The Messenger



Issue 132
November
2022

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH MAGAZINE
AWARDS
2021

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: December 2022
Copy deadline: Monday 14th November

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

The Messenger pages are printed on paper that is part of the Woodland Trust Carbon Capture scheme and the covers on paper that is part of the World Land Trust Carbon Offset scheme.

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.

WELCOME TO THE MESSENGER



EDITOR'S NOTES – November 2022

Welcome to the November issue!

This issue equals our biggest-ever issue, 68 pages; due in part to the large number of events taking place locally and in our village halls throughout November and December.

Please support your village halls! They need your support more than ever to help finance their increased running costs etc.

November is the traditional time of the year when we remember those who gave their lives for our Country in the two world wars. This year in our Remembrance article on pages 14 & 15 we focus on the Gislingham War memorial remembering the 18 villagers who lost their lives in the two wars.

Elsewhere in this issue……

With the festive season looming you will find up-dated entry details (Page 9) for our Children's Christmas Artwork competition to find a Christmas themed piece of artwork created by local children of primary school age (or younger) that will appear on the cover of our December issue. (You will notice entries can be submitted to Mellis School Office, Gislingham School Office, and Gislingham Playgroup, for ease of submitting entries).

Finally, it is with great sadness, that I pay tribute on pages 6 & 7 to my former neighbour Norman Pollard, who sadly passed away on 25th September. When my Wife and I moved to the village 22 years ago; Norman (and Pat) were very welcoming to us, and within a week of moving in, invited us to the Six Bells Pub for a drink to introduce us to other locals. I will always be grateful for the warmth and friendship he extended to us as a family. The published article was written in the main by Norman himself whilst he was bored in his hospital bed. But Patricia and I have added some extra bits, he forgot to mention! A sign of his popularity was shown by the number of people who attended his funeral on Wednesday 19th October at West Suffolk Crematorium. The chapel wasn't big enough!

Our December issue, has an early deadline date - Monday 14th November. If you have an event in December or January to promote or an article to submit, please send your information as soon as possible. (As a reminder, we do not publish a January issue, so if there are any events planned for January, they need to be detailed in the December issue). Thank you.

Until next month,



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: The Gislingham War Memorial at St. Mary's Church, Gislingham

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Saturday 5th November: Book Sale, Coffee & Cakes
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon
- Homemade cakes & refreshments etc.

Saturday 5th November: Mellis Farmers Market
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 9.00am – 12.00 mid-day - See page 29 for details.

Sunday 6th November: Thornham Sunday Breakfast Club
- Thornhams Village Hall: 10.30 – see page 20.

Tuesday 8th November: Coffee morning
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.30am – 12.00noon.
- In aid of the Children's Society

Saturday 12th November: Craft Fayre
- Yaxley Village Hall: 11.00am – 4.00pm. Refreshments available. Free admission.

Wednesday 16th November: Gislingham WI
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm – Annual meeting & Quiz.

Friday 18th November: Thornhams Film Night – 'The Railway Children'
- Thornham Magna Village Hall: 7.30pm – see page 32 for details

Saturday 19th November: Mellis Farmers Market
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 9.00am – 12.00 mid-day - See page 29 for details.

Saturday 19th November: Connect Coffee Morning
- St. Mary's Church, Mellis: 10.00 – 12.00 – see page 29 for more details

Saturday 19th November: Race Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.00pm – see page 16 for details

Friday 25th November: Street Forge Open Day
- Street Forge Workshops: 10.00am to 4.00pm – see page 60 for details

Friday 25th November: Quiz Night
- Thornhams Village Hall: 7.30pm – see page 33 for details

Saturday 26th November: Christmas Fayre
- Gislingham Primary School: 12.00 – 4.00pm – see page 37 for details

Saturday 26th – Monday 28th November: Art Exhibition
- Priory Rooms, Walsham-le-Willows: 10.00 – 6.00pm – see page 51 for details

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

Deadline for the November issue "What's On" Diary is: Friday 18 November.

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

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/

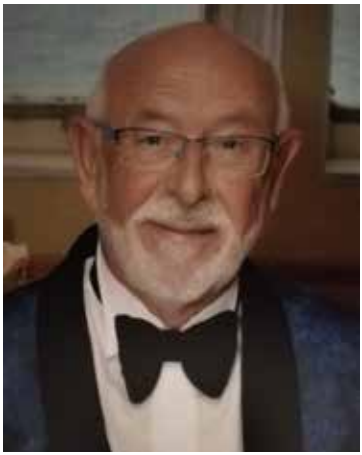
Gislingham Silver Band: Gislingham Band Hut. Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm
New members are welcome at any level.
Contact Iris Debock: 01379 788066 or debock.iris@gmail.com

Yaxley and Mellis Reading Group
Meet on the 4th Thursday (afternoon) of the month
Marie: 07904 121215 or email: mnwhizz@yahoo.co.uk

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

REMEMBERING NORMAN POLLARD



Norman was born on 1st May 1945 to Amy & Douglas Pollard. Norman was also fortunate to have had four loving sisters, Maureen, Olive, Margaret & Pearl. Norman always appreciated his sisters and remarkably none can ever remember a cross word between them. A true Suffolk lad, he grew up in Wetherden, before moving to Rattlesden and then to Gislingham in 1981.

Norman attended Gt Finborough primary school where he passed the eleven plus and then went on to Stowmarket Grammar school. There he made many friends and remarkably six of them continued to meet up for dinner each year until the covid pandemic, when meetings were reduced to phone calls.

On leaving school Norman, with seven "O" levels obtained a position with Suffolk County Council as a trainee inspector of Weights and Measures. He qualified just before his 21st birthday, one of the youngest to do so and then obtained a position with Wiltshire County Council in 1961.

The same year he married Susan with whom he had three much loved children Baron, Clare and James. Norman was extremely proud of each of his children, with whom he held an extremely strong bond.

Norman continued to gain promotions within the Suffolk C.C. Trading Standards Department and served periods at Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft and finally Ipswich offices. Norman became a firm believer in the principles of Quality Assurance and was able to use those beliefs to assist the department in gaining registration to British Standards IS9000 the first County Council Department in the country to do so. Norman was also able to assist in important improvements in the County Council policy such as prosecution policy which brought together the policies of the County Council and all seven district councils in Suffolk. An objective thought to be impossible by some! There were some enjoyable aspects to the job however, as Norman's expertise became recognised, he was invited to speak at numerous events including the annual conference of the Institute of Trading Standards.

Interestingly, he once told me that of the 1000 Trading Standards Officers in the UK, no less than 3 lived in Gislingham!

The love of cars surely influenced his decision to buy Gislingham Garage in the 1980's. Initially run by a business partner, it was ably managed by his son Baron until 1998, when he decided a change of career was necessary.

Norman remarried in 1993 to Patricia, and in 1998 took early retirement from Suffolk County Council and used the opportunity to start another business ('Norman's Period Pieces') from the former garage premises. (Now More Moto)

Here he put to good use his lifelong, self-taught love of restoring antiques; his favourite furniture being Georgian mahogany pieces. He would sell not only to locals, but to

customers from all over the world. (A regular customer from Holland would come over to Gislingham in a van, fill it with furniture from Norman's showroom and then take it back to Holland to sell!).

In the early 2000's, Norman was Chairman of the Parish Council for several years and also a Trustee of Gislingham United Charities and was always supportive of local organisations in the village. He was also very fond of his next-door neighbour in Gislingham, The Six Bells pub, and was an avid supporter! He even had his own tankard behind the bar!

He was also, on at least one occasion, the village matchmaker when he set up a 'first date' between Gislingham residents Peter Filby and Pieta Lardner (as she was then). Pieta has caught Peter's eye one day as, clad in a woolly hat and wellies, she collected wood in her wheelbarrow. Peter asked Norman who the woman with the wheelbarrow was and Norman offered to introduce them on condition that, should they ever marry, he would get a bottle of whiskey for his trouble. Sure enough, when Peter married Pieta a few years later, he made sure to drop off Norman's whiskey on the way back from the registry office.

The antique furniture business continued successfully until 2015 when Norman and Patricia decided to fully retire and downsize to a bungalow in Hopton, near Stanton.

At the bungalow, Norman spent many hours working in the garden. Everybody commented on how neat and tidy the garden looked. Norman didn't like to see weeds because dad once told him "You never make a profit out of weeds", so there were no weeds; especially in the back garden where he grew an abundance of vegetables.

Antique furniture was not Norman 's only interest-he loved cars. Tales abound of escapades in a 1962 mini cooper which would be frowned upon today. However, the real love of his life was Jaguar, his first being a 1964" Inspector Morse" Mk2 3.8 bought for £750. He went on to own almost all models made up to the present day.

Norman also loved sport, particularly golf. He was a member at Diss Golf Club for over 30 years, but in particular loved playing in Portugal where he and Patricia bought a timeshare property in 1995. They would spend three winter months there where he would play golf on the many courses Portugal is famous for (hence he would display a healthy tan all year round!) and Patricia would enjoy herself at the local riding school.

Norman had one more interest; he was invited to join the Board of a charity called Street Forge Workshops in 2007. This a charity dedicated to providing first class day care and training to adult with physical or mental disabilities. Norman had very little knowledge of disabilities when he joined the Board but quickly realised what he could learn from the trainees himself. He takes great pride and satisfaction in seeing the improvements made there in the last few years as part of the Street Forge team.

Norman was diagnosed with blood cancer in December 2021 and underwent 2 rounds of chemotherapy numerous blood and platelet transfusions MRI and CT scans where they also discovered a lymphoma at the base of his spine. Norman was admitted to hospital on 2 occasions with sepsis each time. He recovered but on the 3rd occasion it was all too much for him and Norman passed away peacefully, with his family by his side, on 25th September.

Norman has touched so many with his kind acts and words and was a devoted and loving Husband, Brother, Dad to 3, Father-in-law to 1, Grandad to 5, and Great Grandad to 2. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Jeff Norman

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SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST RIDE AND STRIDE 2022



The 41st Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride sponsored event took place on Saturday 10 September. St. Mary's Church, Gislingham was fortunate to have two keen cyclists taking part on its behalf.

Jacob Pettit, aged 8, from Gislingham took his Mum, Linda along for company and achieved his aim of visiting 13 churches, cycling over 25 miles in 4 hours; and raised £505 in the process.

When asked what the highlight of the day was, Jacob said: "I liked exploring the different churches as well the cakes and sweets that were at each church!"

Linda said: "We've raised £505 which I'm absolutely thrilled to bits about. With how things are with the economy and the pressures everyone is facing, I'm amazed at people's generosity and can't thank them enough."

St. Mary's Church, Gislingham is very grateful to Jacob and Linda and to those who sponsored them.

It would be great to have some more cyclists take part in this event next year, which will be held on **SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER.**



How it works: The Annual Sponsored Ride and Stride is a national event, and every second Saturday in September cyclists and walkers all-round the country are out making money for their local county Churches Trust.

The idea started in Suffolk, and consistently Suffolk has headed the table of funds raised. The Ride and Stride is the main source of income to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust to enable it to make grants to churches and chapels of all denominations towards repair and restoration costs.

Ride and Stride is run entirely by volunteers and is inter-denominational, with participants sponsored for each place of worship visited between 9.00am and 5.00pm on Ride and Stride Day or with a donation, regardless of the number of churches visited.

The money raised by each cyclist or walker is shared equally between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and the place of worship nominated by the participant.

For further information visit: https://shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

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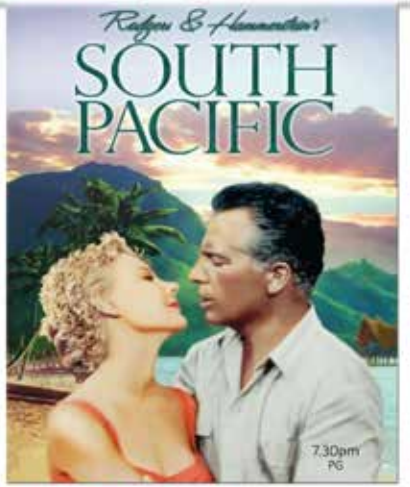
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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION

Once again, we will be running our Annual Christmas Artwork competition for all Children who live in Gislingham, Mellis and The Thornham' s, under the age of 12.

The winning artwork will appear on the cover of the December issue and the winners of each age category will be published inside the magazine.

The age categories are:

- **Age 2-4**
- **Age 5-6**
- **Age 7-8**
- **Age 9-11**

The criteria are:

1) Paper used must not be bigger than A4.
2) The actual design must 20cm high x 17cm wide
3) Entries can be submitted to:
   - Gislingham School Office
   - Gislingham Playgroup
   - Mellis Primary School Office
   - Strawberry Fields, High Street, Gislingham (next door to Gislingham Village stores)
4) Closing date for entries = Friday 11th November
5) Name, address and age of the child must be written on the ***BACK*** of picture.
6) The Messenger Magazine Committee will choose the winners.
7) A small prize will be awarded to the winner of each category and the artist's name and age will be credited alongside their picture.

We look forward to seeing your entries! - The Messenger Committee





G.C.COBBOLD

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GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



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.

I would encourage all residents to look at the Agendas and Minutes 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.

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.

Parish Councillors would like to thank Councillor Phil Steadman who recently stepped down as a Councillor, due to work commitments, for his contribution to the Parish Council and in particular his involvement in the Charity Meadow Playground Working Party.

The Parish Council have acquired a new Noticeboard to replace the dilapidated one to the right of the Village Shop, this will be erected soon. Also, a new Dog Bin is to be installed in Back Street.

In addition, the Parish Council are sourcing new Grit/Salt Bins to replace the current ones in the Village.

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.

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



GISLINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL

As the Great War reached its conclusion in 1918, communities across the world sought to commemorate their losses and to honour those that had made the ultimate sacrifice. In the vast majority of cases, those lost were either buried abroad in marked graves in proximity to the battlefield, or their bodies were never recovered or identified. For these reasons, war memorials were erected across cities, towns and villages to give the mourning and indebted population a local and tangible focus for collective remembrance.

Gislingham was no different in seeing its young men leave to fight, many never to return. The rolls of honour, on display inside the church, list those that fought and those that died. Sixty-two men went away to war; seventeen of them were killed – this out of a village population of 450. Even though the fighting was distant, the impact of war on the community must have been enormous.

The war memorial which stands proudly in St. Mary's Churchyard lists the names of Gislingham's seventeen sons that made the ultimate sacrifice between 1914 and 1918. Their final resting places are in foreign fields such as Passchendaele and Ypres in Belgium; the Somme and northern France; and in Gaza - still a scene of turmoil a century later.



Only Private FW Cook (from Mill Street, but a resident of Mellis at the outbreak of war) is buried in the churchyard. He died at Ipswich Military Hospital six days after the Armistice on 17th November 1918 and was buried four days later with full military honours in Gislingham Churchyard.



An eighteenth name is also inscribed on the village's war memorial, this being the later addition on a separate face of that of Corporal Herbert George Finbow, who was killed in the Burma campaign in 1944 and who lies in Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar.

The Gislingham War Memorial itself was erected by Messrs Corley and Sons and

unveiled on 2 May 1920 by Brigadier General Lord Playfair CVO. Its dedication the same day was attended by Rev D.D. Bennett, Rector of Gislingham.

The memorial is Grade II-listed and of Portland stone construction. It is composed of a three-stepped base, tall plinth, and a wheel-head cross. Crossed flags are carved in low relief on the centre of the cross. The inscriptions, incised in the base and painted black, read:

"In loving memory of the men of this parish who laid down their lives in the Great War 1914 to 1918"

followed by their names, and then the words:

"Greater love hath no man that this that a man lay down his life for his friends."

To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, in 2014 the memorial was cleaned and repointed with the help of grant aid from the War Memorials Trust.

Even though the curtain of time has now effectively closed across all living memory of the First World War, our war memorials remain part of our common heritage and landscape. They commemorate and are focal points in our communities for honouring the sacrifice and collective loss of our relatively recent history.

This Remembrance season, please take a moment to pause at the village memorial and reflect that, For our tomorrows, they gave their today.

GC





SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2022

RACE NIGHT

AND...THEY'RE OFF!

COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN WHILST SUPPORTING A WORTHWHILE CAUSE.

GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

TICKETS £5 TO INCLUDE A BOWL OF CHILLI AND FRENCH BREAD

GET YOUR BETS ON FOR THE FIRST RACE AT 7:45PM

Bring your own nibbles, drinks and glasses.

STRICTLY OVER 18's ONLY

tickets available from Terry Williams on 01379783903 or gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our latest Jumble Sale took place during September and although the foot fall was down on previous Sales an acceptable amount of money was taken.

The Carpet Bowls Club also started at the end of September and so far, has been very well attended.

FUTURE EVENTS

19th November 2022: Race Night
Tickets cost £5 to include a bowl of Chilli and French Bread. Doors open at 7.00 pm.
Bring your own drinks and glasses. For tickets contact Terry Williams on 01379 783903 or gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

17th December 2022: Quiz Night
Tickets cost £10 to include a Christmas Supper. Doors open at 7.00 pm.
Bring your own drinks and glasses. For tickets contact Terry Williams on 01379 783903 or gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

21st January 2023: Quiz Night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust

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.

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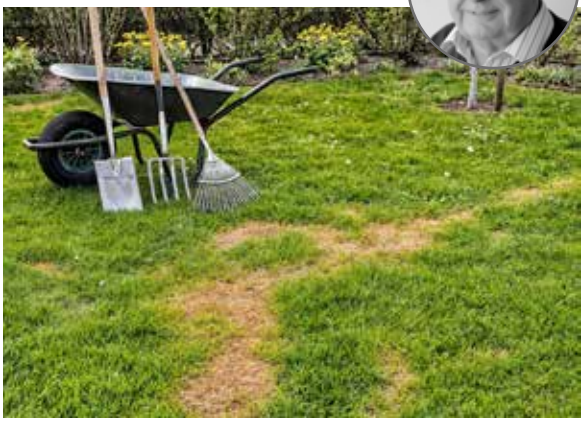
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IN YOUR GARDEN



BROWNED OFF?



Looking at the parched state of my lawns, I really do wonder if lawns are more trouble than they're worth! Will they ever recover their lush greenness or will I have to be less fussy and learn to love brown lawns?

According to the experts at the RHS, once we have a reasonable rainfall, the grass will eventually recover as it did following the very dry summers of 1977 and more recently in 2018. However, in some cases, lawns will fail to bounce back where grass has died or where new turf has not properly established before the searing heat struck.

However, with climate change now likely to bring long hot weather to our shores, does it look as if we will have to accept the possibility of having brown lawns for most of the summer? If so, what can we do especially where large patches of the lawn have definitely died and any amount of rain is unlikely to make it recover? The obvious answer is to thoroughly dethatch and scarify the dead areas where the dead grass has formed a thick thatch and prevented rain reaching the roots. Follow this by reseeding the area paying special attention to the type of grass seed being sown.

Again, the lawn experts recommend hardy seed mixtures including perennial rye grasses and tall fescues. These can tolerate heat and direct sunlight. Autumn is an ideal time to tackle these dead areas. This will be a relief to many lawn lovers whose green striped sward holds pride of place in their garden.

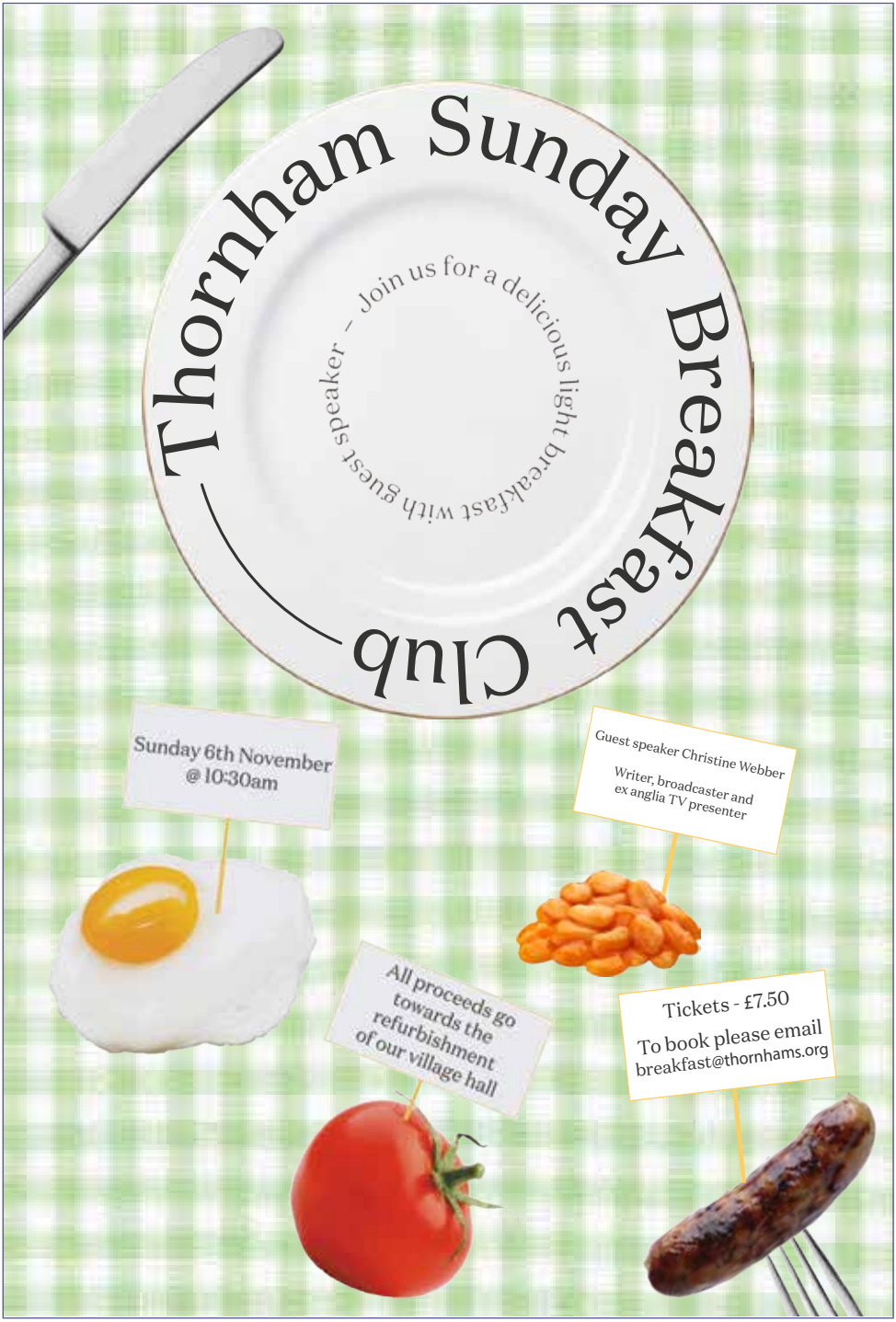
Researchers at grass seed suppliers have revealed that they have developed a drought -busting perennial grass that root as deep as three metres. Deep rooting grasses stand more of a chance of surviving drought by tapping into deep moisture levels much as mature trees can stand scorching weather relying on their extensive root systems searching out surrounding water.

The view of these experts is that our lawns will survive despite climate changes but we will have to use more resilient types of grass more commonly found in Mediterranean that feature wider fatter leaves.

Whilst environmental groups recognise that lawns will recover albeit with some reseeding, they are keen to promote a radical alternative with areas previously devoted to grass being put down to growing wildflowers to benefit bees and insects. Food for thought. I shall be covering rewilding options in domestic gardens in a future column.

Enjoy your garden.

Lawrence Thompson


Thornham Sunday Breakfast Club
Join us for a delicious light breakfast with guest speaker –
Sunday 6th November @ 10:30am
Guest speaker Christine Webber
Writer, broadcaster and ex anglia TV presenter
All proceeds go towards the refurbishment of our village hall
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Friday 18th November 7.30pm: Thornhams Film Night - 'The Railway Children Return'
Licensed bar and ice creams. Bookings at films@thornhams.org
Payment on the door £5 per person.

Friday 25th November 7.30pm: Quiz Night
Back by popular demand! Licensed bar and ice creams. Tickets £5.
Bookings at quiznight@thornhams.org

Saturday 10th December 1pm to 4pm: Christmas Wreath Making
Join us for an afternoon making your own festive moss wreath.
Tickets £30 to include materials, a glass of bubbles and nibbles

Sunday 11th December: Christmas Tree Decorating
Help decorate the village Christmas Tree followed by a get together with mulled wine and mince pies and Christmas Carols on the handbells.

28th January 2023: Annual Jumble Sale will return! Save the date and your jumble!

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CHARLOTTE'S BOOK BLOG



Many Different Kinds of Love by Michael Rosen

Hi everyone, happy November! With the spooky season now over, I'm starting to look into reading some Christmassy books ready for the December issue, so keep your eyes peeled for next month's festive review!



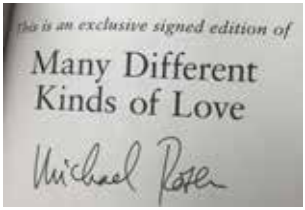
This month however, I'm going to review something a little different; Many Different Kinds of Love by Michael Rosen, a diary told through the medium of poetry. Personally, poetry is not something I usually go for, however with Michael's poetic style, his worst experiences in life are captured in an almost light-hearted way that still really makes you think what life must have been like during that period in time.

This book follows the Nation's icon on the journey of his almost-year-long battle with covid-pneumonia. It includes diary entries from the nurses and health teams that looked after him, poems expressing how he felt in day-to-day life of his new way of living, and text exchanges between his wife and him.

Michael was left unable to walk, unable to see and hear properly and unable to breathe as well as he used to, after being in a 4-month coma. His journey of rehabilitation was so eye-opening and really made me think more about the extent to which covid has changed people's lives, and really goes to show how truly amazing the NHS were during those harshest of months (and of course still are!).

This book is sort of a diary of his journey, told from start to (almost) finish (I say almost because he still suffers from long covid almost 2 years on!) and highlights how devastating the pandemic has been. However, there is also a more amusing side to parts of the book and it really is lovely how Michael managed to make light of a dark situation.

I've always been a fan of Michael Rosen, so finding out in March 2020 he had the virus was very upsetting, but I am very happy that he managed to get through it despite his long-term side effects! When this book was announced, I made sure to pre-order myself a signed copy before it was published, and on the day, it arrived, I posted a photo of it on my Twitter feed with the words: "I'm SO EXCITED that my copy of #manydifferentkindsoflove by @MichaelRosenYes has arrived, this is going to be such a sad but powerful read…Michael is an icon". To which Michael Rosen himself replied: "Spoiler alert: I lived"



My favourite quote from the book: "Clothing tip: if you drop a blob of hummus by mistake on your crocs, make sure, that it doesn't land on one of the holes"

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RAF WOODBRIDGE & THE JUNKERS 88



During the WW2, there was an airfield at Woodbridge that no one knew about until the war was over. Even German bombers flying overhead saw it as too insignificant to bother with. If referred to at all, it was the "emergency airfield" or a "hospital" base for damaged aircraft.

Constructed in 1943, it was one of three airfields set up with long, heavy-duty runways to accept damaged or fuel-short bombers returning from raids over Germany.

RAF Sutton Heath, as it was originally named, was in the middle of Tangham and Rendlesham Forests. The locality was ideal for an airfield, being sparsely populated with a clear, unobstructed approaches from the east and the west and mostly good weather conditions and visibility. However, one million trees did need to be felled and cleared away before construction could begin on the massive 3000-yard long, 250-yard wide and 160-acre concrete runway. As well as the concrete runway, provision was made for two grassed areas at either end of the runway, each 500 yards long, in case an aircraft under- or over-shot.

The main runway was to be split into three lanes for emergency landings. The north lane would be illuminated by yellow lights and the centre by white lights. These two lanes could only be used by aircraft under the direction of Flying Control. The south lane, illuminated by green lights, was designated as the emergency lane. Aircraft could use this lane without having prior contact with Flying Control. It was estimated that the construction work would be completed by October 1942 but the airfield was actually officially opened in November 1943 although by this time several emergency landings had already been carried out.

Within 2 weeks of its 'official' opening a further 54 emergency landings had been made, around 20 of these were due to bad weather over the home airfields. On the night of 16/17th December 1943 a tragic series of events dramatically changed the way that Woodbridge operated as an emergency airfield. The incident involved several Halifaxes of Tempsford-based Nos. 138 and 161 Squadrons which had been forced to abort a mission over France due to low cloud over their target areas. One Halifax made it safely back to its home airfield, but the others attempted to recover to Woodbridge, which was also shrouded in fog and low cloud. Only one of the bombers made a safe landing, the others were less fortunate. One struck a pylon killing 3 of the crew and injuring 3 others; another crashed into trees; another crashed into the river Deben with the loss of 1 of its crew and 2 ditched into the sea off Ipswich. The remaining Halifax crashed into the sea off the Lincolnshire coast. It was agreed after this tragedy that the visibility of the runway needed to be improved and this was achieved by the installation of Fog Investigation and Dispersal Operation (FIDO).

A typical FIDO installation comprised of pipelines running either side and each end of the runway into which petrol was injected under pressure. The petrol was ejected through small

holes and ignited by burners fitted at intervals along its length. The resultant fire produced heat so intense that it literally burned the fog away from the vicinity of the runway. Woodbridge was one of 15 airfields in England to be equipped with FIDO and was the biggest FIDO project ever carried out by the Air Ministry. Four 350,000-gallon fuel tanks were built on the northeast side of the runway to house the vast quantity of petrol required. To avoid congestion caused by large convoys of fuel bowsers on the narrow roads around the airfield, a 4-mile long underground pipeline was installed which ran, initially, to existing railway sidings at Dock Lane, Melton. Storage tanks, smaller than those at Woodbridge itself, were built at the new railway siding and the petrol was pumped from here to the airfield tanks.



Initial testing of the fuel system and burner units began once the first trainload of petrol was pumped from the temporary sidings to the airfield tanks. Final testing of the installation was completed in April and the system was fully operational by the end of May. FIDO was used operationally for the first time on 23rd June 1944 when a Lancaster from No. 7 Squadron at Oakington, which was returning from a raid on V1 installations near Pas de Calais, France and had been badly damaged by Luftwaffe night-fighters, was forced to land at the base.

In 1944, Woodbridge was considered to be the operational base for Operation Aphrodite, a secret plan for drone B-17s (redesignated as BQ-7s) to be used against German V-1 flying bomb sites, submarine pens, or deep fortifications that had resisted conventional bombing. In early July, several B-17s, modified into BQ-7 drones, arrived at Woodbridge. The aircraft were stripped of all interior equipment and armament, packed with explosives and were to be flown by a pilot out over the English Channel, then turned over to radio control with a primitive television system. Another B-17 would then act as a 'mother' ship, guiding the drone. No Aphrodite mission was ever flown from Woodbridge because, after one aborted attempt, the unit moved to RAF Fersfield, near Diss.

On 13 July 1944, a Luftwaffe Ju 88 G-1 night-fighter on North Sea night patrol landed at Woodbridge. It was carrying recent versions of the FuG 220 Lichtenstein SN-2 radar and FuG 227 Flensburg homer which were being successfully used to intercept RAF bombers. The German crew, who had only completed 100 hours of flight training, were using a compass heading but had proceeded in the wrong direction to what they thought was their own airfield.

This fortuitous capture of an intact German night-fighter was an extraordinary wake-up call to RAF radar specialists who had no idea how successful the Germans had become at locking onto rear-facing radars, which had been intended to be a protective measure for the Lancasters but had been turned into a death trap by German radar advances. Within days of the capture, the RAF were able to devise countermeasures and the subsequent changes that were made to Lancaster radars and the way they were used saved the lives of thousands of Allied air crew.

After the war, the site was used for some experimental work (the dropping of Grand Slam bombs on Orford Ness and the Blind Landing Experiment Unit) before being closed in 1948.

Sources: *'East Anglian Tales of Mystery & Murder' by H. Mills West, Bentwaters Aviation Society, Forces War Records.*

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GARY AVIS IN CONVERSATION
AT THE CORN HALL, DISS

Local resident, Gary Avis, one of the leading dancers of his generation with an international career spanning four decades, will be discussing his spectacular career in ballet and beyond with author and broadcaster Christine Webber at Diss Corn Hall on Friday 4th November.

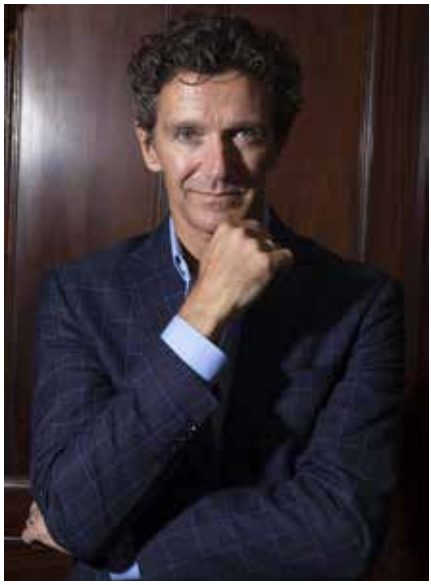


Photo credit: Andre Uspenski

From his childhood in Ipswich, Gary rose to the very top of the world of ballet, winning two National Critics Circle Dance Awards, working with eminent choreographers who included Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Christopher Wheeldon and Wayne McGregor. He has danced with some of the world's greatest ballerinas including Dame Darcey Bussell, Sylvie Guillem, Alessandra Ferri and Marianela Nunez, and as Royal Ballet Principal Character Artist has performed many of the leading roles in the Royal Ballet repertoire.

First created at the Royal Opera House, this fascinating evening of candid conversation, illustrated by film clips and stills, will include tales of adventures with Darcey on Strictly Come Dancing and what it felt like to dance in at The Closing Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics.



Photo credit: John Persson

In 2011 Gary was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by University Campus Suffolk. He supports a wide variety of charitable causes, mainly here in his home county (Suffolk Community Foundation) and was involved in the creation of World Hunger Day. He is a patron of the Choreographic Development Fund at Dance East, Chelsea Ballet and is on the board of Dance East. He was made an MBE in 2018.

Christine Webber is the author of 15 books and for 12 years she was the lead news presenter of ITV's About Anglia.

The proceeds from the evening will go to the Diss Corn Hall Trust.

To book tickets contact The Corn Hall Box Office: 01379 652241
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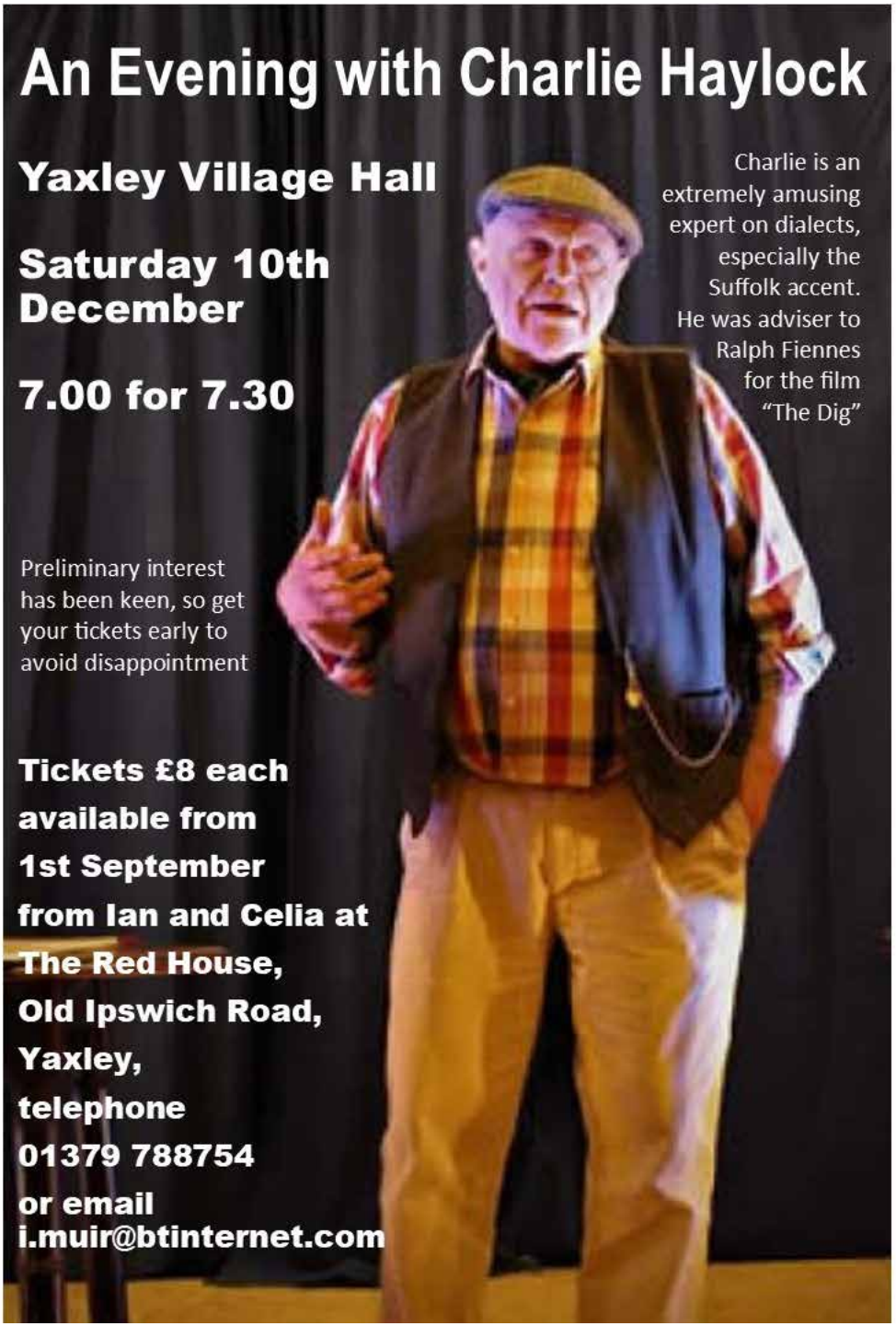
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An Evening with Charlie Haylock



Yaxley Village Hall

Saturday 10th December

7.00 for 7.30

Charlie is an extremely amusing expert on dialects, especially the Suffolk accent. He was adviser to Ralph Fiennes for the film "The Dig"

Preliminary interest has been keen, so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment

Tickets £8 each available from 1st September from Ian and Celia at The Red House, Old Ipswich Road, Yaxley, telephone 01379 788754 or email i.muir@btinternet.com

Thornhams Film Night
Friday, 18th November 7:30pm

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NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone and welcome back to Nature Notes!

As I write, we're enjoying some beautiful autumnal weather - the kind of weather that motivates even the most reptilian of lounge lizards to get out and enjoy the countryside! Living where we do, there's so much to enjoy on our doorstep but it's fun to go a little further afield and so this month Jenny and I visited Helmingham Hall and Needham Lake.

By the time we got around to visiting Helmingham Hall this year, the house and gardens were closed for the season - but not to worry, the deer park is open all year round. Moreover, there's a small car park nearby from where the circular 2 mile footpath can be easily assessed. The car park lies in front of St Mary's church (IP14 6EQ) and walkers are asked to leave a donation in the box at the start of the walk that's just to the left of the church.

Young Bucks Weighing-up Their Options….



Oak, Deceased But Still Majestic



Within the park there are herds of both Red and Fallow deer and at this time of the year the males have grown impressive antlers in time for the breeding season. Whilst walkers are instructed to keep to the defined footpath, the deer roam free within the park, alongside some goats and sheep. Besides the animals, there are some mighty oak trees to admire, some being around 900 years old. A few of them appear to be dead, perhaps having been struck by lightning, but still make a splendid sight in the landscape. Indeed, the artist John Constable was drawn to this place where in 1825 he painted his picture *The Dell at Helmingham Park*.



Dragonflies Pairing Up



Autumn Colour at Needham Lake



A Watchful Grey Heron



An Elusive Kingfisher

A little closer to home is Needham Lake that lies at the bottom of the A140 close to the A14. The lake forms the centre of a pleasant walk that finishes up at a handy coffee shop. On the lake can be seen many water fowl including Coots, Moorhens, Mallards and Geese as well as Gulls. During our walk, we were fortunate to see a Grey Heron at fairly close quarters, it keeping a hungry eye on the water for fish or dragonflies.

Back at home, we were delighted to catch a glimpse of a Kingfisher in early October. This is a rare event for us, occurring perhaps just once a year but even more special because of that. It was perched quite close to our kitchen patio doors, briefly surveying our pond, but way to fast for me to get a photo. So, as they say, here's one I took earlier, a couple of years ago in fact, at Lackford Lakes and in a similar pose.

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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THE SIX BELLS, GISLINGHAM – UPDATE



We have now been notified by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) that the owners of the Six Bells have lodged an appeal against their decision to reject their Change of Use (COU) application. The appeal will go to the Planning Inspectorate (PI), an independent government body who, if they consider there are grounds for appeal, will commence appeal proceedings. MSDC will then advise "interested parties" that they have five weeks to make representations. However, the PI will only be interested in hearing new evidence (over and above that presented at the application stage), which would not normally include general lobbying by the public. This will be in document form only (no personal representation). Interested parties will include the applicant, the Parish Council (PC) and the public whether or not they made original representations at the planning application stage. The public includes members of the SBCG who will now make representations as a group. The PI will have full access to all the original representations, of which all were objections, apart from the plans themselves.



The SBCG evidence will be comprehensive and detailed and will include:

- Survey Results
- Our Business and Financial Plan
- Comprehensive advice received from CAMRA, the Plunkett Foundation etc re community ownership (some 150 pubs are owned by their community)
- Identified sources of funding, should the village have the opportunity to purchase the Six Bells.
- Precedent. Our research shows multiple examples of the PI rejecting a COU appeal when it concerns the last pub in a village even when that pub has been closed for a number of years. The Six Bells was, of course, a fully functioning pub prior to the new ownership.

It is disappointing to note that, if the PI does accept that there are grounds for appeal, the decision could take up to 30 weeks. So, we just have to be patient!

We note, from October issue of The Messenger, that the new owners have received encouragement from some residents for their business proposals. We, the members of SBCG, being long-term residents of Gislingham ourselves, have no objection to there being a Veterinary Practice in the village, we simply do not want it to be at the expense of losing our pub – the heart of the village - and we are dedicated to fighting the appeal vigorously.

We are delighted and very grateful that the PC, true to its remit of "preserving the culture and character of the village", has, as well as agreeing to fund the survey, offered our group a grant of £2000 to fund professional/legal advice in presenting our objection to the appeal.

Six Bells Community Group
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Chris Saunders
Graham Sullivan: Secretary
Associate Member: Clive Chopping A.C.A.
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GISLINGHAM SPEEDWATCH
QUARTERLY REPORT



The Gislingham Speedwatch team has continued to monitor the speed of vehicles along Mill Street throughout the summer, conducting up to 10 sessions per month both morning and evening, at various times of the day. The team records vehicles travelling at 35mph or more.

The results: -

- June/July: 11 vehicles recorded - highest recorded speed 40mph
- August: 27 vehicles recorded - highest recorded speed 45mph
- September: 8 vehicles recorded - highest speed 41mph
- October: 19 vehicles recorded - highest speed 49mph

All recorded vehicles will have received first or final warning letters from Suffolk Constabulary.

As some residents are aware, there is an increasing problem of speeding vehicles entering or leaving the village along Thornham Road. In response to concerns raised with the team we have gained approval to commence monitoring near to the Lovell Estate from November, following the ratification of a Risk Assessment recently carried out with our local police Community Engagement Officer.

At the time of writing, it is hoped to carry out a session with the Gislingham School Junior Road Safety Officers who will be operating the gun and recording passing vehicles.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all the Speedwatch volunteers and for the support of the village community.

Steve Critchley – Gislingham Speedwatch Co-ordinator



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Special Christmas Book Sale!

Come and join us at our pre-loved Book Sale with refreshments on



Saturday 3rd December 2022

From 10am – 12noon

In Gislingham Village Hall



This will feature a Christmas festive theme with:

- *Free Glass of Mulled Wine*
- *Christmas refreshments with mince pies, etc*
- *Raffle*
- *Pre-loved books for sale*
- *Christmas themed dress – Santa costumes, Christmas jumpers – use your imagination! There will be a prize for the best ….*

We look forward to seeing you there. Come and enjoy!!

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TERRAPIN NEWS





To continue looking at the difficulties presented when development comes up against the limits of infrastructure.

A few weeks ago in the planning committee, we were asked for a decision with regards to two adjacent sites in Stowmarket, the first was for outline planning permission for up to 300 new dwellings at Ashes Farm, Stowmarket. The recommendation was to grant permission, this application had already been to committee and as a result improvements had been made to access, cycle route provision and landscaping.

The documentation was detailed and thorough and the response from Anglian Water caught my eye: "The foul drainage from this development is in the catchment of Stowmarket Water Recycling Centre which currently does not have capacity to treat the flows the development site. Anglian Water are obligated to accept the foul flows from the development with the benefit of planning consent and would therefore take the necessary steps to ensure that there is sufficient treatment capacity should the Planning Authority grant planning permission."

I questioned this, especially in the light of the recent bad publicity water companies have received as a result of allowing sewage to be discharged into rivers and the sea.

The answer was that it is unreasonable in planning law to refuse planning permission on matters that are outside the developer's control, nor is it a requirement for Anglian Water to provide details of how it will carry out its obligations under the Water Industry Act of 1991. Recently however the limitations of this act have surfaced, literally, it is in fact a duty to connect to a sewage system that is paramount, not a responsibility to be able to treat in sufficient quantities to avoid any discharge of untreated sewage into the environment. Permission was granted.

The second application, on the adjacent site was for full planning permission for 258 dwellings. Again, a detailed and thorough report that including the response from Anglian Water: "The foul drainage from this development is in the catchment of Stowmarket Water Recycling Centre that will have available capacity for these flows."

A decision on this was deferred for the developer to come forward with a proposal that went beyond the minimum required by building regulations and went towards meeting Mid Suffolk District Council's aims of good design and layout.

Anglian Water Authority is considered one of the best performing in the country, in Mid Suffolk, monitoring was carried out on 21 out of 38 storm overflows, a total of 715 spills were counted for a duration of 3,457,096 hours. National legislation has made it difficult for local planning authorities to ensure development protects the environment as well as it could, at the least we are having conversations as to how water companies, in this instance Anglian Water provide services that go beyond the barest legally compliant minimum and towards our ambitions for Mid Suffolk.

Perhaps it is time for our council officers to begin compiling evidence for our next local plan so we can develop new policies on water quality. This evidence will also mean we can take sewage discharge levels into account when we assess the total number of houses we can put in our communities.

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

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WALSHAM ARTS GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION

PRIORY ROOMS, WALSHAM LE WILLOWS, IP31 3AB

Saturday 26th November to Monday 28th November 10am-6.00pm



We are a group of local artists working in a variety of media showing our skills at the annual show. This year in addition to our core group of painters, print makers, a potter, jeweller, metal worker and glass artist, we have invited guests showing painting, photography and sculptures from recycled materials.

We are all aware that there have been many new residents in the villages during the past couple of years and warmly invite you to our show to buy gifts and handmade items that are unique to our village. Payments at the show are by cash or cheque only.

For further information contact: Peter Rudderham 01359 25943
or Helen Dougall: helen@hdbatik.co.uk

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Gislingham Playgroup



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



By using this paper leaflet we are helping to reduce unnecessary extra plastic. Please use your own bag or bags (there is no limit). The leaflet is FSC accredited, please recycle it.

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

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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



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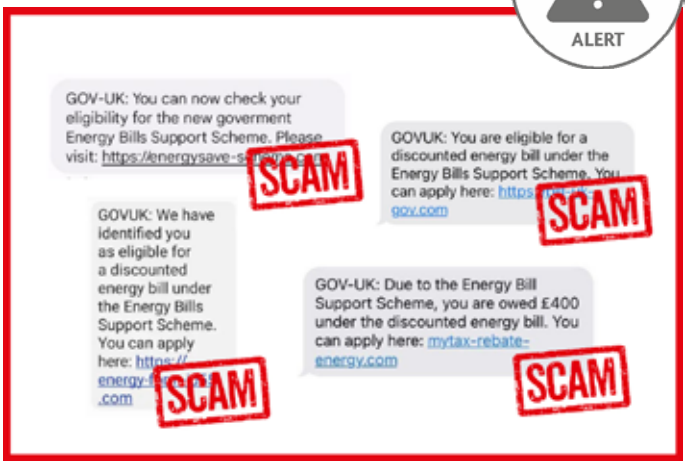
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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!

Action Fraud is warning the public about a sharp rise in reports relating to fake emails and text messages purporting to be from Ofgem, the independent energy regulator for Great Britain.



The emails claim that the recipient is due a rebate payment as part of a government scheme and provides links for the recipient to follow in order to apply for the rebate. The links in the emails lead to malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information.

All the emails display the email subject header "Claim your bill rebate now". Offenders are using the Ofgem brand logo and colours to make the emails look as authentic as possible. However, the emails ask recipients to "apply for an energy bill rebate before September 2020", which is what prompted many recipients to realise the emails weren't genuine.

Criminals are experts at creating spoof messages that then link to fake websites using official logos and branding of trusted organisations to trick you into taking urgent action without closer inspection.

Residents are reminded that the Government support payments which are being made available will be automatically applied to energy accounts and you will not need to supply personal information to 'apply' for payments.

If you think you've fallen for a scam message and provided financial details, contact your bank immediately on a number you know to be correct, such as the one on the back of your bank card.



You can report scam text messages to the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **freephone 0808 223 1133.**

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. The piece in the game of chess, that moves diagonally.
2. A type of product manufactured by a particular company under a particular name.
3. The London Borough in South West London which contains Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon.
4. A brand name given to a red vacuum cleaner with eyes and mouth.
5. In this state, your vehicle is powered on and could theoretically begin moving at any time.
6. Cooking of food in oil or fat.
7. The type of Austin Mini made iconic by the 1969 film, The Italian Job.
8. A porous and fibrous structural tissue found in the stems and roots of trees.
9. '**** the knife' was a hit for Louis Armstrong, Bobby Darin and Ella Fitzgerald.
10. What is the connection?

Answers appear on page 63.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

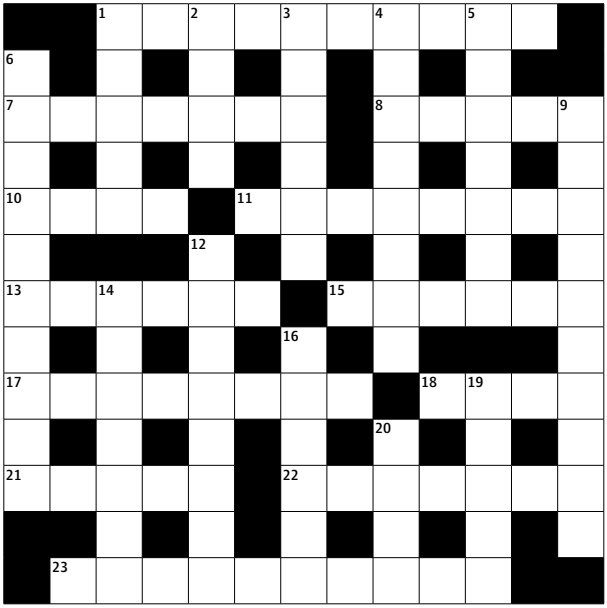
		4		6				
							4	1
7	8			1				
		9	1				3	
3			7	8	2			9
	7				9	4		
				2			1	8
9	3							
				3		6		

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Punctuation mark missing from ones grammar (10)
7 Violent windstorm (7)
8 Surface of a cut gemstone (5)
10 Incline (4)
11 Excessive maleness? (8)
13 Passionate (6)
15 Gossamer — fairy retainer to Queen Titania (6)
17 Old gold coin (8)
18 Furnace (4)
21 Danger (5)
22 Old salts (3,4)
23 Genuine (in Australia) — mid-air funk (anag) (4,6)

Down

1 Of sound (5)
2 By mouth (4)
3 Bee's middle (6)
4 What grows from a main stem (8)
5 Tool for cutting metal (7)
6 Framed someone by setting a trap (8,2)
9 Musician in the brass section (10)
12 Like the construction of a honeycomb? (8)
14 Where live fish are on show (7)
16 Dwarfed ornamental tree or shrub (6)
19 Sound of a revving engine (5)
20 Face cover (4)

Last issue solution

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



Street Forge Workshops



Street Forge Workshops, The Street, Thornham Magna, IP23 8HB

OPEN DAY

Friday 25th November
10.00 – 16.00

Shop early for Christmas!

You will be able to look round our Workshops, Craft Studio and Sales Area. Free refreshments will be available all day with delicious homemade cakes.

There will also be a raffle with one of our planters filled with spring bulbs, a Christmas Cake, 3 of our insect products and a Christmas Hamper as prizes to assist our fund raising. This will be drawn on Wednesday 7th December.

FREE TREES & HEDGE PLANTS

A selection of trees are still available, free of charge, to any readers of the Messenger who are willing to give them a good home. They will be available for this winter's planting season which starts this month. We have Field Maple, Hazel, Hornbeam, Oak, Silver Birch and Walnut, as well as Dog Rose, Dogwood, Field Maple, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Hornbeam, Spindle for hedges.

The trees are 15cm-90cm tall and most have been sourced and grown in Suffolk. They will need appropriate aftercare, including protection from predators, but we are happy to advise on the right tree(s) for your location and provide advice on planting and aftercare.

Richard Jannaway: 07939 010027, richardj@myphone.coop



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We are holding Open Afternoons on

Monday 21st November and

Monday 28th November 2022

from 1.00pm – 3.00pm

You will be given a tour by some current pupils; there will be an opportunity to visit our Reception Class, and meet the Class Teachers and Head Teacher

Visits are on a drop in basis – no booking necessary.

Please call the School Office on 01379 783283 for further information.

Please visit our website www.gislingham.suffolk.sch.uk

NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING

Thanks to all who supported the events in September and October. Pleased to report we raised £140 for Street Forge Workshop in September, and £106.50 for Suffolk Accident Rescue Service in October. This month, on Tuesday, 8th November, the event will be in aid of the Children's Society, and a selection of Christmas cards will be on sale.

Please note this will be the last Tuesday Charity Coffee morning I shall be organising in the Village Hall. I am very grateful to all who have supported me over several years, and hope that perhaps someone else will consider arranging similar events in the future.

Ann Cottee, churchwarden



BELL RINGING AT ST MARY'S GISLINGHAM

The PCC and bell ringers of Gislingham will welcome on Wednesday 9th November a band of ringers of the Suffolk Guild led by the chairman Rowan Wilson who will attempt a full peal taking approximately three hours starting at around 10.00am

Alan Stanley

CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO ST MARY'S CHURCH, GISLINGHAM

SAVE THE DATE: 13 December 7pm. Special Service
A Concert of Christmas Songs and Readings.
Our choir will sing festive songs by Graham Kendrick as we tell the Christmas story.
And join us afterwards for mulled wine, soft drinks, sausage rolls and mince pies.
Entry free - there will be a retiring collection



GASKIN THE GARDENERS

Please note, Gaskin the Gardeners have had a problem with their phone line for several weeks. They would like to apologise to anyone who has been trying to contact them and thought they were being ignored. They are available to help with your gardening needs. Their advert appears on page 42.

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 58.

1. BISHOP (John), 2. BRAND (Jo), 3. MERTON (Paul), 4. HENRY (Lenny), 5. IDLE (Eric), 6. FRY (Stephen), 7. COOPER (Tommy), 8. WOOD (Victoria), 9. MACK (Lee). The connection is, they are all British comedians.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



It is another beautiful Autumn morning; bright, crisp and mist beginning to clear. I am out in the garden cutting willow, and collecting berries and crab apples. I am getting ready for another Connect Session. This week the craft will be making Autumn wreaths.

For anyone who hasn't been to a Connect Session or heard about Connect yet, let me tell you a little bit about it.

CONNECT is a welcoming and safe space for people of all ages to gather. It aims to connect church and the wider community by building on a sense of community, tackle social isolation and offer a meeting place for those who work during the week

Connect runs weekly at 4.00pm on a Sunday at Thorndon, we have monthly Connect celebrations that run at Thorndon and Wetheringsett on Sundays and at Mellis (usually on a Saturday). There is also a Connect After School Club at Wetheringsett C of E Primary School.

The idea of each session is that there is something for every age:

CAFÉ CONNECT – a café style area serving hot drinks, cakes and biscuits. This is a safe space to chat and relax, there is a play area for children of all ages

CONNECT CRAFTS – craft activities for all ages, using recycled materials or sustainable products.

CONNECT OUTDOORS – supporting and maintaining the churchyard to be an eco-friendly environment for wildlife, trees and plants

CONNEXIONS – Table Talk, prayer stations, and prayer requests. Someone is always on hand if you want to chat or share a concern

Connected – a short act of worship with drama/storytelling, music and a thought for the day.

SUSTAINABILITY is very important to us when planning crafts. During the Covid lockdowns we did several zoom sessions with craft ideas. We didn't want anyone to have to go out to buy anything, so all the crafts we showed were from things you may have in your home.

We make sure that all the craft activities use either recycled or natural materials. This year we have not spent a single penny on craft materials - some examples are Willow wreath, Christmas decorations from wood and pebbles, and flowers made from old buttons.

We look forward to welcoming you to join us at Connect anytime!

Best wishes Emma Morris, Lightwave Schools and Families worker

From the Parishes:

Welcome to those who were baptised: Cecil Whiting, Mellis
Wedding Congratulations: Harry Eves and Rachel Killock, Thornham Magna
In Loving Memory: Muriel Robinson, Thorndon

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

● **WEEK 1**	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
Sunday 6th November	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday before Advent	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
Friday 11th November	Stoke Ash	10:50am	Act of Remembrance
● **WEEK 2**	Mellis	10.30am	Act of Remembrance
Sunday 13th November	Thornham Magna	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
2nd Sunday before Advent		11:30am	& Holy Communion
Remembrance Sunday	Gislingham	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Thorndon	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Wetheringsett	10.50am	Remembrance Service
	Yaxley	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT & Licensing of Emma Morris as a Families Minister by +Mike
● **WEEK 3**	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Worship for All
Sunday 20th November	Thorndon	10.30am	Worship for All
Christ the King	Yaxley	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday next before Advent	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
Safeguarding Sunday			
● **WEEK 4**	Thorndon	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 27th November	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
1st Sunday of Advent			



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

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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
Wednesday 9th November, then every 4 weeks.
Broadfields Road: 15.10 – 15.45
Mill Street: 15.50 – 16.05

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Anglian Water Emergency	0800 145145
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Church Wardens:	
Gislingham - Ann Cottee	01379 788633
Mellis - Betty Wells	01379 788155
Thornham Magna and Thornham Parva - James Fawcett	01379 788130
Citizens Advice Bureau Stowmarket	01449 676060
Citizens Advice Bureau Diss	01379 640530
Clerk (Parish) (Gislingham) clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com	07796 410694
Clerk (Village) (Tina Schwarz - Thornham Magna)	01379 788207
Clerk (Parish) (Christine Moore - Thornham Parva)	01379 783226
Connecting Communities = Suffolk Passenger Transport	01449 614271
Crime Stoppers	0800 555111
District Council - Cllr Rowland Warboys rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk	01379 783412
Electricity Emergency	08007 838838
Essex & Suffolk Water Emergency	08457 820999
Eye Health Centre	01379 870689
Hall Bookings (Gislingham - Terry Williams -)	01379 783903
email gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com	
(Mellis - Helen Timmons - Mellis)	
email: bookmellishall@gmail.com	01379 783449
(Thornham) email: hallbookings@thornhams.org	01379 788154
Mellis Parish Council Chairperson (Lawrie Read) mellisparishcouncil@gmail.com	01379 788248
Mendlesham Health Centre	01449 767722
Member of Parliament - Jo Churchill	01284 752311
jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk - www.jochurchill.org.uk	020 7219 8487
NHS Direct	111
Suffolk Doctors On Call	03001 303066
Suffolk Fire Service & Community Fire Safety	01473 260586
Suffolk County Council -Cllr Jessica Fleming jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk	01449 711065
Suffolk Police (non urgent)	101

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