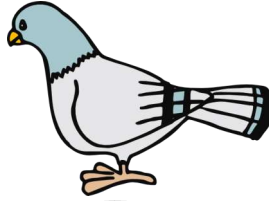


PIGTEON POST



March 2024 Issue 386





‘For Starston People’ <i>The Production Team</i>		<i>Copyright ©2024 PIGEON POST</i>
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<p>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 noon on 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.</p> <p>Please send copy by e-mail to: pigeonpost19@gmail.com</p>		
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<p style="text-align: center;">Distribution</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pigeon Post is delivered free to every home in Starston.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">It can also be sent by email in PDF format.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To request a PDF version please contact the Co-ordinating Editor.</p>		
<p>If you know of any new residents in the village please tell Norman Steer (854245), Michael Bartlett (852318) or Brian Greathead (852352) to ensure they are welcomed and receive the Pigeon Post</p>		

Front Cover Photo: Starston Glebe Meadow: Rosemary Steer

Village Diary

Friday 1st March

2.00 pm

Funeral of Donnie Payne—St. Margaret's Church

Wednesdays 6th and 20th March

Starston Warm Welcome—Jubilee Hall

Monday 18th March

7.30 pm

Parish Council meeting in the Jubilee Hall

Saturday 30th March

Youth Club - Easter Egg Hunt on the Glebe with Easter crafts

Saturday 20th April

7.30 pm

St. George's Day Dinner—see page 10

Sunday 28th April

After morning service

St. Margaret's Church Annual Meetings— see Page 10



To Book the Jubilee Hall - Contact the Bookings Manager:

Robert Wood: 01379 852535 ***or Email:*** starstonrobert@gmail.com

Deputy: Joy Brooks: 01379 854755 ***or*** joybrooks2007@yahoo.co.uk



Let us know of anything happening in the village

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

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

Starston Village Website: <http://starstonvillage.co.uk/>

Webmaster: Stuart Griffin: **Website Email:** info@starstonvillage.co.uk

Final Copy Date for the April Edition:
12.00 Noon - Tuesday 12th March



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Thurs	Closed
Fri	8.30am - 1pm 2pm - 6.30pm
Sat	7.30am - 12.30pm

Door closes 15 mins prior to last haircut

01379 854047



Around and About

Mobile Hearing Clinic: Co-op car park, Bullock Fair Close

Mar 4th 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Hearing support service mobile clinic (maintenance of NHS hearing aids)

‘Hear for Norfolk’ run hearing support community-based mobile clinics at a number of locations across the county. There is no need to book an appointment, they offer this service on a drop-in basis. Please call 01603 404440 or email

nda@hearfornorfolk.org.uk for more information.

=====

Harleston Flag Display – St Patrick’s Day

17th March all-day

There will be a display of flags in the town centre to celebrate St Patrick’s Day.

The Flag Force team within Harleston’s Future runs an annual programme of flag

displays in the town centre. The programme has been so successful it has encouraged

other towns to follow the lead. Come and see the original and largest annual flag display.

=====

Brockdish Open Garden – Daffodils and Spring Flowers at The Old Coach House

Mar 24th/25th 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

2 acres of woodland leading to the River Waveney. Teas and refreshments available

Stalls, tombola, plants. In aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance, St Elizabeth Hospice and local charities.

=====

Harleston Spring Fair – Crafts and Plants

30th March 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

COST: Free Contact: Harleston's Future: ***<https://www.harlestonsfuture.org.uk/>***

=====

The Pennoyer Centre

An Evening with Steve Holbrook. Monday 4th March.

Steve Holbrook is a popular psychic and clairvoyant from Yorkshire who communicates with ‘the other side’ for your amazement and pleasure.

Doors open 6.30 pm for 7.30 pm start. There will be an interval and approx. 9.30pm finish. Please contact the centre to book tickets.

The Pulham Pigs - Airship Talk. Thursday 7th March. 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Sheila tells the story of RNAS Pulham, its people and its amazing airships. Using slides from the Centre’s archives alongside Pathe news footage. Discover the fascinating history of Norfolk’s flying Pigs!

After the talk there will be the opportunity to visit our museum with Sheila and look at some of the objects in our collection. Please contact the centre to book tickets.

Pennoyer Film Night

Friday 15th March

THE GREAT ESCAPER (PG)

Bernard Jordan, a World War II veteran, sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Bar opens 7.00pm with film starting at 7.30pm.



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The End of Pigeon Post

With great regret the Pigeon Post team has decided that, unless more people join the editorial team within the next few months, especially someone who is willing to help with the main administration, then the magazine will have to close down at the end of the year. As things stand at the moment, December 2024 will be the final edition.

When Michael offered to do another year he made it clear that he would not be able to go on beyond December 2024. When he leaves there will only be three editors to share all the work between them and – more important - no-one to actually handle the necessary admin - collecting the material, preparing the monthly template, liaising with the printer and so on.

For over a year now we have been trying to find other people to join the team and ease the burden on a few individuals but so far we have not been successful. So if there is anything you think you can do to help, however small, please get in touch. Michael has a list of the admin things that need to be done and would be happy to talk it through with anyone who is interested.

Pigeon Post has been running since March 1991 and it will be very sad if it has to come to an end but these things do not organise themselves and without additional editorial team members it cannot continue.

We do appreciate that helping to run a magazine like Pigeon Post is not for everybody but we had hoped that people might have come forward. As that hasn't happened – at least not yet - we have no option but to plan for a final issue at the end of the year.

We would like to thank all those who have helped produce the magazine over the past 33 years and for everyone who has contributed material in that time.

The Pigeon Post Team

Starston Warm Welcome dates for 2024

February 21st
March 6th and 20th
April 3rd and 17th
May 1st and 15th
June 5th and 19th
July 3rd and 17th





RNLI 200th Anniversary

On Monday 4th March 2024 the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) – the charity that saves lives at sea – will celebrate its 200th birthday.

The RNLI has been saving lives at sea since it was founded in 1824 and in that time its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 144,000 lives. Funded by voluntary donations and with lifeboats crewed by specially trained volunteers, the RNLI is a truly unique rescue organisation.

From triumphs to tragedies, from oar-powered vessels to the boats packed with cutting edge technology used today, from introducing lifeboats on the Thames to rolling out a UK beach lifeguard service, from running the UK's biggest ever drowning prevention campaign, to working with others to save lives overseas – the RNLI has a remarkable story to tell.



Through this bicentenary year the charity will be running events and activities to remember its important history and celebrate the modern life saving service it is today while hoping to inspire future generations of lifesavers and supporters.

Exhibitions, outdoor events, special services of thanksgiving, partnerships and educational programmes are just part of the activities which will be taking place across the UK and Ireland. There will also be a special anniversary retail range available through the RNLI shops and on-line.

Today the charity is saving more lives, in more ways, in more places than ever before. It operates 238 lifeboat stations and has seasonal lifeguards on over 240 lifeguarded beaches around the UK and Ireland. It designs and builds its own lifeboats and it runs domestic and international water safety programmes.

But while innovations and developments in technology over the course of 200 years have inevitably changed how the charity saves lives, some things have remained the same. The volunteering ethos at the heart of the RNLI is what makes the charity so special. Volunteers have given their time and commitment over the last two centuries as they continue to do today. And generous donations have continued to power the RNLI's lifesaving work. Everything the RNLI has achieved since 1824 has been made possible thanks to their generosity.

There are 10 lifeboat stations in Norfolk, 6 run by the RNLI and 4 independent ones.



Donnie Payne 1934-2024



The family of Donnie Payne wish to inform the Pigeon Post of the death of their dearly loved Husband, Father, Grandad and Great Grandad aged 89 years - two hours on from his 67th Wedding Anniversary. He had struggled with the conditions of Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia for the latter part of his life, but the twinkle in his eye never waned.

Those who knew Donnie will testify to his decency, kindness, humour and generosity. No one left his well-stocked Poly Tunnels without an armful of vegetables, fruit and good company. Not to mention the tummy full of cakes, pies and buns made by his devoted wife Myra.

Born in 1934 to a family of FIFTEEN brothers and sisters, he left school to become a tractor driver. He moved to Starston after meeting Myra on the village bridge and they married in St. Margaret's Church in 1957. Donnie adored his new in-laws, Roy and Maudie Riches and alongside them became a feature of the village, working for Jack Thorpe on his farm for many years.

Donnie helped whomever he could. He was often seen strimming the Churchyard graves of strangers and in later life became a voluntary hospital car service for those in the community. He also helped Roger Warnes on his farm, expertly tending the land after Roger's father died. The countryside and his home were his happy place and he eventually bought the 6-acre field adjoining his house. He loved the field and created an orchard and spinney for wildflowers and visiting animals. The field also became an enjoyable venue for the many charitable events that he and Myra organised. They raised thousands of pounds for good causes.

As a loving team for 67 years, they created an open house for all, and many will miss the clink of another whisky glass being filled by Donnie for his visitors. His jokes, his parties and his smile will be missed by all who knew him - but none more so than Myra and his family.

Donnie's funeral will take place at St. Margaret's Church, Starston on Friday, March 1st at 2.00 pm. Very aptly, a vintage tractor and trailer, kindly supplied by the Thorpe family, will bring Donnie to his resting place from his home. A local wake will follow to raise a glass or cup to his memory and all are very welcome.



St Margaret's Church, Starston

Notification Of Annual Meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, 28th April, following the service which is held at 11.00 a.m. This is to nominate and elect the church wardens. Currently the church wardens are Julian L. Taylor and John C. Formston.

It will be followed by the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**. This meeting deals with the election of officers and parochial church council members. The church belongs to the village and it is an opportunity to find out what has happened during 2023, and to discuss future ideas and proposals for the church.

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll takes place every year and should be completed 15 days before the APCM. If you wish for your name to be included, or removed from this Roll or need any further information please contact Ruth Cawcutt PCC Secretary, email: rcawcutt1@btinternet.com or telephone 852087.

Church Opening:

At a PCC meeting it was suggested to have the church of St. Margaret's open during the day, seven days a week, so that it is accessible to visitors and for anyone wishing to pray. We usually have the church open Saturday mornings from first Saturday in April and a rota is drawn up for those people who are able to open and close the church as required. If there is sufficient support for this suggestion and others are willing to help with the church being opened on a daily basis, would you please contact Ruth with your details.

Church Cleaning and Flower Arranging Rotas:

St Margaret's is indebted to the volunteers who offer to help with these tasks in the church. If you have time to spare or would like to assist please let Ruth know.

Hand Bell Ringers:

On a lighter note, if volunteering for either of the above doesn't APPEAL, perhaps you would like to join the team of hand bell ringers, we meet on a Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., and we will be starting again as from 5th March. Please note there will not be a meeting on 12th March as there is a PCC meeting.

Starston PCC.

St. George's Day Dinner

We will be holding a sumptuous 3 course dinner on Saturday 20th April to celebrate St George's Day. It will be held in The Coach House at Starston Place, courtesy of Julian & Philippa, starting at 7.30 pm and will be in aid of St Margaret's fabric fund to help pay for the expensive new heating system. There will be a quiz during the evening and a licensed bar. A maximum of 30 tickets will be available at £20 per person, bookable through either Julian Taylor, Ruth Cawcutt or John Formston.



Parish Council Report

Dear Starston residents,

At its January meeting the Parish Council gave careful thought to the issue of flood prevention and mitigation, particularly down Railway Hill.

After a detailed review of the Parish Council's budget for the coming year, it was concluded that it would be necessary to increase the village Precept (the portion of *Council Tax* fixed to cover the Parish Council's expenditure) for 2024/25 to £7,278. This follows several years where the Precept has remained the same. This is due to increases in insurance, the Clerk's salary, and the number of dog waste bins. Further details of the Parish Council's finances can be found in the papers for the meeting on the village website.

This year Councillors have agreed to contribute £100 towards the production costs of the Pigeon Post. You will be aware that the future of the Pigeon Post is currently uncertain due to the urgent requirement for a new Co-ordinating Editor. Please consider stepping forward for this role if it is something that might interest you, as the Pigeon Post is a vital communication platform within the village.

As we drive around locally, we are all aware of the significant number of potholes on the roads. These can be reported directly on the Norfolk County Council website, and the highways team will put them on their schedule for, hopefully, rapid repair. Alternatively, if you are aware of any particularly hazardous-looking potholes in the village, please let me know and I will report them. Please provide as much information as possible (eg location, size, depth etc, with a photo if possible).

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 18th March at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall. If you would like to attend the meeting, or you would like any matters raised in the public forum, do please contact me in advance.

Libby Alexander
Clerk to Starston Parish Council
07943 279946 starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Starston Emergency Plan

We thought it was time to update the information which I hold, confidentially, in case of emergencies in the village. The information is only available to myself, the Parish Clerk and the Chair of the Parish Council.

If you have not sent me an Emergency Plan form with your contact information, requests and requirements or your previous details have changed please contact me and I can arrange for a form to be sent to you. janetbroadhurst@aol.com or 01379 853480.

Here's hoping we won't be needing to use this information!

Janet Broadhurst
Emergency Plan Co Ordinator



Pantostein



*Photograph courtesy
Old Buckenham Players*

In January, Starston's Andy Leitch succeeded in portraying the male population of an entire Transylvanian village in the Old Buckenham Players 'scarily silly' **Pantostein**. Andy's explanation of the basic plot - 'the baddies are Dracula and his bride; the goodies are Frankenstein and the inn keeper's daughter' - had whetted my appetite, and I was not disappointed. The show opened with an asthmatic Dracula, inhaler at the ready for when his maniacal laughter (boo, hiss) got the better of him.

Two Germanic vampire hunters then taught us our catch phrase - 'Are you alert?' they would ask us. 'Ja, vee are lerts!' we replied with gusto. And soon we were to be gripped by a 'who's the best scientist?' competition, a dame with a crush on Frankenstein's monster and Andy, and his female counterpart, playing an entire village of zombies. Now that's what I call entertainment!

Mike Davison



Harleston Choral Society – STOP PRESS !

Our brilliant annual Quiz evening is on Friday 15th March in South Elmham St James Village Hall IP19 0HP (ample parking, and level access to the village hall). 6.45 pm for a 7.00 pm start. All welcome, tickets on the door - cash only please - £10.00 pp, which includes a delicious two-course supper. Bring your own drinks). Groups of six for the quiz but we can make up teams on the night.

And don't forget that although our Spring Term began on 8th January, it's not too late to join us as we rehearse *Saint-Saëns Requiem* and *Dvořák Mass in D Major* for our Summer Concert on 29th June. No auditions, and music is provided free. Practices are on a Monday evening 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm, in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH. Parking available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS), almost opposite the church.

Further information about the choir is on our website

www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk (which may not be completely up-to-date, owing to unforeseen circumstances) or from Stella Brownsea at **heidihouse@btinternet.com**



Notes from A Travelling Starston Gardener

Weeds. What a word.

A word that can define many things – humans or plants – as lesser, weaker or inferior.

That was just one of the eye-opening ideas at an exhibition at the Wisley garden of the Royal Horticultural Society. The exhibition was called *What is a weed?* For many gardeners the standard answer is, “A weed is a plant growing in the wrong place”. The exhibition made me think more deeply about the question.

Its curators were students from King’s College, Guildford, and St John the Baptist School in Woking. Their creative ideas were facilitated by writers and artists Ada Rose and Linden McMahon and drew on the herbarium and library collections of the RHS.

On display, for instance, was a rare copy of John Gerard’s 1587 *Herball* which describes the properties and uses of more than 800 plant species, including many that we think of as weeds. Another display drew on our modern understanding of the links between common weeds and insects. The board had pictures of weeds from the grounds of King’s College beside pictures of the insects which take advantage of them – such as the daisy and the marmalade hoverfly, and the spotted dead nettle and the dead nettle beetle.

So far, so conventional, but some of the themes went in more radical directions. The King’s College students – 14 and 15 year olds – had created some “zines”, made by folding an A4 piece of paper into a small booklet. The insights were remarkable. “*Weeds often suffer from prejudice, just like people who are different in the world.*” “*Times I felt like a weed, felt invisible like a ghost*”. Yet, as the author of one zine noted, despite the prejudice weeds always come back, proving that they are “*beautiful and perfect in every single way*”.

Other sections of the exhibition explored these ideas of beauty and perfection, posing questions such as, “What is ‘good’?” “What is ‘beautiful’”. Maybe, it was suggested, we are judging plants – and people – by criteria that have been decided by the culture in which we live. One board pictured the form used to judge entries at RHS vegetable shows. The criteria used to mark those entries were things such as imperfections, blemishes and deviation from uniformity. Next to it was an alternative list of “appreciation criteria”, proposed by the 17 and 18 year olds of St John the Baptist School. These criteria included health benefits, tastiness, resilience and “does it make you smile?” The conclusion the students came to was that we should challenge the norms of what is considered beautiful and accept the futility of the pursuit of perfection.

Is there a perfect? No. Every being is different – plants, weeds and humans alike. We are all unique and that’s OK. We are all beautiful and that includes you.

Dee the Gardener



SIMON LIMBRICK - MUSICIAN, COMPOSER, EDUCATOR

It is interesting to write about myself in this magazine, as I have never had to introduce myself and what I do to a village before. It seems better to introduce myself as a member of this village rather than present a precis of my career. I am a musician - mainly a percussionist, composer and teacher, and much of what I do could be happening on a stage the other side of the country, or even abroad. Or maybe it is on the radio, part of a film production or online. A number of you will have seen and heard me performing as part of the Starston Allstars at events across the village.

I have performed at some of the largest and most famous venues around the world, such as the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, Musikverein Vienna, Concertgebouw, Symphony Hall, Festival Hall, and many more. As a musician, this is what we do, which is exciting but also includes a lot of travelling, with a corner in many airports serving as an office. This means I have also had the privilege of working with some of the best conductors and, as it's topical at the moment with the release of the film 'Maestro' in October last year, I did work with Leonard Bernstein at the end of his career. All this does not diminish the role I play in the Starston Allstars. Musical performance brings people together, allows for social interaction and is, well, fun.

To list the different bands, orchestras, studios, record labels, venues, countries where I have contributed would probably fill this entire magazine, and just thinking about it makes me feel dizzy. If you want to know more, go searching on the internet for '*Simon Limbrick*', and I'll have to hope you find the good bits. However, I will mention the things I am currently doing, to give an idea of the crazy timetable I try to follow.

My current output appears on the BBC, at the Wigmore Hall, (where I am part of a resident group of artists), the Royal Opera House, Café Oto, CBSO Centre, and others. I am contributing to performances with Apartment House, Supriya Nagarajan, BCMG, Comb Filter, the Big Glitch, Jitter Orchestra. I have ten solo CD/ Albums available as CDs and online, and created scores for film, including '*3 Church Walk*' (Dir: Emily Richardson), which uses the materials of a building as the source for musical production.

I have been awarded a PhD (The Evolving Loci of New Music) and an MA (Electro-acoustic Composition).





I lead teaching for percussion, electronics, improvisation and Fusion Music at Guildhall Young Artists Norwich and Norfolk Primary Orchestra/Purcell School. I also teach music privately.

For me, musical activities take place every day, and I have realised it is how I hear the world. I'm interested in many instruments and am currently trying to play the saxophone and improve my piano skills, though my focus is always my percussion playing.

I include a couple of reviews here, partly because they are written by other people about me. They bookend many other reviews and they are somewhat illustrative of the range of crazy activities a percussionist/composer can get up to in front of an audience.

“He is a one-man orchestra, one-man theatre. disciplined hysteria... high voltage.” (Paul Griffiths, The Times ,1989)

“Its world of sometimes scarcely audible patterings, played entirely with the fingers without sharp attacks, so that the sounds seemed to float in space, was realised with wonderful subtlety” Andrew Clements, Guardian, 2021)

If you play any sort of instrument and are interested in performing with the Allstars, please let us know. There are no rules and we'd like to find out what your musical interests are. Teach us something.



See you at the next Starston Allstars event, or hear me ringing the bells at St. Margaret's Church.

Simon



Harleston Players Audition Call for 'Friendly Invasion'

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, an extraordinary military operation which changed the course of World War II and put the Allied forces on the path to victory.

To mark this momentous year, Harleston Players are teaming up with Metfield-based singing group, Station 366, plus a team of local Lindy Hop dancers, to create "Friendly Invasion", a show about the arrival of the USAAF to this area and the ways in which the presence of thousands of Americans influenced life in the region.

Auditions are open to all and will be held on Sunday 17th March 2.00 – 5.00 pm, and Tuesday 19th March 7.30 – 10.00 pm at Jay's Green Community Centre. Performance dates will be between 12th and 27th July.

See Harleston Players website for casting details www.harlestonplayers.co.uk
Please contact either Eileen Ryan on anyoldryan@gmail.com or Sara Curtis on curtissara155@gmail.com if you need further information.

The 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association/ The Red Feather Club, Horham, Eye

Volunteers Required

We are looking for volunteers to join our friendly team to help run and maintain this fantastic museum and important part of our local history.

We need help with indoor and outdoor maintenance on Saturday mornings and help with re-enacting and dancing on open days.

Also: Swing dance lessons on Monday evenings. Beginners welcome.

For all details contact Duncan Reed on 07771 675351



Masters of the Air

Masters of the Air is an Apple TV series that recounts the story of the 100th Bomb Group during World War II. Led by Gale 'Buck' Cleven and John 'Bucky' Egan, the series follows the airmen as they embark on dangerous missions to bomb targets inside German-occupied Europe. The series is based on the 2007 book '*Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany*' by Donald L. Miller. The series is made by the same company which produced 'Band of Brothers' (2001).

The show attempts to portray the intensity of war and the dangers faced by airmen, as well as the friendships and relationships that develop.

Filming began in England in 2021 but was delayed on several occasions due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It began streaming in January 2024

The 100th Bomb Group was based at Thorpe Abbots between Starston and Dickleburgh. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from the first weekend in March and is well worth a visit. Visit their website for more information: www.100bgmus.org.uk

100th Bomb Group Film Show 16th April 2024

Join us for a selection of short films and stories relating to general aspects of World War 2 aviation at our film night on 16th April.

Tea and coffee will be available during the short interval which is included in the price of the ticket. Event held at 100th Bomb Group Memorial Museum. Free parking available on site. 19:30 – 22:00



Please book your tickets by calling the museum on 01379 740708 or pop into the museum when we open from 2nd March to book in person.

Our film shows are very popular and booking in advance is recommended as often we are fully booked before the day.



County Councillor's Report

I recently attended the official opening of the Herring Bridge (3rd river crossing) in Gt Yarmouth. The bridge now provides a long awaited direct link between the A47 at Harfrey's roundabout and the port and enterprise zone on the other side of the River Yare. The bridge will ease traffic congestion on the town's roads and shorten journey times for all modes of travel, as well as supporting wider plans to maximise investment, regeneration and economic growth opportunities across the Great Yarmouth region.

A contractor has been selected to undertake the construction of Long Stratton's Bypass, in what is the latest step in the long-awaited project. The job of building the route has been given to Octavius Infrastructure, with construction work on the estimated £46.9 million road expected to begin in the spring. Approximately 2.4 miles long, it will help to ease traffic congestion, with the single carriageway bypassing the town to the east, before rejoining the existing A140. The road will not only solve the transport issues caused by the bottleneck on the A140, which is a major local route, but also open up improvements for cycling and walking in and around the town. Once in place, the scheme will cut congestion, unlock economic growth and improve journey times across the county. Construction work is expected to take 18 months to complete, with the road open to traffic by the end of 2025.

Norfolk County Council and the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association have launched the new Norfolk Rural Business Awards. The awards were launched at the recent annual Norfolk Farming Conference and are designed to recognise the essential nature and huge importance of Norfolk's rural communities and businesses to the region. Farmers, young farmers, winemakers, brewers, food producers, agri-tech companies, businesses with close rural connections, and rural community groups are all part of the rural community. With more than nine different categories from best emerging talent to best farming innovation adopter, it is anticipated these new awards will celebrate exceptional talent and businesses. The entry form for nominations to each category can be found online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/norfolk-rural-business-awards. Entry deadline is 19th April. Judging will include a visit to all shortlisted businesses.

NCCs Bus service Improvement Plan has so far increased the number of bus passenger journeys in Norfolk by 16% on last year. The £49.5m grant from central government has been used to launch 12 new bus routes and increase services on 32 others. With the £2 bus cap also in place till later this year it's a good time to use the bus.

A big congratulations to Harleston Library on celebrating their 60th Birthday. There is so much on offer at all of our libraries and you are always sure of a very warm welcome from the staff.

My next surgery is at HIP on Saturday 2nd March

*Best Wishes
Martin*



Benefice Letter

The days are lengthening and I'm tempted out more and more, especially as the trees come into leaf and the pathways over the moor and through the woods begin to dry a little.

Looking back, I loved my childhood, climbing trees and being out playing, roaming the Welsh hills. We had very little by today's standards, but no-one else had much either, and we did have freedom and neighbours we knew would help us. I loved school, but holidays were better, much better. Now as I go into our wonderful schools I get a lift to see the children and young people happy to be there, well mostly. They are just so alive. At the same time I know a few won't be happy or feeling that alive. I see so much hope and expectation in those faces but know that for some of those children and their families hope is a very fragile thing.

Hope is important. Hope is essential to life. Hope is what I and everyone needs if life is to be worth living. I need hope when things go wrong, when friends or family are in trouble. I need hope when I see people struggling to make ends meet. I need hope whenever I see people, especially children, challenged by social media, and made to feel small and left behind by glossy adverts.

I pray for everyone to have that basic necessity of life: Hope. I notice people looking for hope in many different places; different philosophies, different religions. I don't know much about the other places people look for hope. All I do know for certain is that Jesus offers hope.

I have found hope in Jesus, particularly in the wonderful message of new life that Easter brings. That Easter hope of life and love is so strong that it overcomes even death. This is the hope that has seen me through many difficult times. I am happy to be a Christian, not because it means I am any better than anyone else. I'm not better, but I have experienced something good and want other people to have a chance of experiencing something similar for themselves. I am not promised lots of money or an easy life. But I am given the hope to transform whatever life brings with it.

Easter Day is 31st March this year, the day the clocks go forward. Some of us will be up watching the dawn on Easter day. The Christmas baby has grown up and become the hope of the world. The new dawn, the Easter promise, hope is born again

God bless you and have a Happy Easter,

Gale



Local Theatre Productions



March 14th – 24th

All performances start 7.30pm.

Tickets £12 or £6 (students)
Suitable for Age 14+

For further details:
www.roughcast.co.uk
Tel 01379 586745

Named by The Guardian as one of the 10 greatest plays of the 20th century, Caryl Churchill's ground-breaking play focuses on Marlene, the head of "Top Girls" employment agency, and explores the compromises that she has had to make to achieve her hugely successful career.

From a surreal and hilarious celebratory dinner party in a London restaurant with a cast of women from history and fiction, to a poignant confrontation between two sisters in a Suffolk kitchen, it is a highly entertaining exploration of the challenges faced by women throughout history and right up to the present day.

Robin Hood

Onward Players & Friends present Robin Hood, a traditional pantomime full of fun in two acts

Performances at Archbishop Sancroft Academy
March 7th/8th/9th at 7:30 pm.

Written and directed by Rachel Allum-Sindall, inspired by true events allegedly!

Tickets available from: harleston@onwardenterprisecic.co.uk and Robinsons Traditional Stationers, Harleston



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Cookery Corner

Stilton Mushrooms

24 good sized button mushrooms
 2 oz melted butter
 3 cloves garlic crushed
 1/4 pint double cream
 Salt and black pepper
 4 oz Stilton cheese
 Chopped parsley

Place mushrooms in oven proof dish. Melt butter and add crushed garlic and parsley. Season mushrooms and pour over butter. Add cream and thinly sliced Stilton on top. Place in moderately hot oven for about 10 mins. Serves 4

Jane Pearson



Borderhoppa Outings for March 2024

Mon 4th – Beccles – Fare £15.00

Mon 11th – Green Pastures Plant Centre, Apton – Fare £15.00

Thurs 14th – Lunch at The Black Horse, Thorndon – Fare £8.00

Mon 18th – Highways Nursery & Shopping Centre - Fare £15.00

Thurs 21st – Foundry Plant Centre, Tasburgh – Fare £8.00

Mon 25th – Earsham Hall Tea Rooms - £8.00

To book or for more information please call 01379 854800 or visit our website www.borderhoppa.org

Harleston & District u3a welcomes you to our monthly talk, *Needham – A Small Village with a Big History*, on Wednesday 20th March at 2.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ. Local historian, Steve Poulter, will reveal highlights from the long history of this tiny Waveney village which feature in his newly-published book. Signed copies will be available to buy after his talk. Visitors welcome, admission £3.00 including refreshments.

Further information about this and all Harleston & District u3a's activities is on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston or by contacting Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.



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<https://www.airbnb.com/h/blackthorn-retreat-starston>





Quick Quiz

A Quiz for March - Fill in the missing animal.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ___ on a hot tin roof | 6. A Man Called ____ |
| 2. _____ on a plane | 7. The ____ King |
| 3. Ice Station _____ | 8. The _____ Man |
| 4. Of ____ and Men | 9. _____ Dundee |
| 5. The _____ that Roared | 10. _____ in the Mist |

A Brief History of Crossword Puzzles

On December 21st 1913, Arthur Wynne, a journalist born in Liverpool, published a "word-cross" puzzle in the New York World that embodied most of the features of the modern genre. This puzzle is frequently cited as the first crossword puzzle, and Wynne as the inventor. An illustrator later reversed the 'word-cross' name to 'cross-word'.

In 1925 there was a Punch cartoon about 'The Cross-Word Mania'. A man phones his doctor in the middle of the night, asking for 'the name of a bodily disorder of seven letters, of which the second letter must be N'.

The first book of crossword puzzles was published by Simon & Schuster in 1924. The book was promoted with an included pencil, and 'This odd-looking book with a pencil attached to it' was an instant hit, leading crossword puzzles to become a craze of 1924.

Not all of the attention drawn to the crossword puzzle fad was positive. A 1924 editorial in The New York Times complained of the "*sinful waste in the utterly futile finding of words the letters of which will fit into a prearranged pattern.*" A clergyman called the working of crossword puzzles "*the mark of a childish mentality.*" However, another clergyman wrote a complete Bible Cross-Word Puzzle Book.

The term 'Crossword' first appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1933.

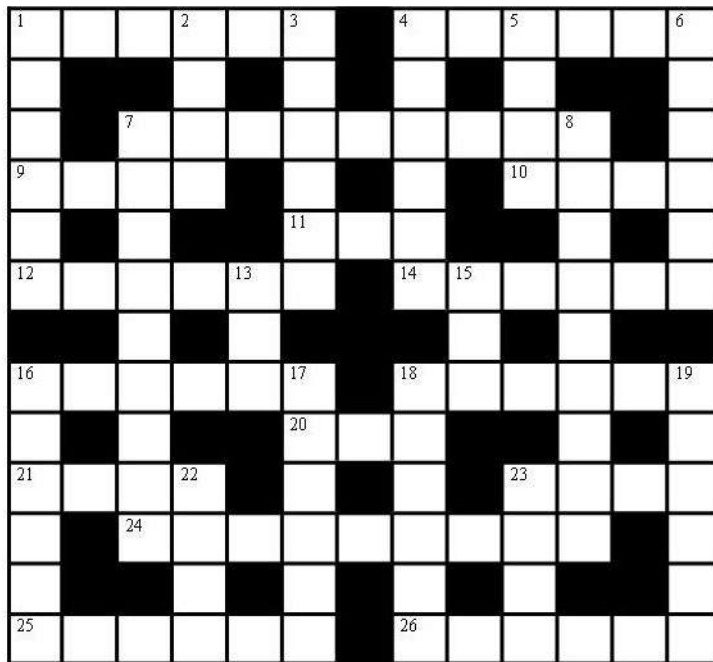
The New York Times finally began to publish a crossword puzzle on 15 February 1942, spurred on by the idea that the puzzle could be a welcome distraction from the harsh news of World War II. Some cryptologists for Bletchley Park in the war were selected after doing well in a crossword-solving competition.

In the United Kingdom, the Sunday Express was the first newspaper to publish a crossword on November 2nd 1924, a Wynne puzzle adapted for the UK.

According to Guinness World Records, May 15, 2007, the most prolific crossword compiler is Roger Squires of Ironbridge, Shropshire, UK. On May 14, 2007, he published his 66,666th crossword, equivalent to 2 million clues.



March Crossword by Webbe



Clues Across

1. Cost restriction (6)
4. Naughty (6)
7. Non steroidal anti inflammatory drug (9)
9. Explosive (4)
10. Silver coloured metal (4)
11. Uniform Resource Locator (3)
12. Young men (6)
14. Sailing boats (6)
16. Fish & Chip Restaurant (6)
18. A light wind (6)
20. United Arab Emirates (3)
21. Not odd (4)
23. Move through water (4)
24. Small vehicle with tipper (American) (9)
25. Get away (6)
26. Deliver (6)

Clues Down

1. Champagne (6)
2. Singing brothers (4)
3. A fever caused by bacteria (6)
4. Completely (6)
5. At a French home (4)
6. Film - "_____With Wolves" (6)
7. Vaccine made resistance (9)
8. Nocturnal bird (9)
13. Rose berry (3)
15. Used to chop wood (3)
16. What we used to pay with (6)
17. Middle class person with well paid job (6)
18. Striped animals (6)
19. To divide or spread (plant) (6)
22. Clothes & Jewellery Firm (4)
23. Society for College & University Planning (4)



Benefice Services in March - TBC

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st Easter
Dickleburgh	9.30 am HC	9.30 am Morning Prayer	3.30 pm Evening Prayer	9.30 am HC	
Pulham Market	9.30am HC	9.30am Messy Church Methodist Hall	9.30am HC	9.30am Morning Prayer	
Pulham St Mary	8.00 am HC	9.30 am HC	9.30 am Matins	9.30 am HC	
Rushall	Church open for prayer	11am HC	Church open for prayer	Church open for prayer	
Starston	11.00 am HC	11.00 am Morning Prayer	11.00 am HC	11.00 am Morning Prayer	11.00 am HC
Thelveton	11am SW	Church open for prayer	11am BCP Matins	11am HC	

All services are subject to change. For up to date information please go to the Benefice
Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-107EP/>

For updates on Starston Services contact John
Formston 853042 or jformston07@talktalk.net

Starston PCC Secretary: Ruth Cawcutt.

Tel: 01379 852087

Email: rcawcutt1@btinternet.com

Key to Services

HC: Holy Communion

PC: Parish Communion

BCP: Book of Common Prayer

SW: Sunday Worship

CC: Café Church





Starston Parish Council

Philip Astor:	Chairman & Tree Warden	philipastor@mac.com	07753 800594
Janet Broadhurst:	Emergency Plan Co-ordinator	janetbroadhurst@aol.com	01379 853480
Stuart Griffin:	Member	stuart.griffin@live.co.uk	
Andrew Knowles:	Litter Pick Co-ordinator	andrewknowlesSPC@outlook.com	01379 855060
Andy Leitch:	Welcome to Starston Co-ordinator		
	SAM 2 Equipment	andy@startronics.co.uk	01379 423387
Karen O'Keeffe:	Internal Control of Finances	karenokeeffe63@icloud.com	01379 423761
Chris Sparrow:	Footpath Warden	chris.sparrow2211@hotmail.com	

Highways Defects, Village Maintenance, General Enquiries

Libby Alexander: Clerk to the Council and RFO 07943 279946

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

Local Councillors

Martin Wilby	County	01379 741504	martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk
Clayton Hudson	District	01379 676259	chudson@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Delme Thompson			delme.thompson@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Community Services

Local Buses - from Starston to Harleston and Starston to Long Stratton and Norwich

For information
Ring: **0871 200 2233**
12p a minute plus access charge

Border Hoppa - dial-a-ride service

Ring: **01379 854800**

Police - (non-emergency)

Ring: **101**

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Email: sntharleston@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Report Power Cuts

Report Flooding

If you are in danger call 999

Ring **105**
Ring **03448008013**
Email: www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding

NHS Emergency & Urgent Care Services
(Including Emergency out of hours chemist)

Ring: **111**
when it's less urgent than 999

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hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk



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