The Messenger



Issue 133
December
2022

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

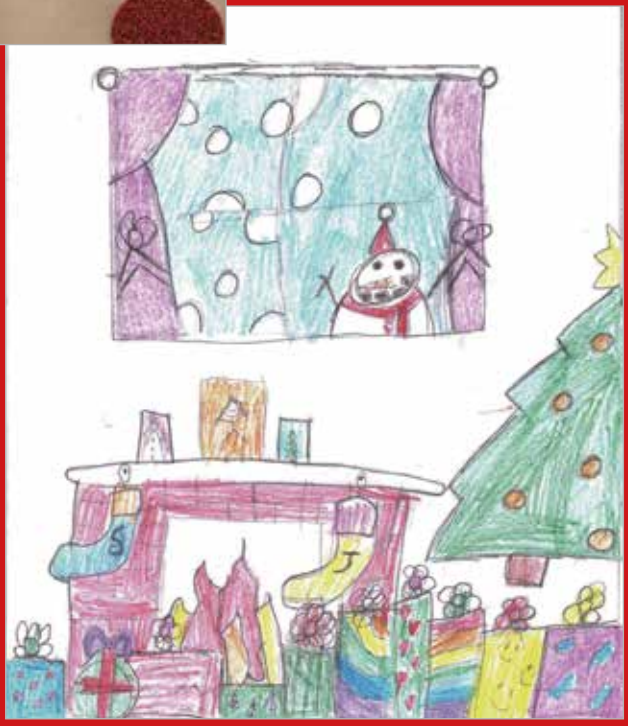
WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH MAGAZINE
AWARDS
2021

CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION WINNERS



Winner of the 2-4 years category: ***Rosie Myhill, Gislingham***

Winner of the 5-6 years category: ***Sophia Whatling, Gislingham***



More on inside back cover...

WELCOME TO THE MESSENGER



EDITOR'S NOTES – December 2022

Welcome to our December issue.

It has now become a tradition to feature on our December cover a piece of artwork submitted by a Primary School child. This year, we chose Vianne Fischer's submission for our front cover from over 25 entries and the winners in each of the age categories are as follows:

- Age Group 2-4: Winner = Rosie Myhill – Gislingham Primary School
- Age Group 5-6: Winner = Sophia Whatling – Gislingham Primary School
- Age Group 7-8: Winner = Alice Collier – Gislingham Primary School
- Age Group 9-11: Winner = Vianne Fischer – Mellis Primary School

Each winner will be presented with a certificate, a Book Token, and a festive goody bag, prior to Christmas. We would like to thank all those children who submitted artwork this year and we hope you all contribute again next year!

I would also like to publicly thank the Gislingham resident, who very kindly, every year provides the book tokens as prizes for the children.

As another year draws to a close and we look forward to Christmas, there are certainly plenty of events within our villages to help you get into the festive mood and each of our village halls have events planned now up until Easter and beyond! Please help support your village halls.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped contribute to the magazine this past year. We do appreciate the time and effort taken in submitting articles and photographs, so that we can try and cover as many local topics and events as possible. Also, this is the perfect time to thank all my colleagues on the Messenger team, who all give up a great deal of their spare time to help publish the magazine and update our website and Facebook page etc., and to our staunch group of distributors who every month deliver in all weathers to over 900 households. Thank You!

Finally, a reminder, that we do not publish in January, but we will be back in February. The deadline for the next issue is January 16th, but I would appreciate any contributions and event notices as soon as possible please.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Messenger team, we wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a peaceful, happy and healthy 2023!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover artwork by Vianne Fischer, Age 10, from Mellis. Winner of the 9-11 years category

THE MESSENGER TEAM



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News and features from the Messenger are added every month to the Messenger website **www.the-messenger-online.com**

Next issue: February 2023
Copy deadline: Monday 16th January

E-mailed or hand-written submissions always welcome. The editor reserves the right to edit, amend or omit submitted items at his discretion.

You can find the Messenger Facebook page at:
https://www.facebook.com/themessengergismeltho

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Disclaimer: The articles published herein do not necessarily represent the views of The Messenger. They are the opinions of individual contributors and are published with a view that free expression promotes discussion and interests.

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Saturday 3rd December: Christmas Book Sale, Coffee & Cakes
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon
- Homemade cakes & refreshments etc. – see page 47

Saturday 3rd December: Mellis Farmers Market
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 9.00am – 12.00 mid-day - see page 29 for details.

Wednesday 7th December: Gislingham WI
- Christmas Lunch at The Bull, Bacton.

Saturday 10th December: Connect Coffee Morning
- St. Mary's Church, Mellis: 10.00am – 12.00 – see page 29 for details.

Saturday 10th December: Christmas Wreath making
- Thornham Magna Village Hall: 1.00pm – 4.00pm – see page 7 for details**.**

Sunday 11th December: Christmas Tree Decorating
- Outside Street Forge Workshops, Thornham Magna: 2.30pm**.**

Friday 16th December: Christmas Carol Singing
- Outside Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm-5.30pm – see page 60 for details**.**

Saturday 17th December: Mellis Farmers Market
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 9.00am – 12.00 mid-day - see page 29 for details.

Saturday 17th December: Quiz Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.00pm – see page 14 for details.

Saturday 17th December: Christmas Bingo
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 6.30pm – see page 18 for details.

Saturday 24th December: Crib Service
- St. Mary's Church, Gislingham: 3.00pm – see page 55 for details**.**

Wednesday 18th January: Gislingham WI
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm - Jane Hoggar - 'My Life as a Bluebell Girl'.

Friday 20th January: Thornhams Film Night – 'Operation Mincemeat'
- Thornham magna Village Hall: 7.30pm – see page 24 for details.

Saturday 21st January: TCT Quiz Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm – see page 13 for details.

Saturday 28th January: Jumble Sale
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 12.00 – 3.00pm – see page 26 for details.

Saturday 28th January: Quiz Night
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 7.00pm – see page 18 for details.

Events and Club meetings etc., for inclusion in future issues should be sent to: themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Our next issue is February 2023. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Friday 20th January


A Concert for Christmas
LIFE IS JUST A BOWL OF CHERRIES
Produced by Peter Creswell
Monday 19th December at 7pm at Eye Community Centre
SOLOISTS:
Jennifer Hewes, Sean Webster, Lucilla Graham, Steve Holmes, Catherine Johnson (cello)
The concert lasts an hour and is followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Tickets: £15 from The Handyman in Eye or reserve your seats NOW - call Kit Brinkley on 07947 414 968

Christmas Wreath



Saturday 10th December
1-4pm @ Thornham Magna Village Hall
£30 - Includes materials to make a wreath
Enjoy a glass of bubbles and canapes
Proceeds go to Village Hall refurbishments
To book: Email Amandachurch562@gmail.com

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GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



Agendas and Minutes from Parish Council Meetings can be found on the Parish Council Website. These Minutes are also affixed to the Parish Council Noticeboard located outside the Village Shop.

The first point of contact for any matters relating to the Parish Council, is the Parish Clerk on clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com or on 07796 410694.

Councillors would encourage all residents to look on the Gislingham Parish Council website at http://gislinghamparishcouncil.com to keep up to date on items which are discussed at meetings by Councillors. At these meetings there is time set aside for the public to voice any concerns they have in the Village.

If you are aware that new residents have moved into the Village recently, please email the Parish Clerk on clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com or on 07796 410694 so we can deliver a "Welcome Pack" to them.



Finally, the new Noticeboard has been installed. The previous Noticeboard is available for residents to use if you would like to advertise any up-and-coming events etc. Please note that you will need to bring your own drawing pins.

The Parish Council is still looking for any Group or individual to take on the lead on organising the Village Litter Pick please contact the Clerk on 07796 410694 or email on clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com if this is something that you could take on.

For your information if the Post Office Van, for any reason, is unable to visit Gislingham on a Friday, the information will be on advertised a poster on the small outside window on the Village Hall wall as well as being advertised on as many Social Platforms that we have access to.

We are still actively looking for residents who live or work in Gislingham to become Parish Councillors. If you feel it is something that would be of interest to you, please do contact the Parish Clerk for further details. Thank you.

Julie Bell, Chair, Gislingham Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to wish all Residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

A NUNCONVENTIONAL EVENING OUT...



After a long-absence of dinner-theatre at Gislingham Village Hall, it was great fun to again be watching a Gislingham Variety Club Murder Mystery, 'A Nunconventional Death', performed over two nights in late-October.

It proved to be a great evening's entertainment, from the stylish and dramatic opening (with stained-glass windows, sombre choral music and nuns serenely walking through the dark, candle-lit village hall) to the off-the-wall and outrageous denouement; culminating in a salacious re-write of the song 'Sisters'. The ambience was created in no small part by the talents of Tony Kilbee, sound and lighting guru.

The menu for the night was melon cocktail, Mediterranean meze platter, and chocolate brownie and caramel sauce. The food, in presentation boxes, was tasty, truly innovative and visually appealing, with particularly generous portions! The delicious fudgy brownies were sourced from local traditional bakers, Palmers of Haughley.

The plot revolved around an evil, womanising bishop and a gaggle of unholy nuns, with other suspicious visitors to the Convent of St Uma Gawd in the fictional village of Nunnesley, Suffolk. There were humorous references to well-known religious-themed shows and films, such as the bishop meeting his grizzly end, speared by the spire cross. This brought an abrupt though amusing end to a commanding performance by Mike Laycock.

The rest of the GVC cast members, old and new, also delivered excellent performances.

Abby Hardman, as the naughty pregnant nun Sister Delilah, brought a cheeky glint to the giggly and flirtatious character.

Clare Adams nailed the northern accent and brought much gusto to her role as the brash and ambitious Sister Vera. She particularly seemed to enjoy the scene where her habit was ripped off to reveal - to the hilarity of the audience - her leopard-skin underwear!

Richard Adams played Sister Incontinetia, her name giving away her main character trait! He proved himself truly versatile as always. Richard also created the beautiful set, which transformed the village hall stage into a very convincing convent interior and exterior.

It was great to see Gerald Prior return to the GVC stage, having been the mainstay of many previous productions. The role of the joke-cracking handyman perfectly reflected Gerald's real-life joviality.

In a nod to the TV series Father Ted, Father Mack, a scruffy, swearing alcoholic confined to an armchair, was devilishly portrayed by Richard Pursehouse.

The setting in the nunnery was ideal for showcasing the talents of the young ladies who've recently joined GVC. Hallie Head as Tessa the Tesco delivery girl, and Callie Harris as Brit Coin, internet millionaire have graced the Gislingham stage before and showed their continued development in confidence and comic timing. Also, it was wonderful to see three young newcomers, Grace Morris, Chloe Buxton and Skye Walker as the novice nuns, Faith, Hope and Charity.

"The plot revolved around an evil, womanising bishop and a gaggle of unholy nuns..."

They really seemed to enjoy their roles, particularly the slapstick scene where they administer Father Mack's tablets by throwing them at him and drenching him in water, much to the audience's delight.

The 'inquisitors', the Abbott and Abbess - Mallen Baker and Michelle Norris - from the nearby priory expertly cross-examined the cast in a suspense-laden and comedic denouement.

The script was written by Michelle Norris - with Clare Adams, Mallen Baker and Mike Laycock contributing ideas and character development - and wove together intrigue, comedy, double-entendres and a religious irreverence to highly impressive effect.

It is brilliant to have a local amateur dramatics group who can write their own scripts tailor-made for their players and for us, the audience. This is very special and an important ingredient in making these evenings work so very well. Can't wait for the next one!

GC

"Oh yes you can!"

Are you interested in helping with the next production?

The show nights of the next production are 30/31 March and 1 April 2023.

With rehearsals starting in January, we will be looking for help in a number of support roles such as lighting, costumes, front of house, painting sets, programme creation, etc.

If you are interested, please contact Gislingham Variety Club via their Facebook page.



G.C.COBBOLD

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TCT QUIZ NIGHT

JAN
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2023



All proceeds to be donated in memory of Jack Cook and will stay local to this area. Thank you for your support

WE ARE HOLDING OUR QUIZ FOR TCT ON SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM FOR A 7:30PM START AT GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

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SATURDAY 17TH
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IN AID OF VILLAGE HALL FUNDS
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND GLASSES
For tickets, call Terry on 01379 783903 or email gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

FUTURE EVENTS

17th December 2022: Quiz Night

Tickets cost £10 to include a Christmas Supper and a glass of Prosecco. Doors open at 7.00 pm. Bring your own drinks and glasses. For tickets contact Terry Williams on 01379 783903 or by email: gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

At the time of writing there is only room at the hall for two or three more teams, so if you are planning on attending contact Terry as soon as possible.

21st January 2023: Quiz Night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust: full details on page 37

11th February 2023: Jumble Sale

18th March 2023: Quiz Night

22nd April 2023: Jumble Sale

13th May 2023: Quiz Night

10th June 2023: Race Night

The Hall is available for hire at a cost of £10 per hour, which includes lighting, heating, water etc. There are also village hall assets available for hire at an additional cost. These include, a sound system and a large screen television. Additionally, there are tables and chairs and a marquee which can be used outside of the hall for a small charge.

Follow us at www.facebook.com/GislinghamVillageHall/

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IN YOUR GARDEN



My recent comments about the use of peat and the plans the Government have to ban its use by the end of next year on environmental grounds has caused a reaction from the readers of this column, especially from those who want to retain peat-based compost because they believe the current peat free alternatives are not fit for purpose causing concern and frustration about their lack of success in germinating seeds.

Many in the horticultural industry especially growers and garden centres too have voiced their wish to keep peat-based growing media to produce affordable plants, and keep a level playing field with Europe where there and no plans to ban peat.

However, one strident comment has taken me to task for inferring that it is acceptable to use peat that comes from abroad. All peat bearing land regardless where they are, should be protected and I should be ashamed of promoting the right to exploit them.

I feel my stance has been misunderstood. Yes, the majority of the peat we use for gardening does come from abroad and the rationale in banning its import is to save British peatlands.

My primary concern however is not so much about banning peat but the fact the current alternatives are not up to scratch or of consistent quality.

In my experience using peat free compost, does take a bit of getting use to and it has taken me a while to adapt, primarily by mixing it with my home-produced compost. In fact, in some cases with my tomatoes, it performed better than peat. As one reader pertinently pointed out, gardeners managed very well before the advent of great bags of peat, so what is all the fuss about!

TESTING TIME

Chemically testing your soil may sound a bit scientific but it's proved an economical and effective way to identify the acidity and alkalinity of my soil and nutrient levels to help me get the best from my plants and stop me buying unsuitable types.

This month is a good time for testing as the soil generally is lying fallow as we approach the dormant winter months.

Test kits are widely available at garden centres or online and are very simple to use. Just add a small amount of your soil into the tube of solution, give it a good shake and wait for it to settle to reveal the chemical composition of your soil. Testing kits to assess nutrient levels are slightly more complex but once you have a clear indication of which levels of nutrients are present or lacking in your soil, you can then take steps to remedy the situation.



Compliments of the season and fingers crossed for a great growing year in 2023.

Lawrence Thompson





CHRISTMAS BINGO AT MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER

6.30pm for eyes down @7.00pm

£10 per person for 10 games plus free bonus games

Prizes for 1st & 2nd line and full house

(All proceeds for village hall running costs)

To reserve your place - email bookmellishall@gmail.com

Mellis Memorial Hall



SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY

7.00pm start

£5 per person, max. 6 per team

Nibbles provided.

Soft drinks available.

BYOB. Raffle.

To book email bookmellishall@gmail.com

Tel 01379 783449

(All proceeds for village hall running costs)

NEWS FROM MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL



Mellis Memorial Hall has to generate all its own income and relies 100% on volunteer time. With increased running costs please support the village hall in its efforts to fundraise in order to protect and maintain this fabulous asset.

FUTURE EVENTS

17th December 2022: Bingo Night
Doors open 6.30pm for eyes down 7.00pm.
Entrance is £10 per person for 10 games plus bonus games.
To book email bookmellishall@gmail.com or Tel 01379 783449

19th January 2023: Soup Lunch
Doors open 12 noon. £5 for Soup, Roll and a hot drink. No need to book just come along for a chat and meet the neighbours.

28th January 2023: Quiz Night
Doors open 7.00pm. Tickets cost £5 per person. Maximum 6 players per team. Nibbles provided and soft drinks available. BYOB. Raffle. To book email bookmellishall@gmail.com or Tel 01379 783449.

23rd February: 2023 Soup Lunch
Doors open 12 noon. £5 for Soup, Roll and a hot drink. No need to book just come along for a chat and meet the neighbours.

11th March 2023: Tabletop and Yard sale trail - Details to follow

2nd April 2023: Easter Bingo – Details to follow

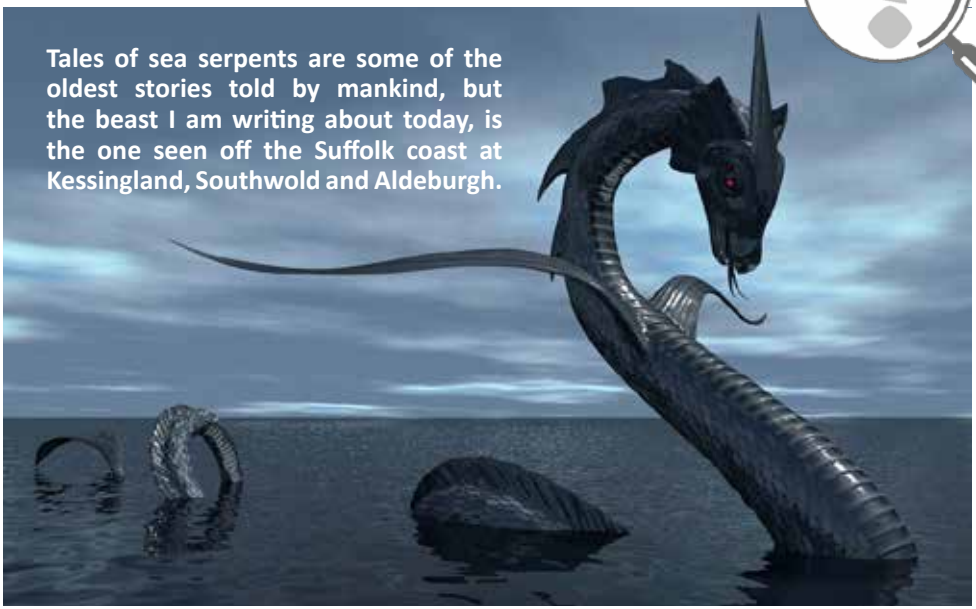
6th/7th/8th May 2023: Coronation celebrations - Details to follow

Late May/June: Open gardens weekend - date TBC



THE KESSINGLAND SEA SERPENT

SUFFOLK MYSTERIES



Tales of sea serpents are some of the oldest stories told by mankind, but the beast I am writing about today, is the one seen off the Suffolk coast at Kessingland, Southwold and Aldeburgh.

A sea serpent reported to be up to 60 feet (20m) in length has been sighted at least four times off the coast of Suffolk. The descriptions evoke classic sea-serpent characteristics of small head, long slim body and diamond-shaped frill along the back.

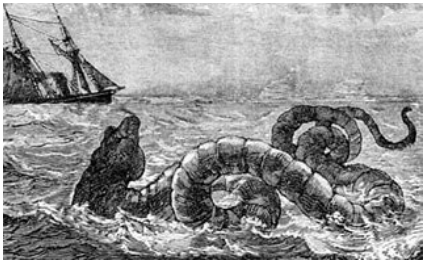
The earliest written report appeared in The Gentleman's Magazine in December 1750: "The creature was about five feet long from what could be viewed of it above the water, with a head like a dog and a beard like a lion. The skin was spotted like that of a leopard. It passed in a leisurely fashion, finally disappearing beneath the waves to the great amazement of all those watching from the shore…"

In the mid-1800s there were more accounts of "a creature with a head such as a serpent might have with humps behind."

There is a well-documented account about the reported sighting by the daughter of author Sir Henry Rider Haggard, who owned Kessingland Grange in Suffolk. Rider-Haggard, was working on a novel at his home in Ditchingham, when he received the following letter from his daughter Lilias, dated 20th July 1912: "We had a great excitement here this evening, and we are convinced we saw a sea serpent! I was sitting on the lawn, and saw what looked like a thin, dark line with a blob at one end, shooting through the water at such a terrific speed it hardly seemed likely that anything alive could go at such a pace. It was some way out over the sandbank, and travelling parallel with the shore. I tore into the morning room and got the glasses and though it had at that moment nearly vanished in the distance we could make out it had a sort of head at one end and then a series of about 30 pointed blobs which dwindled in size as they neared the tail. As it went along it seemed to get more and more submerged and then vanished. You can't imagine the pace it was going. I suppose it was about 60 feet long."

Rider-Haggard went to Kessingland Grange and his daughter's story was confirmed by the cook and the gardener. Rider-Haggard decided to write to the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper to tell the story and seek further information. On Wednesday 24th July 1912 the paper printed the original letter from Lilias, together with this note from Rider-Haggard himself asking for some clarification or further information. However, as far as we are aware, there were no other sightings.

Then, in August 1923, a survey ship, H M Kellett, was taking observations off the Suffolk coast when Captain F. E. B. Haselfoot and the navigator Lt. Commander R. M. Southern observed something strange. Captain Haselfoot wrote: "The time was about 9am. It was a summer day and the weather was calm and clear. I am not sure whether the sun was actually shining. I then observed rising out of the water about 200 yards from the ship, a long, serpentine neck, projecting from six or seven feet above the water. I observed this neck rising out of the water twice, and it remained up, in each case, for four or five seconds. Viewing with the naked eye only, I could not make out precisely what the head was like."



In 1938, according to Paul Harrison's 'Sea Serpents and Lake Monsters of the British Isles', Ernest Watson and William Herrington saw something strange while trawling for sole four miles east of Southwold. As they returned to harbour, they were both startled by a huge animal with a long neck that appeared 40 yards away. It was dark grey, travelling at around 30 knots and they estimated it to be around 50 to 60 ft long.

In the Daily Mirror in October 1938, Mr. Watson said: "I have never seen anything like it in my life. It kept its neck bent and showed its camel-like back which stuck out of the water so far you could see right under it. I've heard all about people seeing the Loch Ness monster and I've laughed, but this was no laughing matter!"

Former Southwold town councillor William Herrington said that he had been at sea for years and no creature he'd seen before accounted for what he and Ernest Watson had witnessed.

A day later, Rev. R.N. Pyke, Vicar of Southwold, who said he was standing outside his sea view home with his wife and the Rev. W.N. Welch of the Southwold Mission for Seamen, when they spotted a huge creature twice the length of Southwold Pier!

In July 1978 a holidaymaker walking on Kessingland beach was moved to write to the East Anglian Magazine: "The sea was quite calm when my attention was suddenly drawn to what I can only say looked like the head of a seal on a long neck sticking up out of the water. There seemed to be some humps behind the head, but the creature only remained visible for a few seconds before diving beneath the surface. I would be inclined to think that I had imagined everything if I had not read the story of the Kessingland Sea Serpent."

As recently as 1985, Niger Howse, in a private letter, told of a curious beast he had seen on the water at Aldeburgh: "It was like the Loch Ness monster, coiling up out of the water, then moving forward along the far distant horizon."

Source material used for this article: IceniPost & East Anglian Daily Times.

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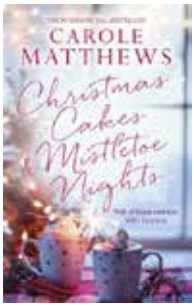
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CHARLOTTE'S BOOK BLOG





Christmas Cakes and Mistletoe Nights

by Carole Matthews ★★★★☆ 4/5

Happy December everyone! With Christmas getting near, I thought I'd use this opportunity to talk about a book that I thoroughly enjoyed reading called Christmas Cakes and Mistletoe Nights. Back in August, my review page featured three books by one of my favourite authors, Carole Matthews, one of which was called The Cake Shop in the Garden. This is one of my favourite books and is the book that really got me into reading in the first place. Well, Christmas Cakes and Mistletoe Nights is the sequel to that very book and was a book that I jumped at the chance of getting when I found out about its existence.

This book continues the story of Fay and her new partner Danny, as they run the cute little cake shop on the canal. Fay's friend Lija also has a larger light on her in this book, as she also finds herself a potential boyfriend until things get a little complicated. Personally, I really liked that this book had more emphasis on Lija, as we get a bigger insight into her life and we get to watch how her character develops and grows by the end of the novel.

Danny and Fay decide to leave the cake shop in the hands of Lija, while they take a holiday along the canal on their boat. However, a call to say that Stan, the kind and loving neighbour that they look after, is ill brings their trip to halt, and they have to make the decision as to whether to go all the way back for him or leave it all in the hands of Lija.

A fun and energetic character is also introduced within the book, Rainbow. She is a non-stop bundle of joy, who expresses her love for everything Christmas - and she really adds a bit of extra personality to the story.

With Stan being ill, the shop being under threat from the weather, the return of the nightmare sister and the secret that Lija continues to hide - how does this leave Fay Merryweather and her beloved little cake shop? You'll have to read to find out!

While I would strongly recommend reading The Cake Shop in the Garden before this one, so that you know the backstory behind a lot of the happenings of this book and get to know the characters and the relationships between them all etc, I have heard from multiple people that you can still read this book as a standalone and enjoy it despite not having read the first book. It's one of those reads that (hopefully) will give you a nice cosy and warm Christmassy feeling this month. The reason I gave this book 4 stars out of 5, is because personally I preferred the first book, this one was more of a catch up on the characters and an update on some of the situations left behind in book one, however it was a really enjoyable light-hearted read, ad was a book that I finished really quickly too! Hope you enjoy. Let me know what you think over on my socials shown at the bottom of this page. I'd love to know what you thought too.

Merry Christmas! x

CHARLOTTES.BOOKBLOG

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THORNHAM PARISH HALL EVENTS



Saturday 10th December: Christmas Wreath Making
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(1.00pm – 4.00pm. Tickets £30 to include materials, a glass of bubbles and nibbles. Bookings amandachurch562@gmail.com

Sunday 11th December: Christmas Tree Decorating outside Street Forge Workshops: 2.30pm. Help decorate the village Christmas Tree followed by mulled wine and mince pies and Christmas Carols on the handbells. Tree donated by Rosemary & Peter Tyler.

Friday 20th January: Thornhams Film Night - 'Operation Mincemeat'
The true story of a bold British operation during World War II starring Colin Firth. Licensed bar and ice creams. Tickets £5. 7.30pm. Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Saturday 28th January 2023: Thornhams Annual Jumble Sale
12-3pm. Save the date and your jumble!

Sunday 12th February 2023: Breakfast Club 10am with guest speaker
10.00am with guest speaker. Bookings at breakfast@thornhams.org £7.50 per person

Friday 17th February: Thornhams Film Night - tbc
Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Friday 17th March: Thornhams Film Night - tbc
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7.30pm £10 a head to include "posh" fish finger sandwich. Licensed bar

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St Mary the Virgin Church, Mellis

10am - 12.00

Saturday 10th December



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GISLINGHAM JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS (JRSOS)

WELCOME AND UPDATE

We, the Gislingham JRSOs (James, Issy, Amelia and Alice) have had a very busy start to the year. Our aim as JRSOs is to educate people about road safety and make the roads in and around our village of Gislingham safer.

We are very lucky to be working together with the Gislingham Speedwatch team. Back in October we completed our first speedwatch with Steve, Graham and Terry outside the new Lovell's development on Gislingham road.

In the 45 minutes we were there we recorded over 50 cars, and 5, (almost one in 10 vehicles) were breaking the 30 mph speed limit! We feel it is important that, as young people, we are involved in such vital work in our community. We will do another speedwatch in the spring and would like to thank Steve and his team for the fantastic work they do.

We are currently running a campaign and competition to encourage people to drive and park responsibly and safely around our school, particularly at pick up and drop off times. We have challenged pupils to design a poster and the winners will be put up around the village. We hope to change behaviour and work positively with everyone in our community.

We will keep you updated with our plans and successes throughout the year!

Many thanks to the Messenger magazine and all the readers for your support.

James, Issy, Amelia and Alice **- JRSOs, Gislingham Primary School**



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Watch The Skies! by Darrel Charles



Stephen Schwarz from Thornham has been in touch to say that he's been intrigued by several sightings of large aircraft flying in our skies. As Stephen says *"… one or two of these mysterious planes fly over us in Thornham on many evenings around 7pm, always heading east. We are not aware of them returning, so presumably they are running a circular service linking 3 or more airfields. This service seems to have been running for at least the 20 years we have lived in Thornham. Recently, when in North Norfolk, we saw possibly similar planes flying back and forth along the coast."* On one of those occasions, Stephen was able to take a photo (left) and from that it can be seen that the aircraft is a C130 Hercules transport aircraft. This type is used mostly for logistics purposes, moving troops and heavy equipment around. Other roles for these aircraft are delivering humanitarian aid to otherwise inaccessible places around the world and air/sea rescue missions.



This highly successful aircraft type is operated in the UK by both the RAF and USAF, as well as many other air forces around the world. The RAF C130 squadrons are now based at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. Current versions (C130J) are fitted with distinctive looking high efficiency propellers, each having six spiral shaped blades.

I photographed the aircraft here (right) of the USAF Air Force whilst I was bird spotting at Lackford Lakes. As its undercarriage is down it's probably on a landing approach to the American airbase at nearby Mildenhall. I expect that many of the flights that we see are USAF ferry or training flights.



Some weeks ago, three of these planes flew in close formation and at fairly low height over Gislingham at dusk but I didn't have my camera handy on that occasion and so I just had to enjoy the spectacular sight in the moment.

In my working life, before I retired, I had the pleasure of taking several flights in these aircraft, on one occasion from RAF Honington in Suffolk. Having worked in the cargo bay area, I can say that whilst being extremely capable they are not built for comfort but did provide a most memorable experience!

For further info about the C130 Hercules visit https://www.raf.mod.uk/aircraft/hercules-c130j/

NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone and welcome back to Nature Notes!

Autumn brings a number of things for us to enjoy: the changing colours of foliage in our woodland, hedgerows and gardens and the emergence of mushrooms to name but two. A walk around Wortham Ling last month turned up a number of interesting mushrooms, or fungi if you prefer. I don't know whether it was because my timing wasn't quite right or if the hot dry summer we've had had something to do with it but there didn't seem to be as many about as I'd hoped for. Anyway, below are photos of four different kinds that I came across and have attempted to identify. There are reckoned to be around 15,000 species of fungi in the UK of which several, including the Beechwood Sickener (!) and Fly Agaric shown here, are poisonous. Although some mushrooms are good to eat, the advice is always don't unless you are absolutely sure it is safe to do so. Far better to be safe than sorry! There are plenty of online resources dedicated to the identification of fungi and one that I find useful is at *www.woodlandtrust.org.uk*.



Clockwise from top left: Beechwood Sickener (?), Fly Agaric, Birch Bracket, Puff Ball.



We've had some pretty heavy showers recently, one of which was followed in the late afternoon by the emergence of the sun from behind the clouds low in the sky These are perfect conditions for a rainbow and, as viewed from our garden, that is what could be seen to the north of Gislingham. As a physicist, I understand the optical process of refraction that causes a rainbow to form but that doesn't detract from the wonder of this other-worldly sight! After taking the photo shown above I zoomed in on a portion of the rainbow to check that all the colours were present and correct - and yes, they are!

Having visited the Isle of Anglesey a couple of times over the past few years I was interested to stumble across an enjoyable TV programme about the wildlife that can be found there. The programme is introduced by Iolo Williams, of Autumnwatch fame, and is available on the BBC's iPlayer if you missed it - recommended.

Looking ahead, some winter migrant birds to look out for now are Redwings, Fieldfares and Bramblings. Also well worth keeping an eye out for are exotic looking Waxwings that may be found feasting on rowan, hawthorn and cotoneaster berries.

Turning to the night skies, there's much to marvel at in winter. The Milky Way can be seen almost vertically on the western horizon and the winter constellations, including Orion, the Pleiades and the Plough, are reappearing at convenient time for observation. Also, the planets Jupiter and Saturn can be seen in the southern sky. A new target for me at the next opportunity is the Witch Head Nebula, a gaseous region illuminated by the bright star of Rigel in the constellation of Orion.

Finally, as this is the last edition of The Messenger this year, I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Until next time, happy wildlife watching!

See these and other photos at my Flickr site: flickr.com/photos/darrelphoto/

See Tony Clarke's monthly list of local bird sightings at The Messenger on Facebook.

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TRIED & TESTED RECIPES by Debbie





SWEET POTATO & CORIANDER SOUP

This is a very quick and easy soup; ideal for lunch with crusty bread.

Prep time: 15 minutes.

Cooking time: 20 minutes.

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 Teaspoon groundnut oil
- 2 medium leeks (700g), chopped coarsely
- 3 cloves garlic quartered
- 2 medium sweet potatoes (800g), chopped coarsely
- 1 litre chicken or vegetable stock
- 160ml light evaporated milk
- 4 tablespoons finely chopped fresh coriander



Preparation:

1. Heat oil in large saucepan, cook leek and garlic, stirring, until leek softens. Add sweet potatoes and stock, bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 15minutes or until sweet potatoes softens.
2. Blend or process soup, in batches, until smooth. Return soup to same cleaned pan; simmer, uncovered, until soup thickens slightly.
3. Add evaporated mild and coriander; stir, without boiling, until heated through.
4. Divide the soup among serving bowls; top with fresh coriander leaves, if desired.

SHORT WALK CIRCULAR AROUND WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD



Distance: approx. 4kms / 2.5 miles
OS Map: 211

This walk starts at All Hallows Church, Wetheringsett. Parking can be a little difficult, but there is a small area next to the notice board opposite the overflow graveyard, or on the road near the school.



All Hallows church is a late Medieval building. It has a 14c tower. There was a large church built in the 13c, but the church was rebuilt in the 15c. In the main graveyard is a grave for an Unknown Soldier, plus two War Graves. There is more interesting information on the website - http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/wetheringsett.html



Opposite the church is the former post office with its canted window. With the church on your right, walk a short distance and at the edge of the church yard, take a right onto a footpath. As you walk along this path, you will see a large house on the left which is Wetheringsett Manor, a special educational establishment.

This is an ancient trackway formerly known as the King's Highway between Brockford and Debenham.

This path follows the church yard and continues over a wooden footbridge. Continue for about 25 metres and you will see an incline that crosses a ditch. In wetter weathers, there is a stream. After you cross, turn left with the ditch on your left. Follow this path until it opens up to a track. Keep a lookout for the Llamas in Wetheringsett Hall, a 19c building.



At the end of the track, turn right onto Hall Road. Continue along this road and you will see on your left the tracks and rolling stock of the Mid Suffolk Light Railway. The entrance to the museum is on the left.

Several events are run over the year and there is also a tearoom, the Kitchener bar coach and a shop.

This is Suffolk's only standard gauge

heritage railway. In 1991 almost all traces of the line had disappeared, but with dedication from the team of volunteers, this is now a very interesting attraction. It is locally known as 'The Middy'. Check out the website below for more details and events - https://www.mslr.org.uk/

At the end of the road turn left and after about 100 metres, at the end of the fenced paddock take the footpath to your right.

Carry on through a small copse and cross two wooden footbridges until you reach a small opening by a chained linked fence next to a small building. Look at the attractive garden to your right.



Continue a short distance on a track between the houses to reach the road. Turn right and pass a dog agility course on the right and continue until you reach Brockford Siding.

This is a unique camping and self-catering holiday accommodation site. There are various railway carriages converted as holiday lets, with several facilities including an indoor swimming pool and hot tub, sauna and a tennis court. For more information, please see this link - https://www.brockfordsiding.co.uk/index

Leaving Brockford Siding, please adhere to the sign on the gate.





Leave the site and continue along the road until you arrive at the War Memorial.

Turn left into Hockey Hill and continue down the road, past the school and you will now have returned to your starting point.

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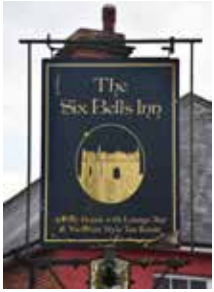
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THE SIX BELLS, GISLINGHAM – UPDATE



At the time of publication, we still do not know whether the Planning Inspectorate (PI) will consider the appeal that the owners of the Six Bells have lodged against the decision by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) to reject their Change of Use (COU) application.

The PI will only consider an appeal if there are reasonable grounds for doing so such as the applicant believing the reasons for refusal went against the LPA Development Plan or Planning Policy. However, the Case Officer made it clear in his report that the COU would be in conflict with both the Joint Local Plan and the Development Plan. The application ran contrary to the National Planning Framework and was in contravention of the Council's SPG policy statement, the "Retention of Ships, Post Offices and Public Houses in villages". Specifically, "No other public house is located within the village for alternative use by residents." Interestingly the LPA, seemingly recognising the weakness of the original application, attempted to discuss its concerns with the applicant but was not able to secure the necessary improvement to the scheme which would have enabled the proposals to be considered more favourably. It will be interesting to see what "improvement" is planned for any appeal. Once we have seen the basis for any appeal, we will consider using the funds allocated by the PC to seek expert/legal advice on how best to support our challenge.

Now that the Six Bells has been formally designated an Asset of Community Value, it is sad to see that the signage from the Six Bells has been removed as well as the outside tables, even before any appeal hearing takes place.

However, MSDC's Principal Planning Officer assures us that the only thing that cannot change is the lawful use of the building which remains a public house. If the building began to operate as something other than a public house and that, apparently, includes using any part of the Pub area for residential use, enforcement action could be taken.



We would like to thank all those who have supported us – in public meetings, in the street, in making representations to the MSDC, and in completing the survey. It would be good to celebrate the community approach at the pub but for the second year that will not be possible. Let us hope for better news in 2023.

There being no Messenger issue in January, we will keep you informed via village hall and shop notice boards.

Six Bells Community Group



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TERRAPIN NEWS



At our last Full Council Meeting we approved the Joint Local Development Scheme (LDS) for 2022-25.

Will this give Mid Suffolk Planning full control over what is built in our towns and villages? The answer is no, the LDS must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the minimum standards of development are governed by Building Regulations, both of which are determined by Westminster. Westminster also sets housing targets, a failure to have a policy that will deliver on these means that your council loses influence on the where and what of development.

As in the original, there will be two parts: Part 1 will set out the vision and objectives for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts. It will contain a set of strategic and local policies to guide development in the period to 2037. Work started on this January 2016, three consultations later, it was submitted to the Secretary of State March 2021 who asked for it to be modified. A latest version will be out for consultation before Christmas 2022 and, following the Inspector's Report should be adopted Spring 2023.

Part 2 was not subject to review but is now looking a little out of date so evidence will be gathered from spring 2022 and, following two further years of consultations and scrutiny, will be adopted by Dec. 2025. It will contain amongst other topics: an up-to-date settlement hierarchy; a spatial distribution of any housing allocations; housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plan areas; site allocations; and up-to-date settlement boundaries reflecting commitments and site allocations.

There will also be Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that build upon and provide more detailed guidance. The SPDs are to follow adoption of a Part 1 Joint Local Plan. They cannot introduce new planning policies into the Development Plan, but they are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. For example, an SPD will cover: Design – Part A: Sustainable Construction; Design – Part B: Local Design Codes.

When this process began MSDC did not have a 5-year housing policy, this meant that decisions were weighted substantially in favour of development, the inspectors call for modifications came from Mid Suffolk defining a five-year housing supply but having to acknowledge most of it was already allocated. Mid Suffolk now has 10.8 years housing supply which will mean planning decisions, will no longer suffer the same pressure.

Few councillors on development committees consider Building Regulations go far enough in ensuring that homes are being built that are "future proof." Nor does the NPPF go far enough in giving the initiative to your planning officers. The presumption is still in favour of development unless there is evidence of harm.

Neighbourhood Plans are integral to the District's Development Plan, they provide key arguments that shape development in communities, 26 areas in Mid Suffolk have their own individual NPs.

I am not alone in wanting the best possible development for our district, it is an ambition shared by Council Planning Officers and also Parish Councils. We are responsible for interpretation and implementation of national and local policies. Development can be a positive when framed within local needs.

Rowland Warboys, District Councillor e: Rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk

PICTURE FRAMING BY CAROLA SETTLE

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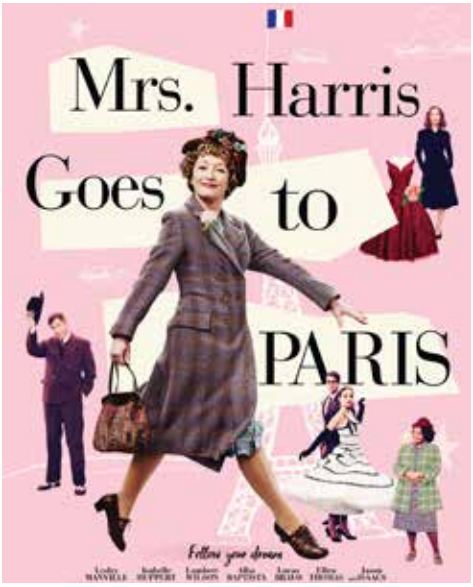
Peter Kerry

01359 230100
07792 995483

peterkerry2018@gmail.com

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CINEMA at EYE

Friday 27th January, 7.30pm
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GISLINGHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR

Gislingham CE Primary School is seeking an additional Community Governor to join our School Governance Committee. The position is for one year or longer and full training is provided.



Photo credit: Suffolk News

The committee works with Mr Richard Benstock the Headteacher to set the vision, ethos, and strategic direction of the school. The committee supports and at the same time challenges the headteacher to ensure that the highest standard of education is delivered to the pupils and the funding the school receives is spent in the most effective way. The committee works to ensure the school achieves its vision of providing a safe, inclusive, challenging and stimulating learning environment where everyone is valued, and children thrive.

We have two meetings per term but visit the school for monitoring areas such as safeguarding, the curriculum, health and safety. We welcome people from all backgrounds and experience.

If you feel you could spare some time and help us support and develop our school community further, please contact Mr Richard Benstock on 01379 783283 or gislingham@tilian.org

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STOWMARKET FOODBANK

Christmas should be a time of joy and celebration but with the increasing cost of living it will be a time of crisis for some households. Please enable the Foodbank to help those in need this Christmas.



Items needed:

- Christmas cakes/Iced fruit bars
- Tins of salmon, gravy & packets of stuffing
- Tins/cartons of custard, Birds trifle mix
- Large tubs of chocolates (Hero's, Celebrations etc.)
- Packets of crisps, Twiglets, cheese savouries etc.
- Packets of nuts, Pringles, biscuits for cheese
- Christmas chocolate logs
- 1lt. Cartons of fruit juice
- Instant hot chocolate
- Variety packs of cereals
- Large tins of ham and corned beef
- Packets of jelly and Angel Delight

Your donations can be left in the box at the Village Shop or at 'Milestones', Burgate Road or I can collect. Thank you.

Helen Neale tel: 01379 783254

Christmas Eve

Outside Crib service



Saturday December 24th at 3.00pm

Venue: Behind St Mary's Church, Gislingham

All are welcome especially shepherds, sheep, and angels

Bring lanterns, wrap up warm, come with good voices and Christmas Cheer!

growing together

Want to know more contact Rev. Debbie 07931 665 205

lightwave

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TIP OFF, RIP OFF! CHRISTMAS SCAMS



THE 12 SCAMS OF CHRISTMAS

We want you to enjoy your Christmas. After all, it's the season to be jolly but do you really want to give presents to cybercriminals? Don't let criminals ruin the festive spirit. Here's our 12 scams of Christmas list: -



1. Fake websites - Using the web to buy Christmas presents? Criminals set up fake websites that look identical to steal your personal details and money. Secure website addresses start with 'https' and display a locked padlock.

2. IT support scams - IT support scams could be via a phone call or email stating there is something wrong with your computer and needs fixing. They will try to direct you to a bogus website.

3. Fake charities - Watch out for criminals using a legitimate charity's name and appealing on their behalf, for a donation. If suspicious, ask to see the official charity ID (which they must carry).

4. Refund scams - You may receive an email or text promising a credit or tax refund and a link to click to claim the money back. They'll ask for bank details. DON'T give them out.

5. Phishing emails - Criminals send emails that look genuine to make you click on a link to a fake site, or open an attachment that infects your machine with a virus. THINK before clicking.

6. Gift card scams - Received an email from a friend asking to buy gift cards for them? Criminals clone and pretend to be people you know to get you to do this. They are after the code on the card to spend the money. DON'T do it.

7. HM Revenue & Customs scam - Criminals pose as HM Revenue & Customs to get payments off businesses and individuals.

8. Covid19 scams - Received a telephone call identifying you as a contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19? They will provide advice and ask some personal questions like your address etc.

9. Phone scams - Criminals ring you to discuss a topic then ask you to press a number on your phone keypad to 'opt out' of a survey for example. It will generate extreme charges which the criminals will profit from. Just put the phone down.

10. Ecard scams - Watch for those e-cards you receive online. It could be infected with a virus that could shut down your device and you could be held to ransom to restore files. Get an anti-virus installed that will alert you.

11. Fake romance - Looking for festive love online? Criminals are. The relationship develops over time and the individual is convinced to make payments to the criminal - DON'T pay them anything.

12. Shopping scams - Love top brands with low prices? Stay vigilant for counterfeit goods. These range from poorly made clothes to dangerous electronics which fail to comply with safety laws. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

THE MESSENGER CONNECTION QUIZ

There are 10 questions. Each answer to the first 9 questions form a connection of some kind. Question 10; What is the connection?

1. Singer/Songwriter of hits "The Locomotion" and "It might as well rain until September".
2. Character played by Audrey Hepburn in the 1961 movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's"
3. Film series first created by George Lucas in 1977.
4. Location of the Head Quarters of NATO.
5. Actress who played Maddie Hayes in the 1980's TV Show "Moonlighting".
6. US TV Show that brought fame to David Cassidy.
7. The first Andrew Lloyd Webber/ Tim Rice musical to be performed publicly.
8. The British Playwright, Composer, Director and Actor whose works include "Blithe Spirit" and "Hay Fever" and his most famous song, "Mad About the Boy".
9. Country that won the Eurovision Song Contest in 2003.
10. What is the connection?

Answers appear on page 63.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

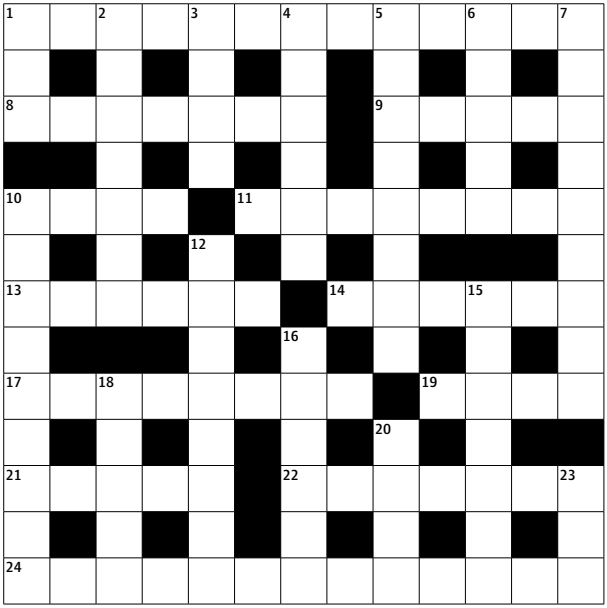
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9	1		5				8	
	8		7			5		
7		9						
3			1		9			8
						7		3
		5			7		6	
	2				4		7	9
				1		3	4	

Each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9

Last issue solution

1	9	4	8	6	3	2	7	5
6	2	3	5	9	7	8	4	1
7	8	5	2	1	4	9	6	3
8	5	9	1	4	6	7	3	2
3	4	6	7	8	2	1	5	9
2	7	1	3	5	9	4	8	6
4	6	7	9	2	5	3	1	8
9	3	8	6	7	1	5	2	4
5	1	2	4	3	8	6	9	7

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 It precedes the main event (7-6)
8 Most precious (7)
9 Gave form to (5)
10 Bucket (4)
11 What surrounds a kernel (8)
13 Ned Kelly, for instance (6)
14 Spanish madam (6)
17 Authorised (8)
19 Pipe for channelling smoke (4)
21 Secret love affair (5)
22 Dense group of bushes (7)
24 Extremists — cut fingernail (anag) (7,6)

Down

1 Disreputable chap (3)
2 Pragmatic sort (7)
3 Suddenly terminated (4)
4 Cricketing reprieve (3,3)
5 Set upon in a surprise attack (8)
6 Shoot from a concealed position (5)
7 Strike back (9)
10 Media event for celebrities (9)
12 Card game played in casinos (8)
15 Wet weather gear (7)
16 Putty-style sealant (6)
18 Look cross (5)
20 'New Look' fashion designer Christian ___ , d. 1957 (4)
23 Secure — connection (3)

Last issue solution

■	■	A	P	O	S	T	R	O	P	H	E	■
S	■	U	■	R	■	H	■	F	■	A	■	■
T	O	R	N	A	D	O	■	F	A	C	E	T
I	■	A	■	L	■	R	■	S	■	K	■	R
T	I	L	T	■	M	A	C	H	I	S	M	O
C	■	■	■	C	■	X	■	O	■	A	■	M
H	E	A	T	E	D	■	C	O	B	W	E	B
E	■	Q	■	L	■	B	■	T	■	■	■	O
D	O	U	B	L	O	O	N	■	O	V	E	N
U	■	A	■	U	■	N	■	M	■	R	■	I
P	E	R	I	L	■	S	E	A	D	O	G	S
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■	F	A	I	R	D	I	N	K	U	M	■	■



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Christmas Carol Singing

Enjoy singing carols

around the Christmas Tree

at



Gislingham Village Hall



Friday 16th December 2022

5pm –5.30pm

After singing Christmas carols, join us in the hall for a free glass of mulled wine or soft drink and a mince pie

Voluntary donations to preserve the church would be very welcome


An Evening with Charlie Haylock
Yaxley Village Hall
Saturday 10th December
7.00 for 7.30
Charlie is an extremely amusing expert on dialects, especiall
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CLUBS, CLASSES & REGULAR EVENTS

Baby and Tots Group for the Under 2's: Gislingham Primary School.
Every Wednesday 9.45am – 11.00am. Term time only in the school hall.
Contact Debbie Nicholls: 07931 665 205

Thornham Chat & Play: Thornham Parish Hall
Every Thursday 9:30 – 12.00. Pre-walkers / Babies & Carers

Carpet Bowls Club: Gislingham Village Hall. Every Monday 2.15pm – 3.45pm
Led by qualified bowls coach. £3.00 per session. All equipment provided.

Yoga Classes: Gislingham Village Hall. Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Contact Clare Hall on 07704 570877 or email: thornhamyoga@yahoo.com

Pilates Classes: Gislingham Village Hall. Wednesdays 9.15am and 10.15am.
Becky Cruickshank: 07734 414151

Total Fitness: Gislingham Village Hall. Thursdays 6.15pm and 7.15pm
A fusion of fitness and pilates. Becky: 07734 414151

Circuit Training Fitness Class: Mellis Memorial Hall. Mondays 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Gus: 07540 473203 / anguswilkinson@btinternet.com

Gislingham Variety Club
For information of forthcoming productions etc.
contact: Richard Adams on 01379 788620 or email: GVC@daynet.co.uk

Thornham Bowls Club: Thornham Road, Thornham
New Members welcome. For more details contact Keith: 01379 871881

Gislingham WI: Gislingham Village Hall.
Meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. New Members welcome.
For more details contact Sue: 01379788093 or Terrie: 01379 788521.

Mellis Canicross: Mellis Memorial Hall. Meet Saturdays 7.00 am.
Jog with your dog.
https://www.facebook.com/Mellis-Canicross-Club-105853638764295/

Gislingham Silver Band: Gislingham Band Hut. Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm
New members are welcome at any level.
Contact Iris Debock: 01379 788066 or debock.iris@gmail.com

Bellringing: Thornham Magna Church.
Mondays 7.30pm – 9.00pm. For details contact Sylvie: 01379 788130

If you would like to submit a regular group or club for inclusion, please send to: themessengereditorial@gmail.com

POPPY APPEAL FOR 2022 IN GISLINGHAM, WESTHORPE AND FINNINGHAM



This year's House-to House collection in Gislingham, Westhorpe and Finningham raised the marvellous sum of £2441.82. This topped last year's sum by £259.

This sum was achieved by the devoted and hard work of the Collectors and the generous private donations in all three parishes, and successful trays in the Gislingham Londis shop, the Sunnyside Farm Shop, Gislingham School, St. Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds, and in Westhorpe and Finningham Churches.

I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of The Royal British Legion for all the donations.

David Braybrooke, Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser for Gislingham, Westhorpe and Finningham

A CUP OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT



On Tuesday 8th November, Ann Cottee held her final coffee morning at Gislingham Village Hall.

The event raised £215 for the Children's Society, and that doesn't include money raised from selling the Society's Christmas cards on the day.

Ann's been holding the weekly Tuesday coffee mornings at Gislingham Village Hall since 2017, and over the years has raised in excess of £8500 for various local and national charities.

Even the obstacle of a national lockdown, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, did not deter Ann. During the Spring/Summer of 2020; Ann ran cake stalls from her driveway and garage, to ensure she continued to raise much needed funds for charity.

Ann said: "I am grateful to everyone who supported the events and gave so generously over the years and for all the good wishes. I could not have done it without all your help."

Hopefully someone else will organise similar events in the future, so as to continue this popular social event in the village.

1. CAROL King, 2. HOLLY Golightly, 3. STAR Wars, 4. BRUSSELS, 5. Cybil SHEPHERD 6. The PARTRIDGE Family, 7. JESUS CHRIST Superstar, 8. NOEL Coward, 9. TURKEY 10. The connection is, they all have some connection to CHRISTMAS.

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 58.



The Great Invitation

You are invited…. I wonder what is the best invitation you have ever received?

When I was a child, my mum always propped up invitations on the mantelpiece as a reminder of something exciting to look forward to. It felt very special to be invited to a party, a wedding, an anniversary or other special occasions.

At Christmas time we will hear again the words of the angels to the shepherds, 'I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all peoples.' It is an unending song of invitation, echoing through all ages, for all people. It is an invitation to know the love, hope and salvation offered by Jesus. Shepherds were the lowest in society, and would be among those who were not invited. They must have thought that they would not be welcome at the birth of a king, yet they were the first to receive the invitation, and the first people to see the new-born child.

Following a series of difficult Christmases, our churches are hoping that Christmas 2022 offers a chance for everyone to take part in services and events that haven't been possible recently. We are encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with your family, friends and neighbours - especially after two years where this has been impossible for many.

This is the great invitation to follow the star as the wise men did, to lead you to wonder again at the miracle of the Christmas, and to enter into a story that lasts long after Christmas has finished.

Carol services, Crib Services, Christingles and outdoor events are waiting for you to respond to the invitation. Follow the star, push open the door and enter into the joy of Christmas.

Details of Christmas services and events in all our churches can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Julia

From the Parishes:
In Loving Memory: Geoffrey Mountford, Rishangles; John Stenhouse, Yaxley; Joyce Spence, Mellis.

DECEMBER 2022

Online Worship services are on Sundays at 9.00am and Wednesdays at 7.00pm
Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am

Saturday 3rd Dec	Wetheringsett	10am-Noon	Christmas Tree Festival
	Wetheringsett church will be open daily for anyone wishing to visit, until the 4th January		
	Stoke Ash	11am-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival
● WEEK 1	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
Saturday 4th Dec	Stoke Ash	11am-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival
2nd Sunday of Advent	Thorndon	4pm	Christingle
Tuesday 6th Dec	Thorndon	7pm	Memorial Service
● WEEK 2	Mellis	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th Dec	Wetheringsett	10:30am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of Advent	Stoke Ash	3pm	Carol Service
	Thwaite	4.30pm	Carol Singing
Tuesday 13th Dec	Gislingham	7pm	Make Way for Christmas Concert
● WEEK 3	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th Dec	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All & Baptism
4th Sunday of Advent	Thornham Magna	3pm	Carol Service with GSB
	Wetheringsett	6pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 20th Dec	Thorndon	6pm	CONNECT Living Nativity
Wednesday 21st Dec	Mellis	7pm	Carol Service
Friday 23rd Dec	Thornham Parva	7pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	Gislingham	3pm	Crib Service
	Yaxley	4pm	Crib Service
	Thornham Magna	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion
● WEEK 4	Gislingham	9.30am	Christmas Worship
Sunday 25th Dec	Mellis	10:30am	Christmas Worship
Christmas Day	*Thorndon*	10:30am	Family Service & Holy Communion
	Wetheringsett	10:30am	Family Service

For details of January services please look at the Facebook page or church noticeboards

Reverend Canon Julia Lall - Rector
@ rev.julialall@gmail.com ✆ 01379 678064 / 07850 492212

Reverend Lauren Moore – Curate
@ rev.laurenmoore@gmail.com ✆ 07798705876

Reverend Debbie Nicholls – Assistant Curate
rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com 01379 788512

Find us on Facebook:
South Hartismere Churches

LOCAL INFORMATION

Gislingham Bus Timetable

Dan's Coaches:

Route 457 to Stowmarket (Thursdays (Market Day) only):

Leaves Gislingham 09:30 / Arrives Stowmarket (Argos) 10:30
Return bus leaves Stowmarket (Argos) 13:00 / Arrives Gislingham 13:55

Route 456 to Diss (Fridays only):

Leaves Gislingham 10:06 / Arrives Diss 10:35
Return bus leaves Diss 13:15 / Arrives Gislingham 13:46

Fareline Bus (Weds only) to Bury St. Edmunds:

Leaves Gislingham 09:45am and returns from Bury St. Edmunds 13:20.

Mellis Bus Timetable

110 – Eye to Diss

Eye – Diss (Monday to Friday) - leaves Mellis, opp. Railway Tavern: 10.46
Diss – Eye (Monday to Friday) – leaves Diss, adj. Bus Station: 13.30
https://www.simonds.co.uk/local-bus-times

Thornham Bus Timetable

Fairline Bus 320 (Weds only)

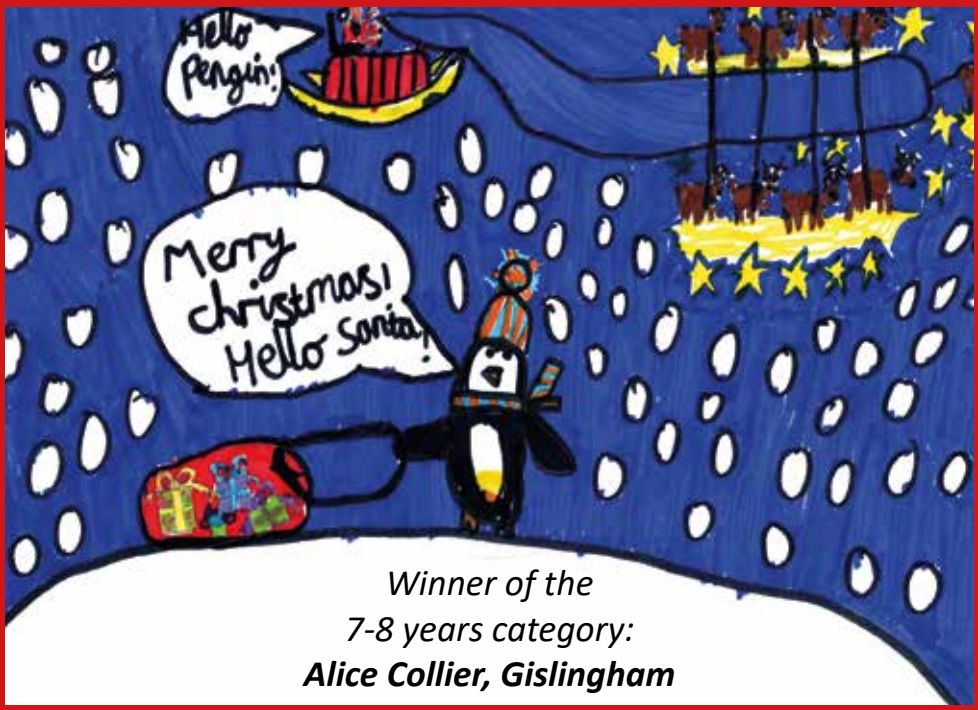
Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 09:45am and returns from Bury St. Edmunds 13:20, arriving back at Thornham Magna 14:36

Post Van: Gislingham
Fridays at Village Hall:
12.15 – 14.15





Mobile Library: Gislingham
Weds 7th December, then every 4 weeks.
Broadfields Road: 15.10 – 15.45
Mill Street: 15.50 – 16.05



Winner of the
7-8 years category:
Alice Collier, Gislingham



Thank you to all the children who took part in the competition. The standard was very high and we really enjoyed all your amazing pictures. It was very hard to choose the winners. . Below are a few more of the entries for you to enjoy. We wish we had space to print them all!



















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