium leaf miner. Snap! For the first time ever my leek crop has been attacked by this tiny fly, the larvae of which bore into the stems or bulbs of leeks, onions, garlic and chives. Practically all the leeks which I planted out early last summer have been affected. The tell tale brown streaks down the length of the leek betoken the presence of brown pupae about 3 mm long. According to the RHS the only way to prevent an infestation is to grow the plants under insect-proof mesh.

The allium leaf miner was first detected in Britain in the Midlands in 2002 and has now spread through much of England and Wales. It's a familiar story. The first recorded outbreaks of lily beetle (1990s), rosemary beetle (mid 1990s), horse chestnut leaf miner (2002) and oak processionary moth (2006) were small and local, all in south east England. Since then, like the Romans, they have moved west and north to cause major problems for gardeners and foresters. It does make me wonder what else is waiting in the wings – and on the wing – to come, to see the opportunities and to conquer.

### **Topical Tip**

On Saturday 8th February I'll be going to the Potato Fair at Stonham Barns to buy my seed potatoes. There are always dozens of varieties to choose from and you can buy exactly the number of potatoes you need as they're not pre-packed. If you're after the second early *Charlotte*, get there at the start as it always sells out quickly.

*Dee the Gardener*

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### **Starston Annual Weather Report**

**Starston rainfall in inches** The 10 year average ending 2019 is 25.36” .**2019—30.65”**

Jan—1.00”	Feb—1.66”	Mar—2.22”	Apr -0.63”	May—1.85”	Jun—3.67”
July— 2.89”	Aug— 1.61”	Sep— 2.92”	Oct-4.89”	Nov-4.07”	Dec-3.24”

The summer will be remembered for being the second hot one on the trot but the autumn has been the wettest ever recorded on the farm with 12.2” in the last 3 months. Starston is roughly 2244 acres which means that this year we received in the region of 18.67m gallons. The greater part of this water drains into the Beck, during the autumn and winter as there is less uptake by trees and plants then add in the water we receive from Pulham and Tivesthall there is little wonder that the low lying meadows are flooded and thereby reducing the flows further downstream. We can only wonder at the fires now in Australia as to how their emergency services and the population are coping with the devastation and fear surrounding them.

*Julian Taylor*



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## **Letter from the Rector**

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### **New Hope**

30 days hath September,  
April, June and November,  
All the rest have 31,  
except for February  
which has 28 and 29 each leap year

I am sure you all remember learning. As a child I always remember thinking how glad I was not to be born on 29<sup>th</sup> February as in my naïve way I thought that I would only have a birthday every four years! Well this year of course is a leap year and for anyone who was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> February I hope that you have good birthday celebrations. February though, whether it is a leap year or not, is a month where there springs a little bit more hope. It is good to see more day light and there is new sight of new life with snow drops and crocuses appearing plus the birth of many baby animals. It is also a month where people traditionally have confirmed their love for one another through Valentine's Day.

February, in small and surprising ways, brings a little bit of hope of spring and new birth after the bleakness and darkness of winter. Sometimes however this hope is dashed when all of sudden there is a blast of cold weather with blizzards and a downfall of snow. Hopefully this won't be the case this year although there are mixed messages from the long-term weather forecasters as to what this winter will bring.

At the end of February this year we begin the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday. The Benefice will have a Lent Course this year based on the film 'The Way'. It stars Martin Sheen as a bereaved father and observes a group of pilgrims walking the Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela. The film is very inspiring as it shows how one can find oneself through self examination, reflection and close relationship. There will be two separate meetings of the Lent course, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening and you would be most welcome to come to either. If you want to know more details then please do contact me.

February in many ways could be seen as a metaphor for life and all its experiences where there are trials and disappointments but also through it all there is love and a chance always of new life and better things to come. I hope then that this February you will have glimpses of good things to come and a chance too to enjoy the new life that is springing up all around us.

With my good wishes to you all.

***The Reverend Sarah Walsh (Rector of Dickleburgh and the Pulhams)***



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## ***Parish Clerk Update***

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District Cllr C Hudson reported at the January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting; £350 Members Ward funding had been granted to the Jubilee Hall to facilitate an outside electrical socket.

£2,500 Community Action Fund grant application had been submitted to facilitate disabled access at the Jubilee Hall, an update on the progress of the application will be provided to the Parish Council in due course.

Progress of the Emerging GNLP, due for public consultation from end January 2020.

Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Councils budgets for 2020-21.

Progress of County Broadband.

Norfolk County Council Trails team will be reviewing the need for a hand rail that was reported to have previously been intact on the slope at FP10 but had not been replaced and it has been reported to NCC Highways team that the wooden bollard at the bottom of Church Hill on the corner of where the church is sited has been reinstated the wrong way, such that the reflectors are incorrectly positioned.

The Clerk will be reporting the following defects to the relevant team at Norfolk County Council.

Potholes along Harleston Road, near to the entrance to 'Kent Skips' heading towards the A140 in Pulham Market.

The two stiles sited along FP18 are now virtually impassable and in need of repair.

The finger post signing FP18 is rotten and is lying on the ground at the Starston Road end. It needs replacing.

Hardwick Road is flooded on the sharp bend at the junction with Slipshoe Lane. The road drains need clearing.

### **2020 Precept / Parish Council Tax**

The setting of the Precept for 2020/21 was discussed at length at the January meeting and a £1.17 (2.5%) increase per average tax band D household from 2019/20 £46.80 to 2020/21 £47.97 was agreed. This represents a total precept increase from £6,552 to £6,716.

Cllr F Fitch has agreed to enquire about the possibility of recruiting a Tree Warden and will report back to the Parish Council at the March meeting.

Cllr L Cave has agreed to lead on the promotion and organisation of the two litter picks that are run by the Parish Council. The dates are aligned with the Starston Youth Club meetings on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The next Parish Council is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, to start at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall, Starston and everyone is always welcome.

***Clare Crane - RFO & Parish Clerk, Starston Parish Council***



## ***Sailing Adventure with the A Team & the Cirdan Trust***

Exciting, Exhilarating and Exhausting! That is what going sailing with the A Team from Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston is. For the past three years, together with Deputy Head Lucy Rogerson, Volunteer Steve Carter and of course the Cirdan Trust crew, I have had the enormous privilege of supporting students from the A Team (students who receive nurture based provision at ASHS) sailing on the tall ship Queen Galadriel. The Queen Galadriel is one of three vessels belonging to the Cirdan Trust which specialises in enabling groups of young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged in some way, to experience the challenge and adventure of life at sea on large sailing vessels.

Our adventure starts at Ipswich Marina where we board the Queen Galadriel, with all our luggage and food (enough to sink a ship!) for our voyage of five days. With bunks assigned, food organised, lunch enjoyed, our journey begins by sailing down the picturesque River Orwell. The River Orwell, one of the prettiest rivers on the east coast, can be sailed from Shotley Spit to Ipswich dock gates at any state of the tide. It flows into the North Sea at Felixstowe, the UK's largest container port after joining with the River Stour at Shotley forming Harwich harbour. We sail approximately 70 miles round the Suffolk and Essex coast sailing past Frinton-On-Sea, Clacton and Brightlingsea. We have been captivated by the seal colony at Walton Backwater, engrossed beach combing on Mersea Island and surprised how interesting the port of Harwich is!



It is extremely rewarding observing the A Team thrive aboard The Queen Galadriel with the Cirdan Trust crew providing workshops that have included knot tying, chart reading, weather forecasting, keeping watch on the bowsprit and climbing the rigging to name some of the activities. It is one of the wettest classrooms and the crew are truly inspirational in how they engage the students.

I would also like to shout out loud about the amazing support that has been received from the community to help feed the budding sailors. The Co-op donated a massive £300 in vouchers for this year's trip with further donations being received from the Food Bank, Tudor House Bakery, Budgens Service Station, The Factory Shop, Londis and McColls. I have even recruited the help of Starston residents. Many thanks to Frank Pearson for 101lbs of venison meat which Stuart (my other half) made into a hearty stew. This was particularly enjoyed by the crew, together with leftover crumble from the Harvest Supper, donated by Bobbie Formston. I can confidently say, we didn't go hungry.

We have had so much fun. Memories have been made that will stay with me for the rest of my life and I am sure the young people would say the same. I can't wait for our next voyage...

**Debbie Griffin**



## Starston-on-Sea



Many of you will know of the flooding that occurred in the centre of the village in December. On the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> I wondered whether the Children's Christmas Party might have to look for a new venue, but thankfully it didn't get that bad. Water was streaming down Railway Hill, in fact the hill was even flooded at the top. In part this was due to the water not being able to access the top drains. Some were clogged up with leaves, but also some time ago the drain at the end of the old railway line was

vandalised and the debris (lumps of concrete) was pushed down the drain; NCC Highways have attended and most of the water is now descending the hill via the drain rather than the road surface. It's not perfect, but a start has been made and the situation is being monitored.

This is not the worst flooding that has occurred in the village by any means. In September 1968 Beck Hall and The Rectory were inundated. Cows on what is now known as the Glebe Meadow had to be led to safety on higher ground. A young lady of the village swam in the water (it must have been rather chilly), and a new grandmother, called to help with her new born grandson, had to be taken across the bridge by tractor. Those were the days!




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### Starston

Do you want to know more about your village?

There is a great deal about the village on the website. Not just what's going on now, but an abundance of other information including the history of the village and archive photos. There is also every copy of the Pigeon Post since 2013, so if you ever want to look back for something that's a good place to start. The organisations within the village all have pages of their own which are maintained by their members, so there's plenty to occupy you. <http://starstonvillage.co.uk>



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## Two Starston Governesses

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This is the story of an illegitimate child, an unusual first name, name variants, emigration, a brother's death ... and two governesses.

I belong to the Family and Community Historical Research Society, (<http://www.fachrs.com/>) which encourages its members to get involved in researching local people, events and institutions within the historical projects that it organises. As part of its project on governesses, I was sent the details of Lavina (or Lavinia) Harris who was living in Starston in 1881, employed as a governess. The research threw up several challenges, not least that she was called Savina, not Lavina (surprising how similar capital Ls and Ss look in nineteenth century handwriting!) and her birth surname was Garrod not Harris! I did not find out much about what Savina did as a governess, but as she worked for one of the main farming families in Starston and led quite an eventful life, I thought her story might be of interest to present-day Starston residents.

Savina Harris Garrod was born in Bressingham in late 1858 or early 1859, the illegitimate daughter of Elizabeth Garrod. She was baptised Savina Garrod (sic) at the parish church on 27 January 1859; no details of her father were given, nor was she given a middle name at baptism. Within about a year of Savina's birth, her mother Elizabeth married William George Harris, a yeoman, some fifteen years older than her, in the parish church at Diss, so it seems likely that William was Savina's father, particularly as she was given the middle name of Harris when her birth was registered some ten months earlier. In 1861, William and Elizabeth, with Sabina (sic) aged two, were living at Walcot Green, Diss, with William described as a landed proprietor.

By 1881, Savina Harris, aged 22, was employed in Starston, Norfolk as a governess in the household of James Chambers on Hardwick Road, a farmer of 191 acres employing six men and one boy. The family also employed a 15-year-old female dairymaid. James and his wife Kezia had five children living at home at this time, Frank aged fourteen and described as a farmer's son, so he presumably worked on the family farm, Lewis aged nine, Frances aged seven and Gibbon aged five all described as scholars, and 10-month-old Jack. It is not known whether Lewis, Frances or Gibbon attended Starston School, which was a good two-mile walk, or whether Savina was employed as their governess, teaching them at home. She may though have been employed primarily as a nursemaid for the youngest, Jack.

Kezia Chambers' younger brother, Daniel Isaac Danby, was recorded as living at Starston Hall (the next but one entry in the census to James and Kezia Chambers), farming 290 acres, employing nine men and one boy. Daniel and his wife Rebecca had four children aged nine, eight, five and two, with the three eldest described as scholars. Daniel Danby also employed a dairymaid, a nursemaid and an eighteen-year-old governess, the delightfully named Hagar Fryer. Perhaps by employing Savina Harris as a governess for her young children, Kezia was keeping up with the neighbours, in this case her brother!




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## Two Starston Governesses

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On Boxing Day 1885, Savina married Walter Shepherd in Diss, where she was then resident, possibly with her family at the farm at Walcot Green. Walter who was six years younger than Savina, was described as a farmer from Bressingham although he probably worked on his father Charles's farm in the village rather than running his own farm! As was the custom at the time, Savina married under her birth name of Savina Garrood and her father was described as 'unknown'. Ironically, one of the witnesses was W.G. Harris, who was probably her birth father!

Within six months, Walter and Savina Shepherd were on their way to Australia on board the *Roma*, possibly with an assisted passage. They arrived in Queensland in mid-May 1886. The couple had three children while out in Australia, all born in Townsville, Queensland – Charles, who was born in October 1886 and died six days later of convulsions, (so Savina must have been pregnant on the voyage over), Harold and Winifred. The transcripts of the Australian birth indexes on Ancestry show the issues involved in researching Savina Garrood as she is recorded as 'Servina Harris', 'Lavina Garrood' and 'Savina Garrood' with regard to her three children's births, only the last being accurate in respect of her birth name!

Walter, Savina and their two surviving children, Harold and Winifred, were back in Norfolk by 1901, although no record has been found of their return passage. It is possible they decided to return following the death in 1892 of Savina's father, William George Harris and of her brother Charles the following year; both William's other sons were employed in the drapery business, so perhaps there was no one else left to run the farm. Whatever the reason, it seems that Walter and Savina returned to the Harris family farm, as in 1901, the couple and their children were living at Walcot Green, Diss. Walter was recorded as a farmer and an employer, and a sixteen-year-old 'farm lad' was living with the family. Elizabeth Harris, Savina's widowed mother, was living on her own in a two-roomed house nearby, possibly a cottage attached to the farm. By 1911, Walter and Savina were farming at Oak Tree Farm in Burgate, the other side of Diss from Walcot Green. Their children had moved out and Savina's mother had died so the only other resident was Walter's 14-year-old niece. Savina Shepherd died in 1923 at the age of 64 and her husband Walter in 1934, at the age of 69. It is possible, especially given their ages, that they were still farming at Oak Tree Farm at the time of their deaths.

**Rosemary Steer**

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### Speedwatch

2 Sessions only Christmas Break - 233 vehicles 13 over limit

Two of the speed watch team will shortly be moving from Norfolk.

On behalf of Starston Village I thank them for their commitment and willingness in volunteering to keep Starston safer. The team needs replacements - please help us to get speeds reduced.

During the Christmas break a 1 hour exercise, to check effectiveness was completed by a Speedwatch team without high vis jackets. In 1 hour 267 vehicles passed, 31 over the limit, far more than if we'd made ourselves more visible. The check was carried out mid afternoon.

**Co-ordinator**




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## Church Magazines

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The following appeared in Church bulletins or church magazines, (not in Starston). You don't get errors like this in Pigeon Post! We do much better? Quiet at the back, there.

---

**At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.**

-----

**Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.**

-----

**Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.**

-----

**The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility..**

-----

**Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.**

-----

**The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.**

-----

**This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.**

-----

**Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.**

-----

**The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.**

-----

**Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.**

-----

**The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.**

-----

**Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.**

-----

**The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."**



## Christmas Wreaths

Auriel had the wonderful idea of putting her expert knowledge of floristry to raise money for East Anglian Air Ambulance and give her friends a day's tuition in making Christmas wreaths and table decorations. It was so popular that a second day was added and on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December about 12 people each day assembled at Auriel's to start work (because it was hard work).



Firstly, Auriel showed us how to moss the wire frame, back the frame with hessian and then wire on foliage and decorations. This is a proper florists wreath and after trial and error our results were impressive. Mid-morning we were treated to mulled wine and mince pies and by 1pm we were all ready for delicious homemade soup, rolls and fruit.

After lunch we were shown how to make a willow wreath and then how to make table decorations on a log. Auriel had prepared all the foliage and decorations beforehand, which, I know was very hard work and we were all grateful to her for giving her time so generously. These were thoroughly enjoyable days and some people had come quite a distance to take part. I sincerely hope Auriel will have the energy to perhaps do it again next year.

I give below an extract from a letter received by Auriel from East Anglia Air Ambulance in thanks for the donation.

“On behalf of everyone at EAAA it is my pleasure to thank you for your recent and very generous donation of £475.00 raised from your wreath making class, what a lovely way to fundraise at this time of year. I hope everyone had a lovely time. Please do pass on our thanks to all those who contributed..

We rely on the generous support of the community, without whom we could not continue to provide our life-saving service. If you would like to find out about other ways of supporting EAAA please get in touch with our fundraising team. Together we can save lives.”

**Jane Pearson**






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## **The Pigeon Post Team**

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The Team had their annual business meeting in January. We were pleased to find that our finances are still in order so we will be able to continue to provide the Pigeon Post free of charge to every home in the village. This is in large part due to the fact that we have a group of advertisers who continue to support us; I hope in turn you are able to support them by using their services.

We had some decisions to make concerning various aspects of the Pigeon Post and we have decided that for 2020 the team will not run the Photo Competition. Of course, if anyone else would like to take up the challenge and run this event we could certainly publicise it for them.

We would like to thank everyone who makes the PP possible. The advertisers, the writers, the people from other villages who send us information, the printer (Town & Country Printers, Diss), the groups within the village who send us their news and very importantly, the people who bring it to your door.

If you would like to volunteer to help in some way please get in touch.

Thank you.

**Sue Moore, Co-ordinating Editor**

### **Jack Valentine**

It's said to be a Norfolk tradition, but do you know different?

There is a tradition in these parts, which I remember from childhood. I have only recently realised that it's said to be very specific to Norfolk. On the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> February there would be a knock at the door (three loud knocks to be precise), but when the door is opened there is no one there, and indeed no one can be seen anywhere about in the street (not difficult on a dark February evening). There is however something, if not someone, there; on the doorstep would be a bag of sweets for the children of the house.

I must admit it was always a nice treat coming part-way between Christmas and Easter. The legend of Jack Valentine is used as part of the plot in *The Stone Circle* by Elly Griffiths, published by Quercus. This is the eleventh book in the series of *Dr Ruth Galloway Mysteries*. These are set in north west Norfolk and are a very good read. The first in the series is *The Crossing Places*.

*Sue*

### **Starston on Facebook**

Starston has a Facebook page, which is looked after by Anna Saul. It can be very useful; recently someone lost their keys whilst walking on the Glebe, and by posting on the Facebook page they were soon located as another Facebook user had found them. Of course not everyone has a Facebook account, but if you want Anna to post anything on your behalf please email her on [starstonFB@btconnect.com](mailto:starstonFB@btconnect.com). There is also a link to the Facebook page on the homepage of the village website <http://starstonvillage.co.uk>



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## ***Crafty alert!***

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Take a look at our new advert on page 21. PopCraft in Eye has just opened and is a new project for Katie and her family. Katie grew up in Starston and returned to the area with her family thirteen years ago. She loves handicrafts and hopes to help others get started, not just by selling her products, but by offering classes and informal help with projects. If you've never been to Eye, despite being the other side of the border it's really not that scary! It's a small market town 15-20 minutes drive down the A140. It has a good selection of small independent shops (including a very good fabric shop just around the corner from PopCraft), two free car parks as well as on street parking and a castle. PopCraft is situated between the chemist and the bakers and opposite the Chocolate Café - another reason for a visit!

If you Pop in let Katie know you're from Starston.

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### **Harleston Forget – Me - Not Café**

Our Café this month is kindly sponsored by  
**GATHERING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY & THE GRAPEVINE**

Come along to the Swan Hotel, Harleston on  
**Thursday 20<sup>TH</sup> February at 2pm**

Come and enjoy a Music Therapy Session with Kate  
 We provide support and companionship to those in the Community who are experiencing issues with their memory.

Please be assured of a very warm, friendly welcome to everyone.

All our sponsors are always welcome to come along to any of the Café's and join us for Tea



### **Music Therapy for Dementia – How does it help???**

Music Therapy works on maintaining communicative and physical skills. It is a great motivator for promoting interaction.

Music has been shown to elevate moods, and helps to raise self-esteem levels. A Qualified Music Therapist looks at measuring responses as well as engaging in activities such as singing and free-music making. An enjoyable and fun session for everyone.

If you would like any more information on our Dementia Friendly Community or the Café's contact Pat on - email [Patricia.simmonds@mail.com](mailto:Patricia.simmonds@mail.com) or call on 01379 676557



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## County Council Report

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Norfolk County Council has already banned the release of sky lanterns or balloons on their land or property. We're now encouraging businesses, communities, landowners and individuals to sign up to a charter and do the same. Sky lanterns and helium-filled balloons can cause many problems such as a significant fire hazard to buildings, woodland and farmland. Some 'degradable' items can last months or even years and leftover parts from sky lanterns and balloons can trap or choke wildlife and livestock. There are many fun alternatives that can be used such as tree planting, flag flying, or even releasing giant bubbles. Visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/balloonsandskylanterns](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/balloonsandskylanterns) to find out more and support the charter.

At a Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January it was agreed to recommend to South Norfolk Council, Broadland Council and Norwich City Council to go ahead with the draft GNLP (Greater Norwich Local Plan) Regulation 18 consultation which will start on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January and run to March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020. There will be consultation events held across the whole area including Harleston, so look out for them being advertised. All information can be found on the GNDP website. The new timetable for the GNLP is as follows,

- Reg 18 consultation January – March 2020
- Publish Pre-submission Draft Plan (Reg 19) January – February 2021
- Formal Submission of GNLP to Secretary of State (Reg 22) June 2021
- Public Examination November/December 2021
- Consultation on proposed modifications February – March 2022
- Publication of Inspectors Report June 2022
- Adoption of the GNLP Local Plan August/September 2022

A £1 million per year fund to boost community schemes is being considered by Norfolk County Council. Known as the social infrastructure fund, it could provide grants of between £100,000 and £500,000 to groups wishing to invest in new community facilities. As well as this fund, other highlights in the capital budget include: £39.2 million for adult social care, including Living Well extra care housing £172 million for children's services, including new special educational needs schools £171 million for highways scheme, including the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing and A47 improvements (dualling of the Acle Straight and from Tilney to East Winch) The full council will take the final decision on these proposals at the annual budget meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Drive safer for longer**

NCC's road safety team offers guidance for older drivers (GOLD) to help address specific driving issues – whether it's lack of confidence in your driving, a medical condition or you just want some reassurance that you are still driving well. The sessions take place in your own car and are tailored to individual needs and concerns. To find out more visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/gold](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/gold) or email.

**Martin**



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## 2020 Starston Youth Club (SYC) Activities

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SYC is holding another year of varied and exciting events for Starston children. 2019 ended with a fun filled Christmas Party, including a visit from Father Christmas, following the packed Christingle service in Starston Parish Church.

The first club in 2020 was a colourful stone painting session. Next in the calendar is a treasure hunt and village litter pick on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 3-4:30pm, starting in the Jubilee Hall.

The full list of 2020 SYC activities is on the village website and in the village diary in Pigeon Post. Events this year include the annual Easter Egg Hunt (new format), Fireworks Party and Christmas Party, plus by popular demand, another Starston Slime Sunday and dry air clay modelling session. Events new for 2020 include building a bug hotel on the Glebe Meadow, orienteering and a nature exploration walk. 2020 is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of SYC, so plans are afoot for a special anniversary celebration – more details later in the year.

All ages are welcome, so do join us. The SYC whatsapp group is the best way for families to keep up to date with events – contact Ann Leitch if you would like to be included.

SYC is running another Starston Slime Sunday on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. For this we need the small plastic pots (clean!) that once contained sauce, that you get with take away Chinese meals. If you have any of these please pass them on to a member of the SYC team. The children can then use them to take home their slime!

**Sam, Janet, Lucy, Ann, Brian**  
2020 SYC organising team





## Local Films in February

### Pennovers Film (Pulham St Mary)

**Title:** Downton Abbey (PG) Drama/Romance

**Date:** Friday 21st February **Time:** 8.00 pm. Doors open 7.15 pm

**Cost:** Adults £5.00 in advance, £5.50 on the door

The beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit soon unleashes scandal, romance and intrigue, leaving the future of Downton hanging in the balance

Starring Maggie Smith, Michelle Dockery, Matthew Goode

### Harleston Film (Masonic Rooms, Thoroughfare, Harleston)

**Title:** Knives Out (12A) Drama

**Date:** Thursday 27th February **Time:** 2pm & 7.30pm (doors 30 minutes earlier)

**Cost:** £4 payable on entry, but please book at Harleston Information Plus 01379 851917, or email [hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk) giving names and which performance.

A fun, modern day 'Whodunit'. If you are a fan of a good murder mystery, this will be the film for you.

Ice cream will be available in the interval. Bar available in the evening, courtesy of Harleston Masonic Lodge

Further info: Carolyn 854752, Lesley 854897

### Alburgh Film (Alburgh Village Hall)

**Title:** Judy (12A) Biopic/Drama

**Date:** Friday 21st February **Time:** 7.30 pm. Doors & Bar open 6.45 pm

**Cost:** £5, under 16's £2.50

30 years after 'The Wizard Of Oz' actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London and meets Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband.

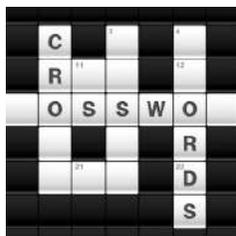
Starring Renee Zellweger, Finn Wittrock, Michael Gambon

Bar. Ice Creams in the interval.

Further details 01986 788477 <http://www.alburgh.org.uk/>

## Answers to the January Crossword

### ACROSS



1. Gully
3. Ambient
6. Marquee
8. Avert
10. reach
11. Gnocchi
14. Potato
15. Native
17. Pundits
20. Wrath
21. Asset

22. Iterate
23. Hobnobs
24. Ducks

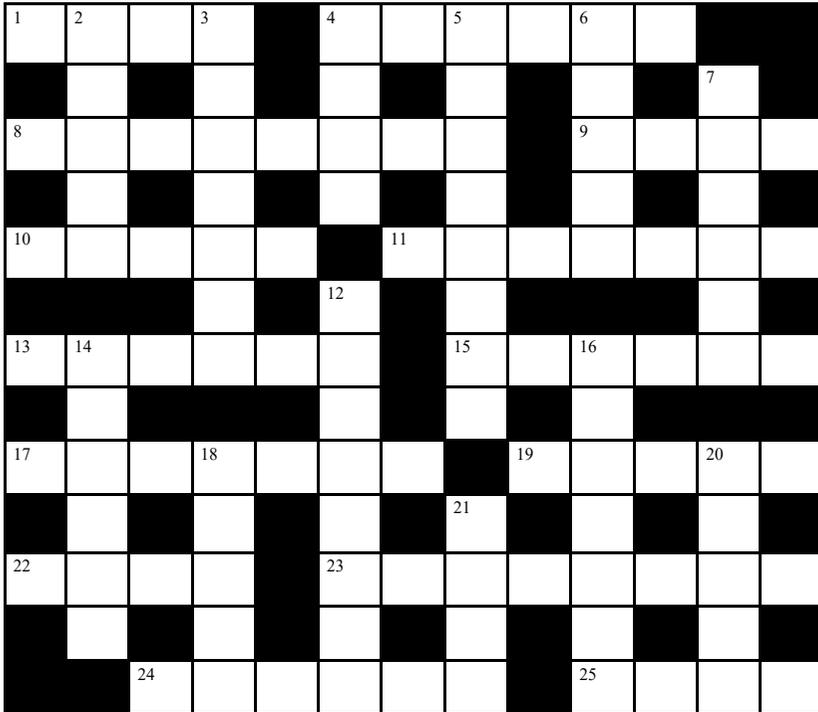
### DOWN

1. Gum Drops
2. Youth
3. Abeng
4. Beano
5. Tutti

7. Reactants
9. Enchilada
12. Nani
13. Root
16. Echoers
17. Peach
18. Intro
19. Spies
20. Wield



## February Crossword by Zennor



### CLUES ACROSS

#### All things that you might find in or on the water

1. Sideways mover (4)
4. Small craft (6)
8. Microscopic organism drifting or floating in the sea (8)
9. Seaweed (7)
10. Efficient fisher in rivers (5)
11. Lady in the water (allegedly) (7)
13. Any person in the water (6)
15. Riding the wave (sometimes) (6)
17. More bread, more bread (7)
19. A ring-shaped reef or island formed of coral (5)
22. Conveyance upon the water (4)
23. People controlling 22 Across (8)
24. Nickname of Scottish tourist attraction (allegedly) (6)
25. Elegant swimmer and often a pub name (4)

### CLUES DOWN

2. Landlord's action when a flat becomes vacant (5)
3. Archaic third person singular form meaning to tie up (7)
4. What you store on your computer (4)
5. Rubbish (8)
6. More rubbish (5)
7. Of mountains, often Swiss (5)
12. Ancient Greek or Roman war galley with three banks of oars (8)
14. Native American who can fly a helicopter (6)
16. Lowest service ranks on 22 Across (7)
18. Brief or temporary failure of memory (5)
20. Active immature form of an insect (5)
21. Soft French cheese (4)



## ***Benefice Services in February***

	<b>2nd Candlemas</b>	<b>9th 3 before Lent</b>	<b>16th 2 before Lent</b>	<b>23rd Next before Lent</b>	<b>Wednesday 26th</b>
<b>Dickle- burgh</b>	9.30am All Age Communion	9.30am PC	9.30am BCP Matins	9.30am PC	
<b>Pulham Market</b>	9.30am HC 6.30pm Celebration	8.00am HC 10.45am Memorial Hall	9.30am HC	9.30am SW	
<b>Pulham St Mary</b>	8.00am HC	9.30am HC	9.30am HC	9.30am BCP Matins	
<b>Rushall</b>	11.00am BCP Matins	11.00am HC	11.00am SW	11.00am SW	7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion
<b>Starston</b>	11.00am BCP Communion	11.00am BCP Matins	11.00am BCP Communion	11.00am Great & Small	
<b>Thelveton</b>	11.00am SW	11.00am BCP Matins	Church Open for Private Prayer	11.00am HC	

### 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](mailto:rcawcutt1@btinternet.com)

**Web Site for all information on the Benefice:**    <http://www.thebenefice.org.uk/>



## **Starston Parish Council**

Ann Leitch	Chair	N'hood Plan	<i>a_leitch@live.co.uk 01379423387</i>
Richard Franklin	Vice Chair	Village Sign	<i>richard.franklin@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Janet Broadhurst	Footpaths	Emergency Plan	<i>janetbroadhurst@aol.com 01379853480</i>
Jane Marsden	Member		<i>janelouisemarsden@icloud.com</i>
Stuart Griffin	Welcome Co-ordinator		<i>stuart.griffin@live.co.uk</i>
Fay Fitch	Member		
Lucy Cave	Member		
<b>Clare Crane Clerk to the Council and RFO 01379 608590</b>			
To contact Starston Parish Council: <i>starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk</i>			
<b>Starston Village Web Site: <u><i>www.starstonvillage.co.uk</i></u></b>			

## **Local Councillors**

Martin Wilby	County	01379 741504	<i>martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk</i>
Clayton Hudson	District	01379 676259	<i>chudson@s-norfolk.gov.uk</i>

## **Community Services**

<b>Local Buses</b> - from Starston to Harleston and Starston to Long Stratton and Norwich	For information Ring: <b>0871 200 2233</b> 12p a minute plus access charge
<b>Border Hoppa</b> - dial-a-ride service	Ring: <b>01379 854800</b>
<b>Police</b> - (non-emergency)	Ring: <b>101</b>
<b>Safer Neighbourhood Team</b>	<b>Email:</b> <i>sntharleston@norfolk.pnn.police.uk</i>
<b>Report Power Cuts</b>	Ring <b>105</b>
<b>NHS Emergency &amp; Urgent Care Services</b> (Including Emergency out of hours chemist)	Ring: <b>111</b> when it's less urgent than 999
<b>Refuse Collection and Queries</b>	Ring: <b>01508 533830</b>
<b>Harleston Information Plus</b>	Ring: <b>01379 851917</b> <i>hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk</i>



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