

pigeon  
POST

JUNE 2026



‘for Starston people’



Issue 413

Issue Editor: Kathryn Gates

©2026 PIGEON POST

## In this issue.

Cover photograph: Russell Carter	
Village diary	Page 3
Around and about	Page 5
Editor's notes	Page 7
Notes from a Starston gardener	Page 8
Scouts visit Glebe Meadow	Page 9
Benefice letter	Page 10
A word from Rosedale	Page 11
Finding military veterans	Page 12
A day in the life: Debbie Griffin	Page 14
Recycling centre closure	Page 18
Parish Council report	Page 19
Margaret and Sheena	Page 20
The story of Starston Pealers	Page 21
Quiz	Page 24
Crossword	Page 25

Co-ordinating Editor:	Craig Marven 07824 320746 <a href="mailto:pigeonpost19@gmail.com">pigeonpost19@gmail.com</a>
Editors:	Kathryn Gates Christina Greathead Mark Spiers Karen O'Keeffe
Crossword & Quiz:	Chris Doughty Sue Moore
Treasurer:	Mandy Carter 01379 854600 <a href="mailto:mcarter@carrotech.com">mcarter@carrotech.com</a>
Advertising Manager:	Liz Stacey 01379 853427 <a href="mailto:elizabethstacey99@hotmail.com">elizabethstacey99@hotmail.com</a>
Distribution Organisers:	Brian & Christina Greathead 01379 852352 <a href="mailto:bgreathead99@gmail.com">bgreathead99@gmail.com</a>
Distributors include:	Brenda & David Beech, Sonja Burnett, Mandy Carter, Tessa Dunbar, Alison Miners, Rosemary & Norman Steer, and others.

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 12<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month, (usually earlier in December). Space in the magazine will be allocated at the Issue Editor's discretion. Photographs are welcome and will be used wherever possible.

Please send copy by e-mail to: [pigeonpost19@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	11.30am
Coffee morning in the Jubilee Hall (in aid of the Pink Ladies' tractor run)	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30am
Warm Welcome lunch in the Jubilee Hall	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	11.30am
Bells Festival in the Parish Church	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	2.30pm

## 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](http://www.starstonvillage.co.uk/jubilee-hall)

Please contact the Jubilee Hall Bookings Manager, Robert Wood, on 01379 852535 or [starstonrobert@gmail.com](mailto:starstonrobert@gmail.com)

## Advertising in Pigeon Post.

For advertising rates please contact:

Advertising Manager: Liz Stacey Tel: 01379 853427 Email: [elizabethstacey99@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethstacey99@hotmail.com)

Copy must reach us by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 July 2026 edition:  
12.00 noon on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.**



**Robinson's**  
TRADITIONAL STATIONERS

*Your Local  
Stationers and Copy shop*

Open Monday - Saturday  
9am - 5pm

01379 855027

mail@robinsonstraditionalstationers.co.uk  
5 The Thoroughfare, Harleston IP20 9AH

**KATE SPIERS**  
PLUMBING SERVICES

*New name, same great service!*

Starston's local plumber.  
Installation, maintenance and repair.

Please get in touch for a free quote:  
katespiersplumbing@gmail.com  
07506186342

**ACORN TREES**

**Tree Surgery**



Crown reductions, precise dismantling,  
dead wooding, hedge management,  
felling, gardening work, planting and  
fencing.

Established over 15 years.

For a professional insured service  
contact Adam on:

**01379 588122 or 07776 235006**  
Orchard Cottage, Mill Lane, Weybread.

**Matthew James**

(Formerly trading as MJ Property Maintenance)

**Property Maintenance  
Painting & Decorating  
Roofing  
Landscaping**

**Free Quotation**

**07522 978710**

**PROFESSIONAL UPHOLSTERY  
AND CARPET CLEANING**

CARPETS  
THREE-PIECE SUITES  
RUGS

DEODORISING    CONDITIONING

Call David 01379 608529  
Mobile 07768 757308

*Genty's*  
Barbers  
for  
Men  
7a Bullock Fair Close  
Harleston  
IP20 9AT

Mon	8.30am - 1.1pm 2pm - 7.30pm
Tues	8.30am - 1pm 2pm - 5.30pm
Wed	8.30am - 1pm 2pm - 5.30pm
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.

Bun, cuppa and chat.

Our Summer Lunch will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026, at 12 for 12.30pm at the Mariner's Galley, Rushall. Full details, including menus and costs will follow. Open to our Bun, Cuppa and Chat members, carer/family member and our lovely volunteers. Contact: [rosemaryasteer55@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryasteer55@gmail.com)

Film night at the Pennoyer Centre.

**Dead of Winter (15)** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm

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

World War II history day, RAF West Raynham (NR21 7PL).

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 10am to 3pm. Visit the military vehicles, re-enactors and displays and learn about the role they played in World War Two. Sit in some of the presentations – from the development of airfields in Norfolk, the Royal Norfolk Regiment in the war, 'Over Here' – the American presence in East Anglia, and more. Watch or take part on one of the World War Two wargame scenarios. And lots more to see and do.

The Lowestoft Longshoremen at Alburgh village hall.

The Lowestoft Longshoremen are a group founded 20 years ago to promote the history of shanty singing and the local fishing industry. They perform all over East Anglia. Come along and hear them on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Alburgh Village Hall IP20 0BZ. Doors open 6pm, Buffet supper included. Tickets £15 from 01986 788934

All Saints Church Alburgh – Summer fete.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30 pm. On the playing field, Alburgh IP20 0BZ. Come and enjoy a traditional fete with something for everyone. Display by the pupils of Alburgh with Denton Primary Academy. Cream teas, tombola, raffle, cakes, books, plants and much more. In aid of All Saints Alburgh Church funds.

Regular 'what's on' information.

Harleston Information Plus: 8, Exchange St, Harleston, IP20 9AB  
[www.harleston-norfolk.org.uk](http://www.harleston-norfolk.org.uk)

Fisher Theatre Bungay: <https://fishertheatre.org/FisherTheatre.dll/WhatsOn>  
Diss Corn Hall: <https://www.thecornhall.co.uk/whats-on-list/>  
Pennoyer Centre - Pulham St. Mary: <https://pennoyers.org.uk/events/>



**Sty View  
Station Road  
Burston, Diss  
IP22 5UB**

We are open all year round; come for a visit, call us on 01379 741933 or 07792 578338 e: hayley@limetreecattery.co.uk www.limetreecattery.co.uk



*A home away from home*

**Richard  
Walpole  
Roofing**



- New Roofs • Re Roofs • Roof Repairs
- Leadwork • Chimneys Repointed • Fascia, Soffit and Guttering •

FULLY INSURED

**Tel: 07747 784742**

THE APIARY



CAKE & COFFEE HOUSE

**Coffee & Cake  
Light Lunches**

*We can also  
look after  
all your Catering & Buffet  
needs*

Pop in to discuss your requirements

01379 852211

bees@apiaryharleston.com  
or message us on Facebook

further details: www.apiarygrocer.co.uk

## YOGA

### Needham Village Hall

Various classes and times

All abilities welcome

www.**BrendaLouw**.co.uk

Tel: 07791 385240

Email: [brendajlouw@gmail.com](mailto:brendajlouw@gmail.com)

### Foot Health Care

Home Visits - Mobile 07979 262188

Treatments include:

- Routine nail care
- Ingrown toe nails
- Fungal nail advice
- Corns & callus removal
- Verruca treatment
- Advice on the diabetic foot



**FOOT MASSAGE GIVEN AT THE END OF ALL TREATMENTS**

**Mrs Carol Ryden**

*Qualified foot health professional*

**20 years experience and recommendations**

**Reduced rates for couples**



**If you don't rush to fill this  
space with your own advert, I'll  
coo down your chimney till you  
change your mind.**

**Contact Editor for details**



## Editor's notes.

'We've lit the fire again!' That seems to have been the recent conversation opener. Consider that by the time this issue of the Pigeon Post drops through your letterbox, it will be only a few weeks until the longest day? Time to get out the garden furniture and BBQ; plant up the hanging baskets; take down (according to the RSPB) the bird feeders and get ready for summer. I love British summertime. Granted, the sun can't be guaranteed but the long, light evenings, the dawn bird chorus and the multitude of summer events (fetes, fairs, music concerts and garden trails) make up for it. There are plenty of activities to look forward to in and around Starston

over the summer months. In June we are celebrating our Starston bellringers (or The Clangers as they are affectionately referred to in our home) and all things bells at The Starston Bell Festival. In August, Starston will host a music festival and, of course, the annual village fete. If you know of any other local events, let your Pigeon Post team know in time for us to include it in our next edition. We encourage everyone to send in articles to keep our Pigeon Post interesting and relevant. At time of writing, we do not have a front cover photo so we welcome photos (preferably taken in and around the village) too.

*Kathryn*

## Save the date.

We are planning a 'Music on the Meadow' event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

It will be along the lines of a mini music festival with several bands including the Allstars, together with a Bar, Barbeque, raffle and possibly some other stalls.

The event will start in Glebe Meadow at around 2.30pm and run until the last person leaves. It will be free entry and everyone is welcome. It should be a fun event for the village.

*Frank Pearson*



## Notes from a travelling Starston gardener.

I have a pond in my Starston garden – a very small pond – dug more than ten years ago in approved fashion, with a butyl lining and an edging of large stones. It has planting ledges along two sides where I positioned baskets with marginal plants – marsh marigolds, flag iris, miniature bulrushes, water forget-me-not – and I chucked some oxygenators into the water to keep it and the plants healthy.

So far, so good. What was much less good was that the only position in the garden for the pond was very close to a large birch tree, so it is much more shaded than is recommended. Despite that, it got along pretty well, though there were issues with blanket weed and duck weed. However, the biggest problem was that I didn't do the regular maintenance that was needed, with inevitable results.

The pond became clogged with leaves from the birch tree; the more rampant plants – like the water forget-me-not and the bulrushes - took over; and vegetation grew up, hiding the pond from view. Then in the autumn of 2024, I took it in hand. I cleared much of the encircling vegetation and the following spring I got in a contractor to drain the pond and remove the sludge of rotted leaves. The next step is to buy and install new marginals. I'll get them from a wonderful specialist nursery, Bennet's Water Gardens in my home town of Weymouth.

What has given me the push to finish the renovation job is a "pond" which I saw in



the grounds of the Tree Lodge, near Pench in central India, where we stayed for a couple of nights recently. Strictly speaking it isn't a pond but a watering hole to attract animals and birds. However, it has the approved butyl liner and edgings of rocks and dead wood. Most remarkably it has an observation hide – not your usual hide but one that is underground, so that the observation window is at eye level with the water. There have been some remarkable sightings, including an Indian wild cat which is incredibly rare.

I don't expect anything rare to visit my little pond, but it gives me pleasure to see the blackbirds and goldfinches bathing. And I promise that from now on I'll look after it properly.

*Dee the Gardener*



## 1<sup>st</sup> Harleston Cub Scouts visit to Glebe Meadow.

### *Spring cleaning, weeding and pooh sticks*

At the end of April, on a wonderfully warm and sunny evening, the 1<sup>st</sup> Harleston Cub Scouts held their meeting in Glebe Meadow. The visit counted towards their Community Impact Staged Badge, and it was also a great chance for the Cubs to learn more about their local environment.

The evening began with the Cubs – aged 8 to 10 – enthusiastically gathering almost every stick they could find across the meadow (apologies to any dogs who came looking for a stick later that week!). All the sticks were added to the bonfire pile at the far end of the field.

We then explored Jubilee Orchard, looking at the different varieties of fruit trees,

many of which were completely new to the Cubs. After that, they got stuck into weeding around the bases of the trees. Armed with trowels and gardening gloves, they worked with impressive enthusiasm - the pile of weeds they collected (as seen in the photo) says it all.

To finish the evening, we enjoyed a cheerful game of Pooh Sticks from the footbridge, a small reward for all their hard work. It was a lovely session, and we hope to return to the meadow again soon.

*Abi Holledge*  
1<sup>st</sup> Harleston Cub Scouts Leader





## Benefice letter.

As I woke up this morning, I lay quietly listening to the birds singing. It was a joyful chorus which brought a smile and a reminder that it was my turn to write the leader for the parish magazines for June. Summer has arrived.

June 5<sup>th</sup> is World Environment Day, a day meant to raise environmental awareness across the globe, a time to review the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded: the factors and influences that affect the growth, health, progress, functioning, etc. of all people in the world. What a splendid time for governments in the world to get together and put a stop to warring, anger, bullying, killing, and destruction, and all the consequences of wars.

Our current newspapers and television give us daily information on what is going on in the world. I feel exasperated with our politicians as it seems to me that politicians globally have lost the art of debate and enter discussions framing power as the means of control. At times, we feel helpless. We say to ourselves, "What can we do"? Often, the answer is "nothing". Believing ourselves helpless, we hand over power to forces outside us.

But we can do something; the answer is within us: love, compassion, humility and forgiveness. Whilst we may not be able to reach the whole world, we can clothe ourselves with these traits and offer them

to everyone that we meet and use them as a blessing. We can create a climate of love and friendship and understanding, like seeds, the blossom will grow and flourish. The result will enable people to feel the happiness and the warmth of friendship within them, to feel more confident and hopeful and recognise their worth.

As you wake up in the morning listening to the birds, put your hands together and start your day with a prayer to your heavenly Father and feel His love and let him be your guide and comfort. I leave you with this prayer and my love.

*Father God*

*Bless us with Love.*

*That we may Love as you Love.*

*That we may show patience, tolerance, kindness, caring and love to all.*

*Give me knowledge.*

*That I may be one with my Universe and Mother Earth.*

*O Compassionate One, grant compassion unto us;*

*That we may help all fellow souls in need.*

*Bless us with your Love, O God.*

*Bless us with your Love.*

*Norman*



## A word from Rosedale funeral home.

### *Bereavement and anger*

Along with many other strong emotions, anger can be something that those who are bereaved struggle to process. Anger can be felt within the body in physical symptoms such as tension headaches, tight and aching muscles and joints. We may feel irritable and lash out at those closest to us.

I am sure we can all recall being on the receiving end of someone's anger and having no clue as to what we had done to deserve it! From time to time, we all experience strong feelings that we release at the wrong moment towards the wrong person.

Grieving is a complex, confusing process. One minute we can feel desperately lonely, crying uncontrollably with sadness, the next, experiencing gut-wrenching feelings of rage.

We may feel angry at the unfairness of our loved one's death and cheated out of a future we had planned. Many people feel angry towards the person who has died because they have been left behind to carry on without them. This can lead to feelings of guilt and shame for feeling this way. Anger often accompanies blame.

When we are grieving it is important to be kind to ourselves. Anger that is suppressed or denied becomes internalised and can often lead to depression. Working

through our anger is an important part of the grief process.

There are also practical things we can do to help release anger such as:

Writing a letter to those we are angry with (we may decide not to send it!). Many people find it therapeutic to rip up such letters or burn them in the fire.

Physical activities can also help, such as running, walking, gardening, shouting in the shower or punching a pillow!

Writing difficult feelings in a private journal can also be beneficial.

A state of acceptance is not easy to achieve, but it can be the way forwards. Practicing forgiveness and choosing to let go of anger is a daily process for many of us.

If you've been bereaved (recently or in the past) and would like to join one of Rosedale's Bereavement Support Groups, please call 01379 640810 to reserve your free place. All groups are free and confidential.

*This article was written by Sarah Howard, Rosedale Funeral Home Bereavement Support Group Facilitator*



# Finding military veterans in Norfolk.

According to Government figures there are over 40,000 veterans in Norfolk. This is the highest percentage of any county in England, with an average of 6% of the population! Veterans Central, a charity based near Fakenham at West Raynham SHQ (NR21 7PL) currently engages with around 900 veterans and a spokesperson said: "with those numbers in mind we are clearly still missing a few".

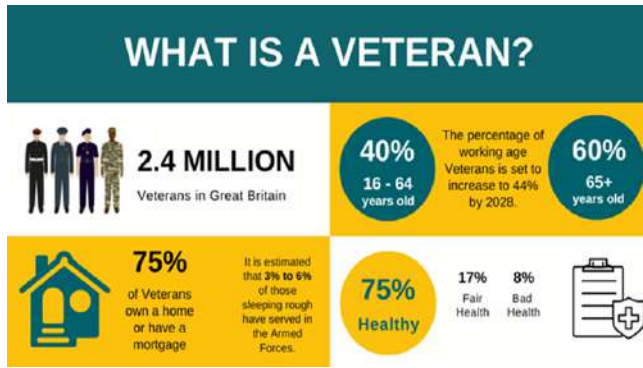
We need **your** help in finding veterans across Norfolk so we can reach out to them. You may be a veteran, have veterans in your extended family or friends, or have a veteran in your

neighbourhood. In many cases this will involve people that we are currently not reaching and are unaware of the support that is available – from direct help with specific issues to the more broad 'somewhere to go and something to do'.

Veterans Central was launched in 2023 with the dual aims of providing veterans with a sense of purpose, a reason to get up that day and go and achieve something, or somewhere to go for socialisation, what we refer to as the 4Cs (Coffee-Cake-Conversation-Company).

Veterans Central is open three days a week on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 to 3. As part of the

'finding more veterans' under the Veterans Voice project, that also run monthly drop-ins (coffee, cake and conversation) in Swaffham (in the Assembly Rooms on the last Tuesday each month). There are also several Armed Forces Breakfast Clubs across Norfolk.



Since the project started in 2023, the volunteers have completed over 40,000 hours of work at West Raynham on the SHQ building and the three acres of grounds. We have also provided over 1,500 breakfasts at our free monthly breakfasts and countless cups of coffee and pieces of cake!

For more information email: [info@veteranscentral.co.uk](mailto:info@veteranscentral.co.uk)



**Kevin and Tom Ridley**  
**Heating and Boiler Services**

**Installations - Servicing - Repairs**  
**Oil Tank Installations**

**01379 854697**  
**07885 493501**

**OFTEC Registered Technicians**

**JRA ELECTRICAL**

For all your household electrical needs in South Norfolk, North Suffolk and Norwich

- Sockets, Switches and Lighting
- Garden Lighting and Outdoor Electrics
- Rewires, Consumer Units and more.....

No job too small

Call Jordan today on:  
**07788 864556**

**Cosmic Fun Fitness**

We offer Fun Zumba classes for all abilities, from our all-seated Chair class, low-impact Zumba Gold, medium impact Gold+, to our high impact Zumba class!

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
10.30am Zumba Gold-King <u>Georges Hall, Harleston</u>	10am Zumba Gold+	10.30am Zumba Gold- <u>Wortwell Community Centre</u>	9.30am Zumba Gold+ (med impact)
5.30pm Zumba Gold	11am Zumba Gold- <u>Needham Village Hall</u>	6pm ZUMBA GOLD (starts 9 <sup>th</sup> April)	10.30am Zumba Gold
6.30pm Zumba- <u>Wortwell Community Centre</u>	6.30pm Zumba Gold	7pm Zumba <u>Needham Village Hall</u>	11.30am Zumba Gold CHAIR class- <u>King Georges Hall, Harleston</u>
	7.30 Zumba- <u>Brockdish Village Hall</u>		

Classes are £6 per person per class (Chair class is £5 inc. drink). Our loyalty scheme is free to join Want to find out more? Check out our new website [www.cosmicfunfitness.co.uk](http://www.cosmicfunfitness.co.uk)  
 Contact Sue 07771 745917 • Email [info@cosmicfunfitness.co.uk](mailto:info@cosmicfunfitness.co.uk)



## A day in the life: Debbie Griffin – Pink Tractor Lady.

Introducing Debbie Griffin. Debbie lives in Starston, just off Railway Hill, with her husband Stuart, and their labradors, mother and daughter duo Nelly and Mable.

This year will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the Pink Tractor run, started in 2004 by Annie Chapman to raise funds for Breast Cancer.

Annie and her husband John were awarded an MBE in the King's Annual Honours List last year.

*How did this all start ?*

"I have always been aware of the Pink Tractor run, and over the years as the children were growing up, we always took them to various country shows where there were tractor runs, but I must admit that it has taken me some time to agree to do it.

I drive a 1962 Fordson Super Dexta, a working tractor, which is on loan from Stuart's cousin, Neil. It took some time to master the gears, but after a couple of lessons from Stu, I was ready to go. Some of you may have seen me practising my hill starts on Railway Hill last summer!

An easy application form sent by Annie, generates a twelve point agreement, confirming things like being able to perform an emergency stop, a hill start/stop, and agreeing to have enough fuel to finish the run!



There are stewards, mechanics, and trailers on the route if anyone gets into trouble, which is really reassuring.

We start and end at Thorpe Abbots Airfield, and the sight of over 200 tractors leaving at the same time is a sight to see, and I am so proud to be a part of it.

This year's run is on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, we drive through Brockdish, into Harleston, and after a lunch stop at Gawdy Hall, we return to Thorpe Abbots via Pulham St. Mary, Rushall and Langmere Green.

As last year, I will be doing the run in memory of my aunt Christine and Stuart's aunt Margaret, these two wonderful

ladies both lost their battle with breast cancer when they were far too young".

*How much did you raise last year ?*

"I'm very proud to say that I raised over £500.

The online total raised for 2025 was £136,850 with the overall current fundraising total standing at £1,360,000.

Last year, although we started in the sunshine, it very quickly started to rain, so I'm really hoping that this year we have sunny weather for the whole route – the only thing that Annie can't organise!"

Debbie has organised a coffee morning at the Jubilee Hall Starston, on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am – 12.30pm. Please come along, and support this worthy cause. Any monies raised will go directly to the Pink Tractor Breast Cancer Fund.

There will also be a tombola, with some lovely prizes, and a cake stand for you to buy cakes to take home.

The Pink Tractor run will go through Harleston, usually between 12.30 – 1pm (subject to road conditions) on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone unable to make the coffee morning, but wanting to donate, can do so via :

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/im-debbie-griffin-pink-lady-2026>

Every penny counts, but Debbie and the team understand how difficult life is at the moment, so please just come along for a cuppa and some cake, to meet village friends and take a moment to realise how lucky we are to live in a world where Pink Tractors can make people smile!



Any cake donations, tombola prizes or to offer to help on the day, please contact Debbie: [deb.stu@hotmail.com](mailto:deb.stu@hotmail.com) or on 01379 854233. A reminder to please note any ingredients on cake donations.

Janice Brooks



**HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

**PUCCINI**  
*Messa di Gloria*

**BRUCKNER**  
*Magnificat*

**SCHUBERT**  
*Mass in G*

Music Director: JUSTIN BINDLEY

Soprano: LAURA MORGAN  
Tenor: DAVID MENEZES  
Bass: PETER COLEMAN

Harleston Chamber Orchestra  
Accompanist: WILLIAM FALCONER

Saturday 27 June 2026 at 7:30pm Tickets £15

Harleston Sancroft Academy  
Wilderness Lane, Harleston, IP20 9DD

Available from: Click members  
Harleston Info Plus & cash on card on the door  
Accompanied children under 18 - FREE

FOLLOW US ON

**HALESWORTH GALLERY**  
www.halesworthgallery.co.uk info@halesworthgallery.co.uk @halesworth\_gallery

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 11AM-4PM  
SUNDAY 2-4PM  
Admission FREE 01796 873044

**13th June-8th July**  
Opening Party 12th June 6pm - 8pm EVERYONE WELCOME

**Jane German**

**Quentin Cowan**

**Jan Lacey**

Steeple End, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8LL  
Opposite St. Mary's Church

**HARLESTON PLAYERS**

Harleston Players present :-

**A Day of Living History in Harleston - a station stop on the Waveney Valley Line, 1850s to 1950s.**

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. 10am - 2pm.

Step back in time with us as we visit scenes from the past around Harleston town centre and eavesdrop on local stories tied to Harleston railway station and the Waveney Valley Line.

Pick up a map from our stall on the market square. Wander round town in your own time to the various yards where you'll find local characters from days gone by, chatting about what's going on in the town. You'll find a link with the railway in all their stories.

This **Living History Day** is presented as part of our project about the Waveney Valley Line railway, which ran through Harleston from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Look out for posters, giving details of our upcoming production - "All Aboard for the Waveney Valley Line"! 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> July in our Big Tent at Magpies Hockey Club. Transport available on the vintage red bus for the matinee performances on 12<sup>th</sup> + 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Further info from Eileen Ryan on [aryoldryan@gmail.com](mailto:aryoldryan@gmail.com)

**Dickleburgh Festival**  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June  
2pm - 5pm

**Dog Show!**  
**BBQ & Bar**  
**Cream Teas**  
**Cake Stall**  
**Ice Creams**  
Local Village groups involved!

**Traditional Fete Games**  
Splat the Rat  
Bowling, Tombola & loads more!  
Opening of Doves Meadow Project

**Prize Draw with great prizes!**  
**Classic Cars & Bikes**  
**Bell Ringing Demos**

**Live Music from 4pm til early evening**

Venue: Field Behind Church Hall/Scout Hut  
Free Parking: Follow signs along Burston Road



**CREATIVE SCREEN RETREATS**  
NORFOLK

PRESENTED BY **FIZZ AND GINGER FILMS**

EVENING MASTERCLASSES, COURSES & RETREATS FOR SCREEN ACTING, SCREENWRITING & FILMMAKING

IN RURAL SOUTH NORFOLK

INFO@CREATIVESCREENRETREATS.COM

CREATIVESCREENRETREATS.COM SCREENACTORSRETREAT.COM

## Harleston library.

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

This year's Summer Reading Challenge has the catchy title of 'Read to the Beat'. We will be having an official launch of the SRC on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July** so look out for posters and flyers in the library with more details coming soon.

Other Dates for your Diary (these activities are free of charge with refreshments; no need to book)

<b>Every Monday</b>	<b>Digital Support</b>	12.00-2.00pm
	<b>'Just A Cuppa'</b>	2.00pm-3.00pm
	<b>LEGO Club</b>	3.30pm-4.30pm
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	<b>Bounce &amp; Rhyme</b>	10.30am-11.00am (for babies and toddlers)
	<b>Stay &amp; Play</b>	11.00am-12.00pm (for babies and toddlers)
	<b>Family Time</b>	3.30pm-4.30pm (craft & games for families)
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Make group</b>	2.00pm-3.00pm (adults)
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Knit and Natter Group</b>	2.00pm-3.00pm
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Menopause Support Group</b>	5.30pm-6.30pm
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Make group</b>	2.00pm-3.00pm (adults)
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Knit and Natter Group</b>	2.00pm-3.00pm
<b>Every Friday</b>	<b>Book Café</b>	2.00pm-3.00pm (drop-in session for book lovers)



## Morningthorpe recycling centre to close.

Norfolk County Council has announced that Morningthorpe Recycling Centre near Long Stratton will close permanently on October 31.

The current 25-year lease for the site is due to expire and no agreement has been reached to extend this with the landowner.

James Bensly, cabinet member for environment and waste, said: "It's disappointing that we have to close this facility, but the decision has been taken out of our hands."

"The landowner has confirmed they are not willing to extend the lease beyond early 2027, which means we must bring operations to an end this October to meet our regulatory responsibilities and return the site to the required condition.

I want to reassure residents that we're committed to providing a smooth transition, and our modern Norwich South Recycling Centre is ready to welcome any new visitors."

## Harleston Museum.

A reminder that Harleston has its own museum which is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays (10 am-noon) from April though September.

They also provide guided walks at 12noon from the museum (£5 pp cash only). Each walk has a different theme. (Example themes are "Welcome to Harleston" and 'Crime and Punishment: peek at the darker side of Harleston').

## Harleston and Waveney Festival.

The Festival will be held on Bank Holiday Monday August 31<sup>st</sup> at Harleston Recreation Ground.

### Stall Holders are wanted.

Crafts and Artisan, Community and Charity, Retail and Market, Entertainment and Family.

For more information email:  
[treasurer.harlestonsfuture@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer.harlestonsfuture@yahoo.com)



## Parish Council report.

Dear Starston residents,

I am writing this shortly before our May meeting, when amongst many other items of parish business, we shall be arranging the date of this year's litter pick. I look forward to providing further details in next month's Pigeon Post.

All Parish Councillors now have formal email addresses in the following format:  
*firstname.surname@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk*.

However, it continues to be best practice to direct any correspondence concerned

with Parish Council matters via me at:  
[clerk@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 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  
[clerk@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

I, Trevor Holden, being the DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER at the election of a COUNTY COUNCILLOR for the **East Depwade** Division of Norfolk County Council held on Thursday, 7 May 2026

do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded for each candidate at the election is as follows:

Surname	Other Names	Party Name	Number of votes recorded. (If elected write 'elected' against the number of votes)	
EDDY	James	Labour Party	222	
GILLESPIE	Ed	Green Party	1178	
GRAHAM	Trevor	Local Conservatives	762	
GRAY	Murray	Liberal Democrat	118	
HUDSON	Clayton James	Independent	925	
KERRISON	Joseph Albert Terence	Reform UK	1300	Elected

#### The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:-

a) want of official mark	
b) voting more candidates than the voter was entitled to	3
c) writing or mark by which voter could be identified	
d) being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>

And I do hereby declare that the said Joseph Albert Terence Kerrison

is duly elected as COUNTY COUNCILLOR for the **East Depwade** Division

Vacant seats: 1      Electorate: 9275

Turnout: 48.66%

Dated 8 May 2026

Trevor Holden  
Deputy Returning Officer



Mary Margaret Griffiths: 9 October 1940 – 1 June 2025.

Sheena Elizabeth Duncan: 13 April 1937 – 20 February 2026.

On a sunny, warm Saturday at the beginning of May, we laid to rest, together, in Starston churchyard, our dear friends, Sheena and Margaret, following a joyful and uplifting service in St. Margaret's, full of music, laughter and memories to celebrate their lives.



Thank you to all involved in the service - Revd Carl and Revd Norman, Fran the organist, Herbert and the bell ringers, members of the Harleston Choral Society, and Shahnann, Margaret's great niece, Robin, Geoff and Kate for their memories.

Margaret and Sheena shared a home, and their lives, for over 60 years, retiring to Harleston about 25 years ago. They enjoyed travel, their garden, socialising and their cats, and were involved in numerous community organisations and activities in the town and local area, including Harleston Information Plus, the Choral and Historical Societies and Waveney Heritage Centre.

They were an integral part of the Starston village community from their arrival, starting when Margaret came to St. Margaret's to learn to play tower bells, under the watchful eye of Herbert. They joined St. Margaret's congregation, with Sheena becoming organist (and flower arranger) and Margaret, treasurer (and of course bell ringer). Most notably, in 2002, they founded and led the village handbell team, the Starston Pealers. All this after they retired to Norfolk following their service in the RAF and teaching careers, and for Sheena, a career in nursing and midwifery.



They both lived life to the full and were wonderful and extraordinary friends. It was a privilege to know them and we will miss them.

*Rosemary Steer*



## Serendipity: the story of the Starston Pealers.

The story began in 2002, when deputy churchwarden, Ian McKenzie, found a box containing the church handbells at St. Margaret's Church. The set is believed to have been last used by Starston School, forty plus years earlier. The box was dated 1868 and it is likely that the handbells date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly cast at the Whitechapel bell foundry in London. Some of the leathers on the bells were inscribed with the name Mears, the family that owned the Whitechapel bell foundry at the time.

Ian tidied up the bells as best he could, replacing leathers and adjusting clappers. A few of the congregation were keen to have a go at playing the bells, but we had no one who could teach us how to ring them. And that's where serendipity stepped in.

Margaret and Sheena had just moved into Harleston but had started to attend St. Margaret's in Starston, where Margaret was learning to ring the tower bells. Both ladies were musical and had been involved in teaching handbells to youngsters so were delighted to take on the tiny group (five for the first night's rehearsal) of Starston folk and the old handbells and try to make music. And the rest is history!

The original set of handbells had a very limited range so the group could play very few pieces. Also, despite Ian's efforts, they needed expert attention and refurbishment. The group had also grown to around ten people, so the group was

delighted that both their lottery application and bid to the Harleston Development Partnership Market Towns Initiative were successful, giving them nearly £4,300, plus additional funding from the Pealers, to spend on refurbishing the bells. 15 additional bells were also added, thus extending the range considerably. The bells were retuned from their refurbishment in the autumn of 2003, and the group went from strength to strength, with new ringers joining the team. From its early days, the group performed in public - at concerts, a wedding, church services and Norman's ordination at Dickleburgh. They also took the handbells into local primary schools, resulting in two schools setting up their own teams.

The Starston Pealers continued to flourish, with Margaret and Sheena constant at the helm until Margaret's last illness a couple of years ago. With the recent deaths of both these amazing ladies, the Starston Pealers are at a crossroads. They still have the bells, the music and a small group of ringers, but to move forward, they need new ringers, experienced and not.....and a leader. If you are interested, why not drop into the Starston Bells Festival on Saturday 20 June, which will be held on the Glebe Meadow where the Ditchingham Handbell Team will be on hand? And then, perhaps, give me a bell (pun intended!) on 01379 854245, as I have offered to co-ordinate responses.

*Rosemary Steer*



## Jane German - exhibition at Halesworth Gallery.

Starston artist, Jane German will be showing some of her recent work at The Halesworth Gallery in June. Each month three artists from the region are invited to share an exhibition and there will be a preview on Friday 12th June from 6.00 - 8.00pm to which everyone is welcome. The Gallery is situated in the 400 years old almshouses next to St. Mary's Parish church in Steeple End - IP19 8LL.

The exhibition runs for one month from 13th June to Wednesday 8th July and is open from Mondays to Saturdays from 11.00 - 4.00pm and Sundays 2.00 - 4.00pm. See poster on page 16.

As most of you will know, Halesworth town is in itself a lovely little town to visit and wander around with very nice shops and cafes if any of you fancy a trip over that way.

Best known for her studies of cattle and wild life, some of Jane's most recent still life paintings depict objects and things that have found themselves gathered together in bowls, boxes or containers over the years. Sea pebbles, shells, feathers found on walks and things dug up whilst gardening such as a doll's shoe and fragments of clay pipe, buttons and marbles. Little worthless treasures that nevertheless called out to be picked up and kept.



Door to door dial-a-ride service into the local towns  
Weekly members outings throughout the year  
Group hires for not-for-profit organisations

### Borderhoppa Outings for June 2026

- Mon 1<sup>st</sup>** – Great Yarmouth - £20.00
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup>** – The Factory Shop / Lidl & Harleston Town - Dial-a-Ride
- Thurs 11<sup>th</sup>** – Stonham Barns - £15.00
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup>** – The Four Horseshoes, Thornham – Dial-a-Ride
- Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>** – Southwold - £20.00
- Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Waitrose Café & Wymondham Garden Centre - £15.00
- Mon 29<sup>th</sup>** – Stowmarket - £15.00

To book or for more information please call 01379 854800 or visit our website [www.borderhoppa.org](http://www.borderhoppa.org)



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>  
20% discount for Starston residents and friends or family!  
Call or message Stu Hendry on 07810 698955



## SJ & L Marjoram Ltd Electrical Contractors

All electrical work including:  
Electric vehicle charging points  
Electrical testing & repairs  
Extra lights & sockets

Contact Simon on  
07931 606082, 01379 853917 or  
[sparkymarjoram@hotmail.com](mailto:sparkymarjoram@hotmail.com)



## SEPTIC TANK SERVICES



INSTALLATIONS • SERVICING  
• REPAIRS • DRAIN JETTING •  
• DRAIN CAMERA SURVEYS •  
• DITCH CLEARING •  
• DRAINAGE WORKS •  
• DIGGER WORKS •

**LENNY JOLLY**  
**07905 794221**  
[septic tankservices.co.uk](http://septic tankservices.co.uk)



## June quiz - Norfolk anagrams.

Not so well known Norfolk hamlets and villages, some stranger than others. The number in brackets denotes the number of words in the answer. *Example: TRONE SLAH (1) - HARLESTON*

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Smala (1)         | 7. Stormy bell photo (3)  |
| 2. Phearly (1)       | 8. Porn the crow (1)      |
| 3. Prosle (1)        | 9. Gnome nadd (2)         |
| 4. Weary mog (1)     | 10. Lemon pieh (1)        |
| 5. Pen one girls (2) | 11. Toil the bats lui (2) |
| 6. Cwik reem (1)     | 12. Yes wet fud (1)       |

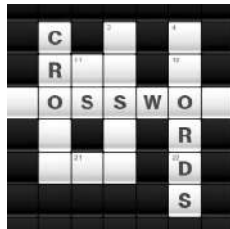
## Answers to the May quiz (general knowledge).

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 - Liverpool (384,000)     | 6 - 2003  |
| 2 - Seychelles              | 7 - Sweden                                      |
| 3 - Indonesia – USA – Japan | 8 - Triassic                                    |
| 4 - a. 50<br>b. 58<br>c. 45 | 9 - Silver (the root 'arg' means shiny or grey) |
| 5 - Henry VIII              | 10 - d. Irene (from the Greek 'Eirene')         |

## Answers to the May crossword.

### Across.

1. Abrupt
4. Brassy
7. Alinement
9. Army
10. Earn
11. Eve
12. Dancer
14. Roller
16. Armada
18. Alarms
20. DOB
21. Etna
23. Anon
24. Tunneling
25. Cloths
26. Annual

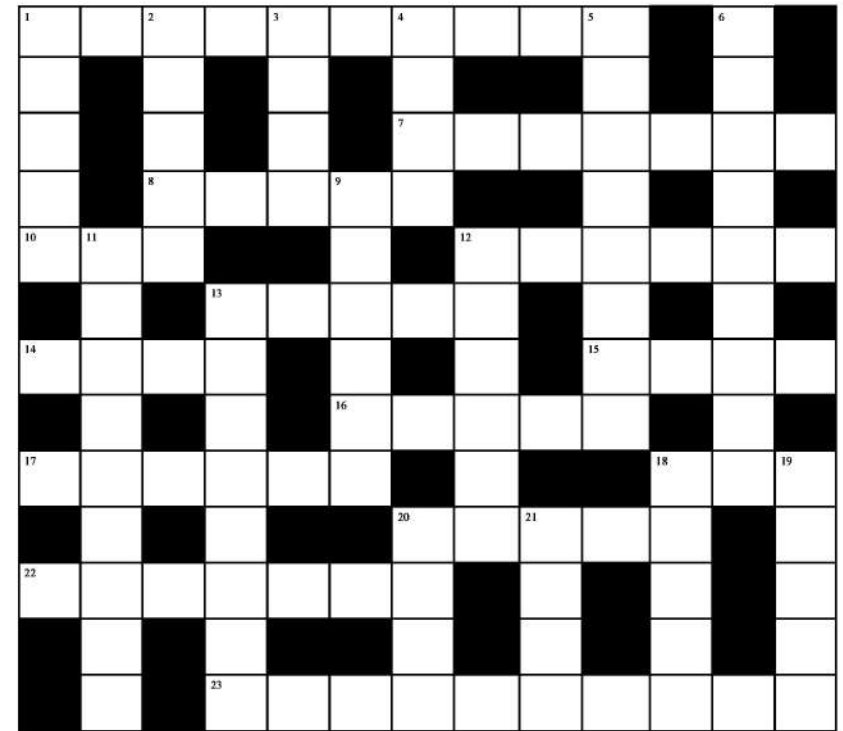


### Down.

1. Aboard
2. Ugly
3. Tanner
4. Bumper
5. Acne
6. Yawner
7. Amendment
8. Tailoring
13. End
15. Owl
16. Acetic
17. Adonis
18. Abolla
19. Sandal
22. Aunt
23. Anon



## June crossword by Webbe.



### Clues across.

1. A great ape famous for making and using tools (10)
7. Brave and persistent (7)
8. Music for singers and instrumentalists (5)
10. A large deciduous tree (3)
12. A US cow man (6)
13. A play for theatre (5)
14. A social networking service (4)
15. Old English for Christmas (4)
16. Jugs with a flaring spout (5)
17. A water-borne bacterium that can cause cholera (6)
18. A playing card with a single spot on it (3)
20. Widespread destruction (5)
22. An empty or unoccupied position (7)
23. A pale grey-brown Australian parrot (10)

### Clues down.

1. Fine cracks (5)
2. Phrase not literally true (5)
3. To have a strong desire for something (4)
4. Nothing in Spain (4)
5. How to get through a narrow gap (8)
6. Relating to corals (9)
9. U.S. driving competition (6)
11. A substance that helps to reduce friction (9)
12. A device for photographing (6)
13. Part of a door frame (8)
18. Oak seed (5)
19. Proclamation (5)
20. Intensive publicity (4)
21. Reject a decision (4)



## Benefice services in June (tbc).

	<b>7<sup>th</sup> June</b> Trinity 1/Proper 5	<b>14<sup>th</sup> June</b> Trinity 2/Proper 6	<b>21<sup>st</sup> June</b> Trinity 3/Proper 7	<b>28<sup>th</sup> June</b> Trinity 4/Proper 8
<b>Pulham Market</b>	9.30 Communion	9.30 Messy Church	9.30 Communion	
<b>Pulham St Mary</b>	8.00 BCP Communion	11.00 Communion	11.00 All Age Worship	8.00 CW Said Communion 10.00 Cathedral Ordination Service
<b>Starston</b>	11.00 BCP Communion	11.00 Great C Small	11.00 BCP Communion	
<b>Dickleburgh</b>	9.30 All Age Worship	9.30 Communion	9.30 Morning Prayer	
<b>Thelveton</b>	11.00 Morning Prayer		6.00 Evening Service	
<b>Rushall</b>		11.00 Communion		

All-age worship - suitable for everyone.

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

For updates on Starston Services contact John Formston 853042 or [jformston07@talktalk.net](mailto:jformston07@talktalk.net)

Starston PCC Secretary:  
Ruth Cawcutt Tel:01379 852087  
Email: [rcawcutt1@btinternet.com](mailto: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/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-107EP/)



## Starston Parish Council.

Philip Astor:	Chairman	07753 800594
Karen O'Keeffe:	Vice-chair & Internal Control of Finances	
Janet Broadhurst:	Emergency Plan Co-ordinator	01379 853480
Chris Sparrow:	Footpath Warden	
Stuart Griffin:	Member	
Val Baker:	Member	
Jake Stone:	Member	
Highways Defects, Village Maintenance, SAM 2 Equipment, General Enquiries		
Joanne Madders:	Clerk to the Council & RFO	
To contact Starston Parish Council: <a href="mailto:clerk@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>		

## Local councillors.

Vacancy	County	<a href="mailto:martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk">martin.wilby@norfolk.gov.uk</a> is covering vacancy	01379 741504
Clayton Hudson	District	<a href="mailto:clayton.hudson@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk">clayton.hudson@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk</a>	01379 676259
Delme Thompson	District	<a href="mailto:delme.thompson@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk">delme.thompson@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk</a>	

## Waveney Valley MP.

Adrian Ramsay:	Suite 1B Navire House, Mere Street, Diss, IP22 4AG	01379 830200
	<a href="mailto:waveneyvalleyoffice@parliament.uk">waveneyvalleyoffice@parliament.uk</a>	

## 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: <a href="mailto:snharleston@norfolk.pnn.police.uk">snharleston@norfolk.pnn.police.uk</a>
Report Power Cuts	Ring: 105
Report Flooding	Ring: 03448008013
If you are in danger call 999	Email: <a href="http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding">www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding</a>
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: <a href="mailto:hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk">hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk</a>

# Glover Bros.

A FAMILY RUN M.O.T.  
& REPAIR GARAGE

- M.O.T's & Servicing
- 24 Hour Flat Bed Recovery
- Car Valeting
- Collection of Vehicles
- Body Work and Repairs
- Free Estimates

T: 01379 676284 (weekdays)

T: 01379 676730 (evening & weekends)

A: The Workshops, Rectory Rd,  
Tivetshall St Mary



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency



## Kitchen-Sense

Of Harleston



For Quality Fitted  
Kitchens and Appliances

Kitchen Sense - Common Sense

62 London Road, Harleston, IP20 9DZ

Tel: 01379 852592

Fax: 01379 854411

staff@kitchen-sense.co.uk

www.kitchen-sense.co.uk

We're by your side  
every step of the way



the  
good  
funeral  
guide.

- Home Visits
- Pre-paid Funeral Plans
- Funeral Finance
- Personal Touches
- Direct Cremation
- Bereavement Support Groups and Resources
- Affordable Choices

 **Rosedale**  
FUNERAL HOME

A family business, we believe it makes a difference

www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk

Serving Harleston, Diss and Eye

11 Exchange St, Harleston IP20 9AB

24hr Tel: 01379 853999

63 Victoria Road, Diss IP22 4JE

24hr Tel: 01379 640810

Also branches in Attleborough, Beccles,  
Bungay, Halesworth and Wymondham.

## Denny Holloway



### Bricklayer

Brick Work, General Building,  
Hard Landscaping etc

01379 853471 or 07939 144446