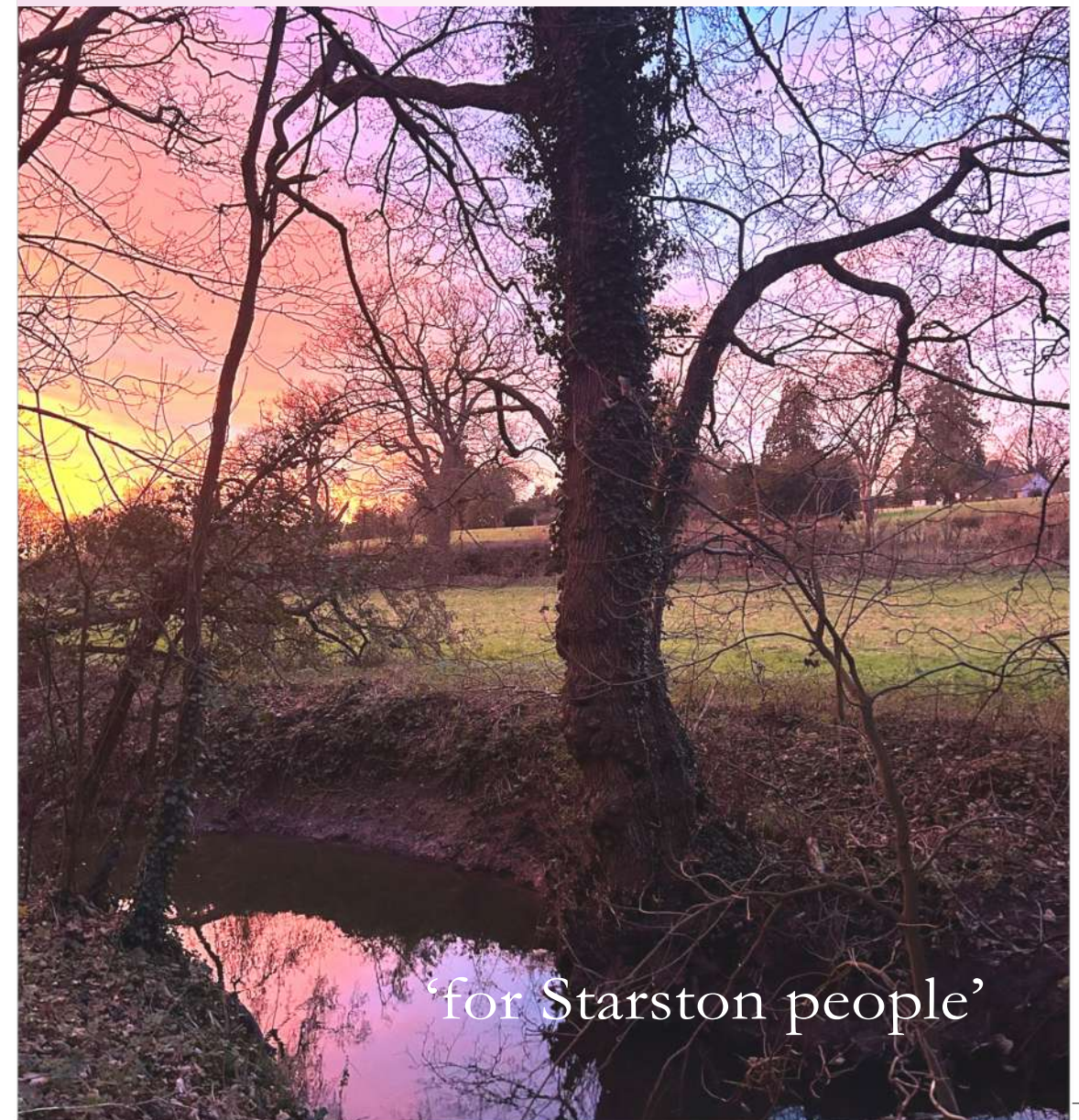


Pigeon POST

FEBRUARY 2026



'for Starston people'



Issue 409

Issue Editor: Christina Greathead

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The editorial team do not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by contributors, however the magazine is here 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 the 12th of the preceding month, (usually earlier in December). Space in the magazine will be allocated at the Issue Editor's discretion. Photos and pictures are welcome and will be used wherever possible.

Please send copy by e-mail to: pigeonpost19@gmail.com

Distribution.

Pigeon Post is delivered free to every home in Starston. It is also sent in PDF format to an email list. To request a PDF version please contact the Co-ordinating Editor at: pigeonpost19@gmail.com

If you know of any new residents in the village please tell Norman Steer (854245) or Brian Greathead (852352) to ensure they are welcomed and receive the Pigeon Post.



Village diary.

Warm Welcome lunch in the Jubilee Hall	Wednesday 4 th February	11.30am
Burns Night Supper in the Jubilee Hall	Saturday 7 th February	7.00pm
Warm Welcome lunch in the Jubilee Hall	Wednesday 18 th February	11.30am
Parish Council meeting in the Jubilee Hall	Monday 19 th March	7.30pm

Jubilee Hall.

Starston Jubilee Hall is available to hire for activity classes, family parties, meetings, informal gatherings, etc. Its capacity is approximately 60 people, or 40 people if seated. The Hall has kitchen facilities, fast broadband and some private parking.

For more information visit www.starstonvillage.co.uk/jubilee-hall

Please contact the Jubilee Hall Bookings Manager, Robert Wood, on 01379 852535 or starstonrobert@gmail.com

Advertising in Pigeon Post.

For advertising rates please contact:

Advertising Manager: Liz Stacey Tel: 01379 853427 Email: elizabethstacey99@hotmail.com

Copy must reach us by the 10th of the preceding month to be considered for inclusion.

Pigeon Post accepts no responsibility for the content, offers or validity of any flyer or advertisement

Final copy date for the March 2026 edition:
12.00 noon on Thursday 12th February



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Around and about.

Bun, cuppa and chat

The next monthly veteran's event will be from 2.30 to 4.00pm on Thursday 26th February at the Mariner's Galley Cafe in Rushall. Contact: rosemarysteer55@gmail.com

Quiz night at the Pennoyer Centre.

Quiz and chips, Friday 13th February from 7.00pm to 10.30pm
<https://pennoyers.org.uk/event/quiz-night-4/>

Film night at the Pennoyer Centre.

Downton Abbey - The Final Chapter, Friday 20th February 7.00pm

Please note start time: Doors Open 19:00. Film Starts 19:30.
<https://pennoyers.org.uk/event/film-night-the-ballad-of-wallis-island-12/>
or call 01379 676660 for tickets.

Arts Society, Diss.

Lecture: Banksy by Pepe Martinez. A history of graffiti and street art. Is Banksy a fraud or a genius? Tuesday 17th February at 2pm in the Corn Hall, Diss.
<https://artsocdiss.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

Fressingfield Sounds presents.

Jonathan Lemalu (*bass-baritone*) with Kathryn Mosley (*piano*) on Saturday 28th February. World-renowned bass-baritone, Jonathan Lemalu, from New Zealand will sing a wonderfully varied programme, with Kathryn Mosley (piano) - arias from operas by Verdi and Mozart, Handel's 'Where'er you walk' to songs by George Gershwin. The performance takes place at Chapel Hall Arts at 7.30pm. Tickets: £23, £25, £10 for those in receipt of benefits and £5 for those 25 years and under. For more information visit www.fressingfieldsounds.org.uk or call 07900 350117.

Regular 'what's on' information.

Harleston Town and Community Events: <https://visitharleston.org.uk/events3/>
Fisher Theatre Bungay: <https://fishertheatre.org/FisherTheatre.dll/WhatsOn>
Diss Corn Hall: <https://www.thecornhall.co.uk/whats-on-list/>
Harleston's Future: www.harlestonsfuture.org.uk
Pennoyer Centre - Pulham St. Mary: <https://pennoyers.org.uk/events/>



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Editor's notes.

Another rainy period and the Beck is flowing nicely. See Peter Grimble's update on page 10. We have a large pond as part of our garden, dating back to when our group of homes were really barns for the nearby farm. The water level is rising though it is only fed by rain. So far it has never been too high. The ducks and drakes are making return visits, with an eye for a nice nesting site in the reeds at the edge. Noisy visitors, but a joy each year to see the new batch of ducklings.

There seem to be lots of very interesting activities on offer this month and to come in the next, the Hunters Dinner at Starston Village Hall, theatrical events, choral programmes and other event information.

As promised, we are featuring the second part of Clare Grimble's fascinating feature on her work in the Himalayas.

There are also some wonderful photographs alongside the articles, a very atmospheric front cover again so thank

you to everyone who sends them in. We try to use as many as we can.

We would like to keep the 'Day in the Life...' feature going and Janice is casting her net across the community hoping for some more suggestions.

Christina



A wintry beck from Rosemary Steer

Message from Janice Brooks – Day in the Life author.

I've had such great feedback about my 'Day in the Life' series, and am always looking for any Starston neighbours who have an interesting hobby, job, or passion, and would like to be featured in a future editorial.

It's been lovely to meet so many interesting and generous neighbours, so please don't be shy, email me and we can have a quick chat with absolutely no obligation!

I look forward to hearing from you.

janicebrooks@aol.com



Hunter's Dinner, 7th March 2026.

Wild food is something to be celebrated, and in Starston we have an abundance! In the past, on a couple of occasions, convivial evenings have been held in the Jubilee Hall with locally sourced wild food provided as a 'Hunter's Dinner'.

This year, 2026, a similar event will be held on Saturday 7th March. Although this is outside of the shooting (hunting?) season the food will be just as good (thank goodness for freezers) and I'm certain the company will also rise to the occasion.

In the past the format has been a selection of canapes (starters) in a 'help yourself' format followed by a choice of main course and a choice of pudding. This year will follow along similar lines.

In the past we have enjoyed such delicacies as venison tartare, smoked venison sausage, smoked pheasant and deer liver pate as starters. With main courses including venison casserole, pheasant crumble, jugged hare, and venison sausage casserole. At the time of writing, I am experimenting with game sausages (pheasant and

partridge) and will be firing up the smoker in due course. The venison tartare has in the past been in great demand and so will undoubtedly be on the menu and puds are likely to be a selection of fruit crumbles. 2025 was such a year for fruit!

The evening will begin at 7.00pm, guests are asked to bring their own wine and there will no doubt be a raffle and possibly other entertainments – as if any were needed. These events have, in the past, been very popular so early booking is recommended. In the meantime, I and my dogs are in hunter gatherer mode and we look forward to a very happy evening.

All funds raised by this event will go to the Jubilee Hall.

Debbie Griffin will be happy to accept bookings (07966 495757). The cost will be £20.00 per person. Tickets will be limited to around 30.

Hope to see you all there.

Frank P.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep St Margaret's Church open and welcoming for both visitors and worshippers over the past twelve months. Without you, the village church would not be opened every day, beautified by flowers, or kept clean and tidy. With several bell ringers moving away and transport and health issues for some on the cleaning and flower rotas, we are looking for additional help this year. If you are available during the day to open the church, are willing to join the cleaning rota (in pairs usually) or if you have flower arranging skills, we would love to hear from you. And if you are an experienced bell ringer or would like to learn this ancient art, please contact the Tower Captain, Herbert Websdell (01379 853967) who would be very happy to show you the ropes!

Ruth Cawcutt, 01379 852087, Rosemary Steer, 01379 854245



Roughcast Theatre spring tour. 19th to 28th March.

RoughCast will be touring with two shorter plays by the late Tom Stoppard, directed by Paul Baker

The Real Inspector Hound is a farcical Agatha Christie-style murder mystery which two theatre critics, Moon and Birdboot, have come to review.....or have they? They have demons of their own to deal with and, in a riot of love triangles, deaths, ludicrous card games and mistaken identities, who is the "real" Inspector Hound? Moreover, how does he make it through the fog, and whose is the body on stage?

A Separate Peace is set in a nursing home late at night. John Brown turns up to book himself in, despite being perfectly

well. He is willing to pay in cash for residency, but can he be allowed to stay, and what is his real secret? Where did he get all that money from? Is he dangerous andwhy is he here?

Performances are at Diss Corn Hall (19th), Seagull Theatre, Lowestoft (20th), The Cut, Halesworth (21st), Chapel Hall Arts, Fressingfield (26th), Fisher Theatre, Bungay (27th) and Wingfield Barns (28th)

All performances start at 7.30pm, tickets are £13 and £7 (students).

For booking details and further information www.roughcast.co.uk or tel. 01379 586745.

Drama workshop - Sunday 8th February 2.0 - 4.00pm.

Jay's Green Community Centre, Harleston

In July 2026 Harleston Players are producing a play about the historic Waveney Valley Railway, which ran from Tivetshall (near Norwich) to Beccles, from the middle of the nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth.

This will be a large-scale community show, with roles for the experienced performer and also for those who would like to join the production as a newcomer.

The workshop will be a chance to find out more about the project, meet the team and try out some of the characters who may find their way into the story of the play.

For further information, email Eileen Ryan on anyoldryan@gmail.com
Or contact Harleston Players on harlestonplayers@gmail.com



Starston river habitat enhancement project.

Winter rains are now testing the new channel of the Beck and clearing the algae. The flow has been substantial this month and although the level had risen to just below the level of the road bridge and footbridge, at the time of writing no flooding had resulted, thanks to the greater storage capacity of the channel and the absence of weirs which had held back the natural flow.

The new channel in the upstream meadow has just been planted with a variety of trees and bushes on the banks to aid re-naturalisation of the Beck and adjoining water meadows. These include the nationally endangered native Black Poplar, which will be good to see in its natural habitat in Starston. Other trees include willows, alder, hawthorn, spindle, oak, hazel, field maple and dogwood.

An attractive information board, developed between the Environment

Agency and Starston village, and paid for by Essex and Suffolk Water, will shortly be positioned by the information display board on the bank near the picnic table in Glebe Meadow.

This scheme commenced in a drought in April 2025, and it will be interesting to see how it has fared once it has had four seasons' worth of weather. Although attractive to witness, fast moving water can be hazardous, especially for children and dogs, so please keep both under control and safe when in the meadows.

Thanks.

Peter (petergrimble@gmail.com)



Notes from a Starston garden.

Every year I'd see articles in the gardening magazines, encouraging us to grow winter salads and winter-hardy oriental vegetables for the young leaves. "That's a good idea", I'd think, but somehow I never get round to it. Perhaps by late summer I'd just run out of enthusiasm. Then last year I summoned up the enthusiasm and did get round to it.

I sowed lambs lettuce ('Verte de Cambrai'), pak choi ('Canton White') and mizuna in modules in the greenhouse in September. Strictly speaking this was a tad late for the lambs lettuce and pak choi but it seemed to work, perhaps helped by the mild autumn. In October I transplanted the seedlings. Some I put in the bed in the greenhouse once the tomatoes were finished. Others I planted outside and covered with a polycarbonate tunnel to protect them from the worst of the winter weather.

The ones outside haven't fared too well. They haven't grown much and have been attacked by flea beetles. But those in the greenhouse are looking very bonny and the leaves certainly enliven a green salad. This success has encouraged me to experiment further this coming autumn. There are varieties of lettuce such as 'Merveille de Quatre Saisons' and 'Reine des Glaces' and umpteen mixes of young salad leaves, not to mention rocket and baby spinach, all of which can survive low temperatures with protection. I think I'll give some of them a whirl. It will just be a

case of keeping up my enthusiasm as summer wanes.




Topical Tip: Go through your seed packets, chuck out any that are well past their sow by date, keep those that are still likely to have a fair degree of viability (brassicas come to mind), replace the others and whatever you do, get a new packet of parsnips.

Dee the Gardener





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Benefice letter.

If I was to say Steve, Will, Jay, Kirsten and Susie, I am sure you would know what TV programme I was talking about. There seems to be a lot of programmes about restoring something broken and The Repair Shop is just one of those and the team at the Downland Museum have taken time and used their skill to bring the item back to new life. It is wonderful to see the smile, tears of delight and relief as the people see the restored item in a better state than they could have even imagined.

We can all feel a bit like some of the dilapidated items brought to the Repair Shop, battered, bruised, misused, worn out and broken. Life can give us a hard time sometimes and we can often come out of situations with lasting damage. As a nation we are going through a difficult period. Strikes by essential services, credit squeeze, high energy costs, reduced sales in shops and fears of redundancy are all real for some.

When Jesus came home for the weekend to see His family He was asked if He would like to read the Bible in the synagogue at the morning service. He stood up, unrolled the scroll and looked for a particular section in Isaiah. Remember He is the living Word, so knew exactly where to go. He then started reading these words, which are true today as they were on that day for the people sitting in the synagogue.

Isa 61:1-2 *"The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of his grace —"*

As a church in the village, we are in the restoration business. The village church and its people are a repair shop, bringing us into the place God made us to be through healing, restoration and repair of our lives.

We are encouraged as we greet people coming back to worship in church, seeing the change in their lives that meeting with Jesus in a real and personal way gives. Seeing the old pains fall away, a new outlook on life and a spring in their step.

Whatever is going on in your life now God wants you to be able to maintain a place of peace and to be made whole again, restored and able to live a life with Him to the full; as Jesus put it, "an abundant life". Come back to the village Repair Shop and meet with Jesus and let Him remake you into the person you were made to be.

Rev'd John



A day in the life: Tanya Colman - vocals

Introducing Tanya Colman : vocals in the Starston Allstars

Tanya has lived on The Street in Starston for over 20 years, with husband Bruce, sons, Sam, William and Harry, and their three lovely dogs, Mac, Moss and Mole.

So how did this all start ?

“Probably four years ago, Frank Pearson our founder, and ace electric guitar player, started talking to friends about getting together to play some music.

It was Spring 2022, and after a suggestion from the Jubilee Steering Committee that perhaps we could find a local band to play at the Starston Platinum Jubilee event that July, that ideas started to loosely come together.

The name “Allstars” was originally used as a joke, but somehow stuck.

Frank enlisted Simon Limbrick, and they started inviting everyone they could think of, with any musical talent, which led to nine key members:

Tanya Colman - vocals

Simon Limbrick - percussionist and multi-instrumentalist

Frank Pearson - writer, guitar

Olly Simmonds - drums

Karen O’Keeffe - bass guitar

Edward Libbey - keyboard

Mike Masters - acoustic guitar & vocals

Gary Breeze - guitar and ukulele

Ewan Duffus - piano

Norman Steer - spoons & tambourine

The Jubilee was a wonderful evening, the whole gig seemed to go by so quickly, everyone enjoyed themselves, the



als in Starston Allstars.

audience participation was amazing, and it is universally agreed that the highlight of the whole evening was Norman’s spoons solo in “La Bamba”, which bought roars from the audience”.

How often do you all meet?

“Life is hectic, and one of the greatest struggles is getting everyone together, but we usually meet once a month to discuss upcoming gigs, rehearse new song suggestions, and any new ideas.

Practise at home alone is hardly ideal, but when new songs are suggested, I start to play with the vocals and usually sing in the car on the way to an appointment. Sometimes rehearsals are with only a couple of band members at any one time, so it’s important that I am ready once we all get together “.

Favourite Song?

“Whenever I get to sing ‘Valerie’ (Amy Winehouse/Mark Ronson) it’s a definite highlight for me. It’s always really special when the audience join in, this song just seems to hit right, and is always a powerful reminder of the reason why we do this, to entertain, bring some fun and smiles!”

The Starston Allstars are seen yearly at the Starston Summer Fete, the Starston Fireworks Party and Christmas lights turn on, and this year will be playing at the Burns Night Supper in the Jubilee Hall on Saturday 7th February.



All enquiries and to book the Starston Allstars, please contact: Frank Pearson frankpearson@yahoo.com

Tickets for the Burns Night Supper: Herbert Websdell 01379 853967

Janice Brooks

**Writer acknowledges information and photos gathered from archive Pigeon Post features.



Harleston Library.

Tel: (01379) 852549 Email Harleston.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk

A big thank you to all of you who supported our events throughout 2025!

We would particularly like to mention all those who contributed to our fundraiser for a square of the new Miyawaki Forest, part of the Harleston Greenspace. Thanks to all of you we were able to raise more than double the £100 needed and will be able to sponsor more of the site as the project develops. Keep an eye on our board in the lobby for regular updates on the Greenspace's progress and Lauren from the project will be coming to the library later in February to do a nest box making workshop. Keep an eye on our FB page as the details will be coming soon or just give us a call for more information.

February means Digifest and this year we have two events lined up for you. Spaces for these events are free but are limited and must be booked in advance. Please make sure to check the age suitability guide before booking

Wednesday 4th February – 'Adventures with Botley' 3.30pm – 4.45pm (for children aged 6-9) - Help Botley find his way out of a crazy maze.

Wednesday 11th February – 'Adventures with Botley' 3.30pm – 4.45pm (for children aged 6-9)

Monday 16th February – 'Code & Go Mouse' 3.30pm – 4.45pm (for children aged 4-6) Help Colby the Code-and-Go Mouse find his way. (more details on website)



On Saturday 27th June 2026 our choir will be performing Schubert's Mass in G – a lesser-known piece not released until nearly 20 years after his death. He actually wrote it when he was still a teenager and managed to finish the entire thing in a week! It will take us almost six months of rehearsals to learn it! We will also sing Puccini's Messa di Gloria. This piece was composed by Puccini for his graduation from The Istituto Musicale Pacini in Lucca, Italy. He too was young - only around 20 years old when he composed it. Such early musical talent has got to be worth listening to!


We hope you will enjoy it as much as we will enjoy practicing it – it's a concert not to be missed for sure, so don't forget to put it in your diary! If you fancy singing it with us, then join us on Monday nights at 7.30pm at The London Road Church, Harleston, IP20 9BH. For further information and contact details, take a look at our website:

www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk





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5.30pm Zumba Gold	<u>COMING SOON ZUMBA GOLD</u>	6.30pm Zumba Gold	<u>COMING SOON ZUMBA GOLD</u>	
6.30pm Zumba <u>Wortwell Community Centre</u>	<u>AND ZUMBA STEP!! King Georges Hall Harleston</u>	7.30 Zumba, <u>Brockdish Village Hall</u>	7pm Zumba, <u>Needham Village Hall</u>	

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- Thursday 12th – Thorndon Black Horse – Dial a Ride Price
- Monday 16th – Taverham Garden Centre - £18.00
- Thursday 19th – Breakfast Wortham Tea Rooms, on to Dunelm, and The Range, Bury St. Edmunds - £18.00
- Monday 23rd – Diss and Bressingham Garden Centres - £8.00
- Thursday 26th – Goodies Breakfast and Farm shop – Dial-a-Ride

To book or for more information please call: 01379 854800

Or visit our website: www.borderhoppa.org



Helping people with disabilities in the Himalayas.

In December's Pigeon Post I described how, as a Starston girl, I've been working as a physio to help people with disability in Nepal since 2003.

The Okhaldhunga 'Community Based Inclusive Development' (CBID) Project is celebrating the impact it has been making in many individuals' lives. More than 1200 people with disability and their families have been helped, increasing their inclusion, social participation and economic strength. More than 250 people received assistive devices such as custom-made chairs, walking aids, toilet chairs and wheelchairs to help with their independence. Over 400 received physiotherapy and psychosocial counselling, and 670 were referred for surgery and/or rehabilitation. More than 600 received a disability ID card for the first time, enabling the more severely disabled to get a small allowance. Nearly 500 received income generation training and over 200 started getting an income from new businesses – often through livestock farming such as goats or chickens, vegetable farming, or running a small shop. 17 disability committees and 2 disability organisations have been established which provides an important platform from which the voices of the disability community can be heard and resources shared.

One of the most exciting project outcomes is the construction of the 'Gift House', a multipurpose centre for people with disabilities, built in collaboration with the



Nishanth with cerebral palsy learning to walk using bamboo parallel bars.

local government and the local disability organisation. It will be a home for around 5 people with disabilities, a handicraft training and production centre, a shop to sell the handicrafts, and an office for the disability organisation. Its presence, right next to the government office in a remote village, will bring long-term and sustainable benefits to the disability community in Nepal.

And wonderfully, the work continues! We have expanded the project into a new working area in January 2025 and currently have funding promised until 2029.



Shanti with muscular dystrophy in a chair made by the hospital carpenter, with her mother and me.

UMN (United Mission to Nepal) is a Christian organisation, and all the hospital and community work is done with a strong Christian ethos. The predominantly Hindu and Buddhist communities we serve are thankful for this expression of Christianity that has sought out and ministered to the poor and marginalised, just as Jesus showed us through his own life. While it is illegal to overtly promote Christianity in Nepal, we can demonstrate it through our work both at the hospital and in the community. It is truly a great privilege to be part of this special work that heals the sick and enables people with disabilities to lead fulfilling and meaningful lives in this little corner of Nepal.



Dalamu with spinal cord injury and her wheelchair accessible kitchen.

I returned to Nepal and Okhaldhunga after Christmas but regularly return to Starston (and my parents Sue and Peter Grimble)!

If you would like to know more about my work in Nepal, I would love to hear from you.

clare@grimbles.org



County Council report.

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting is well underway, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins. Updates are posted on their social media using *#NorfolkWinter*, with a dedicated website for info, and recent campaigns even involved naming the gritters. Residents can also check this year's gritting routes using the online map on the council's website www.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/maps/gritting.aspx. A big thank you to all of the volunteers that use the grit bins to help keep our footpaths and roads safe and also a big thank you to all of the farmers that are on standby to help keep the roads clear and safe.

NCC has once again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England. Norfolk achieved an overall score well above the national average. This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall. Some of the highlights

were 'local bus services' where we were 10% above the average, 'ease of access to school' and 'condition of highways' being 8% above the average.

NCC has welcomed two major funding announcements from government, providing long-term certainty for highways maintenance and bus services for the first time in many years. The multi-year settlements will allow the council to plan with confidence and deliver programmes of work that join up different funding streams to maximise for residents and businesses. The council has received confirmation of its highways maintenance funding allocations through to 2029/30. Funding will rise from £56 million in 2025/26 to over £83 million by 2029/30 – a £27 million increase over the period. Norfolk's future bus grant allocations have also been confirmed, covering both revenue (for services) and capital (for schemes) funding through to 2029/30. Annual funding for bus services across Norfolk will now exceed £15 million.

Two new state-of-the-art specialist vehicles have been delivered into Norfolk, leading the way in technology and ability across the fire and rescue sector in the UK. The water and foam carriers can hold and pump 13,500 litres of water, 1,500 litres of foam concentrate, making them among the largest and most capable vehicles with specialist equipment to enhance firefighting operations. Built by Emergency One in Scotland, the cost of the



two water carriers is £850,000 and they replace two ageing and smaller carriers which are 23 and 24 years old.

NCC has supported the introduction of 'Tap on, Tap off' across all First and Konnect busses in Norfolk, making it quicker and easier for passengers to board the bus and pay for their journey. The new payment technology allows passengers to simply tap a contactless card or mobile device when getting on and off the bus, with fares automatically

capped so customers always pay the best price for their travel. 'Tap on Tap off' is now live on First and Konnect services, with all other bus operators in Norfolk expected to follow in 2026. This comes alongside the Government's £3 single fare cap, now extended until March 2027, helping keep bus travel affordable for residents.

Best Wishes

Martin

Parish Council report.

Dear Starston residents,

I am pleased to say that Cllr Janet Broadhurst has successfully secured a 'Keep it Going' grant of £300 from South Norfolk District Council so that we can continue our Warm Welcome initiative.

The Warm Welcome lunches take place in the Jubilee Hall on the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to come along. Further information can be obtained from Cllr Janet Broadhurst.

At the time of writing this, the Parish Council has a vacancy for a new Councillor. If anyone is interested in taking on the role and would like to know more about what it involves, please do

not hesitate to contact me or the Chairman, Philip Astor.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 19th March 2026 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.

Jo Madders

Clerk to Starston Parish Council

starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk



February quiz - something a little different.

This month's quiz is in the form of a story with blanks in it. Your challenge is to fill in the blanks with the name of a football team. The teams you can choose your answer from are given on page 24. We've included two answers already to give you a start. The full story with our view of the correct answers will appear next month. Good luck!

The sun shone **Brighton** the day we set sail for the _____ in a ship with a _____ riddled with holes.

We sailed down the river which _____ to the sea.

We waved to the fair maiden leaning against the _____.

The _____ was made up of Scots, Irish and others of the _____ race.

The exception was the cabin boy named _____ whose job was to _____ the boilers.

He was illiterate, but won our _____ with his _____ efforts to improve his _____.

He was sent to _____ by the villains on board, who had brought their _____ of weapons.

They were a rowdy lot and, when drunk, they did, in fact, _____ furniture.

The voyage made my _____, who had not had a holiday _____ too long.

We landed _____ in the day on the _____ of the island, below where the locals _____ their dead.

We crossed a stream and entered a dense forest where the _____ roamed freely.

We _____ regardless and eventually met a group of _____ dressed in _____ green.

After a day's journey we caught some black fish in a _____ and tried to get milk from a herd of cows, but they objected to having their _____.

At last we came to our destination, the home of the Hawaiian monarch, the _____.

She greeted us with a friendly _____, but was obviously upset, as her _____ had been smashed when the _____ fell down.

While her **Newcastle** was being built she had to live in a sumptuous _____.

When we found the treasure we put the _____ the ship, determined to put it straight in the _____ when we got home.

That night we ate some _____ cake and some _____ buns for tea, also some _____ which made us feel ill.



Friends or family visiting with (or without) dogs, but need somewhere to stay?

Blackthorn Retreat is our large homely & cosy secluded shepherd's hut in Starston, and is perfect for reactive dogs, and is set alone in its own 1/3 acre meadow. 4' fencing all around. Wonderful views and walks. Kitchen, shower, king-sized bed, air con, under-floor heating, hot tub, fire pit, pizza oven, air fryer oven, loungers, hammock, laundry, games etc

<https://www.airbnb.com/h/blackthorn-retreat-starston>
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February quiz - available teams.

BRIGHTON
WALSALL
PORTSMOUTH
VILLA
MOTHERWELL
OLDHAM
HULL
LUTON
FORFAR
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH
LEEDS
ALLOA
LEYTON

CHELSEA
CREWE
CRYSTAL PALACE
SOUTHEND
NEWCASTLE
MILLWALL
CLYDEBANK
CELTIC
DUNDEE
WOLVES
WREXHAM
PETERBOROUGH
BURY

STOKE
PRESTON
HEARTS
RANGERS
STIRLING
LINCOLN
READING
BLACKPOOL
COVENTRY
ARSENAL
HUDDERSFIELD

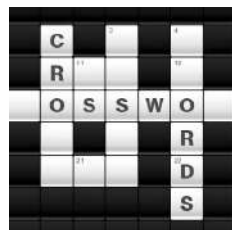
Answers to the January quiz (capitals).

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Tirana (Tirane) | 6. San Salvador |
| 2. Baku | 7. Helsinki |
| 3. Bridgetown | 8. Bissau |
| 4. Santiago | 9. New Delhi |
| 5. Zagreb | 10. Nairobi |

Answers to the January crossword.

Across

1. Adze
4. Adjust
8. Biometry
9. Yank
10. Messy
11. Dizzily
13. Wheezy
15. Excess
17. Jukebox
19. Clamp
22. Ache
23. Obedient
24. Banyan
25. Ghee

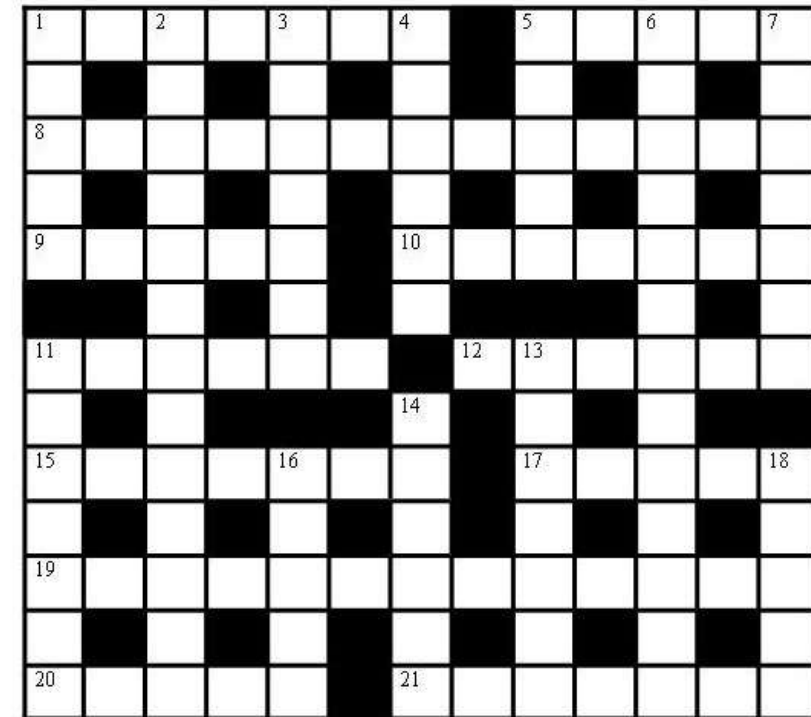


Down

2. Drive
3. En masse
4. Arts
5. Joyrider
6. Soyuz
7. Ankle
12. Zymology
14. Haunch
16. Calking
18. Enema
20. Mince
21. Seen



February crossword by Dahlia.



Clues across

1. Owen wrote, Dulce et..... (7)
5. Later on, when I've finished this (5)
8. To pre-empt an undesirable outcome (13)
9. Lucifer (5)
10. A potent green beverage (7)
11. Pressure (6)
12. Vaults of the dead (6)
15. In the style of ancient Roman delicacies (7)
17. Gate furniture, or do it to a ball (5)
19. Colourful buntings (13)
20. A short piece of writing (5)
21. Being firm. Firm fixings (7)

Clues down

1. Tricks, jibes or hoax (5)
2. Well known British made sofas (13)
3. Buckthorn (7)
4. A one-way heart valve (6)
5. Threadlike parts of nerve cells (5)
6. Locomotive enthusiasts (13)
7. Strong repeated patterns of sound or motion (7)
11. To purify by filtration (7)
13. A specific type of flower cluster around a central stem (7)
14. To hold down, and the means to do so (6)
16. A creamy-white natural material (5)
18. Angels and daffodils and where parasites live (5)



Benefice services in February - tbc.

	1st Feb Candlemas/Presentation	8th Feb 2 before Lent	15th Feb Next before Lent	Ash Weds 18th Feb	22nd Feb Lent 1
Pulham Market	9.30 JA Communion	9.30 Messy Church	9.30 CM Communion		9.30 Team All Age Worship
Pulham St Mary	8.00 JA BCP Communion	11.00 JA Communion	11.00 MC/GS All Age Worship	10.00 CM Communion & Ashing	11.00 CM Communion
Starston	11.00 CM BCP Communion	11.00 NS Great & Small	11.00 CM BCP Communion		11.00 GS BCP Morning Prayer
Dickleburgh	9.30 CM All Age Worship	9.30 CM Communion	9.30 GH Morning Prayer		9.30 CM Communion
Thelveton	11.00 GS Morning Prayer	Church Open for Prayer	3.00 CM Communion		11.00 GH Morning Prayer
Rushall	Church Open for Prayer	11.00 CM Communion	Church Open for Prayer	7.00 CM Communion & Ashing	Church Open for Prayer

All-age worship - suitable for everyone

Dickleburgh	9.30am	1 st Sundays (breakfast from 9am)
Starston	11.00am	2 nd Sundays (breakfast from 10.15am)
Pulham St Mary	11.00am	3 rd Sundays (breakfast from 10.15am)
Pulham Market	9.30am	4 th Sundays (breakfast from 9am)

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

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



Starston Parish Council.

Philip Astor:	Chairman	philipastor@mac.com	07753 800594
Janet Broadhurst:	Emergency Plan Co-ordinator	janetbroadhurst@aol.com	01379 853480
Stuart Griffin:	Member	stuartgriffin@live.co.uk	
Karen O'Keeffe:	Vice-chair & Internal Control of Finances	karena.keeffe@icloud.com	
Chris Sparrow:	Footpath Warden	chris.sparrow2211@hotmail.co.uk	
Val Baker:	Member	crewdy@icloud.com	

Highways Defects, Village Maintenance, SAM 2 Equipment, General Enquiries
Joanne Madders: Clerk to the Council & RFO

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

There is currently a vacancy on the parish council, please see the parish council report in this issue for more information

Local councillors.

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

Waveney Valley MP.

Adrian Ramsay:	Suite 1B Navire House, Mere Street, Diss, IP22 4AG waveneyvalleyoffice@parliament.uk	01379 830200
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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	Ring: 105
Report Flooding	Ring: 03448008013
If you are in danger call 999	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
Refuse Collection and Queries	Ring: 01508 533830
Harleston Information Plus	Ring: 01379 851917 Email: hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk

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