The Messenger



Issue 147
April
2024

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH
MAGAZINE
AWARDS

THE MESSENGER TEAM



Please send your letters and articles to the Editor
email: themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Editor & Photographer: Jeff Norman 01379 788669
Strawberry Fields, High Street, Gislingham. IP23 8JD

Advertising: Tracey Askew 01379 783427
email: traceyaskew@outlook.com

Treasurer: Terry Williams 01379 783903
email: terry.williams1947@gmail.com

Mellis Correspondent & Features Writer: Angeline Braidwood
email: angeline_braidwood@yahoo.co.uk

Thornham Correspondent: Stephen Schwarz
email: sandts30@gmail.com

Graphic Design: Jo Clifford, email: joclifford@cadecreative.com

Website: Mallen Baker & Bob Stuart, email: mallen@mallenbaker.net

Facebook: Charlotte Norman, email: charlotte_norman@me.com

Distribution Co-Ordinators: Chris & Jo Pitt,
email: chris@thepitts.org

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

Next issue: May 2024
Copy deadline: Monday 15th April

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 – April 2024

Welcome to the April issue!

Hopefully, the flooding issues we have experienced since October are finally over (at least for now!) as we are starting to enjoy some more spring-like weather!

Rowland Warboys our District Councillor gives an interesting update on the recent flooding, and the measures being taken to try and avoid similar road problems in the future, in his article on page 53.

There has been some sterling community work undertaken in the past month – in Mellis sixteen parishioners turned out in force to plant trees for the new Mellis Garden (see page 15) and in Thornham, despite the wet weather, the Annual Litter Pick took place, with 20 bags of rubbish being cleared!

In terms of events for April, once again there are a host of events to support and enjoy. Always a great night of entertainment, The Gislingham Variety Club are back with a World War 2 themed variety show – details can be found on page 27. If you haven't already done so, please book your tickets now!

There was a disappointing turn-out for last Village Social Pub night in March, but hopefully that was a "blip" and the April event will be well supported!

As usual, information on all the local events taking place in April can be found overleaf, and there is a growing list of events being added under the "Save the date" heading for activities that are taking place later in the year. The latest additions include the 'Mellis Garden Official Opening' in June and the 'Gislingham Gardening, Arts and Produce Show' in September.

I must also draw your attention to the 'Gislingham Summer Fair' (see page 9). The organising committee are looking for donations, sponsorship, prizes, vintage cars and helpers on the day! If you can provide any or all of the those, please contact the committee via the email address on the poster.

Finally, a reminder to put your clocks forward by one hour on Sunday 31st March, which means 1 hour less rain!

From the Messenger Team, we wish you all a Happy and Healthy Easter.

Until next month!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: Taken in Burgate Road, Gislingham

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Tuesday 2nd April: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 noon.
  See page 20 for details

Friday 5th April: The Village Social Pop-Up Bar
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm – 10.00pm. See page 45 for details

Saturday 6th April: Book Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon

Sunday 7th April: Gislingham Litter Pick
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am. See page 33 for details.

Thurs 11th, Fri 12th & Sat 13th April: GVC – 'Doorsteps, Doodlebugs and D-Day'
- Gislingham Village Hall: See page 27 for tickets details

Wednesday 17th April: Gislingham WI – Subscriptions and Quiz evening
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm

Thursday 18th April: Mellis Memorial Hall Management Committee AGM
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 6.30pm. See page 21 for details

Friday 19th April: Thornham Film Night – 'Once'
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.30pm. See page 51 for details

Friday 26th April: Cinema at Eye: 'One Life' starring Sir Anthony Hopkins
- Eye Community Centre: 7.30pm. See page 62 for details

Sunday 28th April: Thornham Sunday Breakfast Club
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 10.00am. Seepage 18 for details

SAVE THE DATES:
- **Thursday 6th June:** Mellis D-Day 80th Anniversary, beacon from 6.30pm
- **Saturday 8th June:** Mellis Garden official opening & other activities from 10.00am
- **Saturday 15th June:** Gisfest
- **Saturday 6th July:** Gislingham Summer Fair
- **Saturday 14th September:** Gislingham Gardening, Arts & Produce Show

Please note, any event changes after the magazine goes to print are updated on our website at:
http://www.the-messenger-online.com/diary

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

Our next issue is May 2024. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Monday 15th April

CLUBS, CLASSES & REGULAR EVENTS

parkrun: Thornham Walks
Every Saturday at 9.00am. 5k. www.parkrun.org.uk/thornhamwalks/

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

Carpet Bowls Club: Gislingham Village Hall. Every Monday 2.15pm to 4.15pm. £3.00 per session. All equipment provided.

Pilates Classes: Gislingham Village Hall.
Wednesdays 9.15am and 10.15am and also Thursdays 7.10pm
Becky Cruickshank: 07734 414151

Total Fitness: Gislingham Village Hall. Every Thursday 6.15pm - 7.00pm
A cardio fitness class that can be adapted to all abilities.
Becky Cruickshank: 07734 414151

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

Pilates Classes: Thornham Parish Hall
Tuesdays 10.00am - Pilates Seated & Standing (no floorwork)
Wednesdays 11.15am Every Body Pilates (general & all levels)
Contact: Michelle via email hello@yapl.co.uk

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

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 Margaret: 01379 783903 or Terrie: 01379 788521.

Mellis Canicross: Mellis Memorial Hall.
Meet Saturdays 7.30 am Autumn/Winter; 7.00am Spring/Sumner
Jog with your dog. Check out our Facebook page for updates.
Contact Lorraine on 07913 183534

Gislingham Silver Band: Gislingham Band Hut. Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm
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

PAUL DURRANT & SON LTD

Carpentry Services

Many aspects of carpentry - Kitchen fitting
Fitted wardrobes - Storage solutions
Window & door replacements - Timber framed sheds/home offices

Office: 01379 678485
Email: pauldurrantandsonbuilders@gmail.com
or
johndurrant75@gmail.com
For advice call John: 07894551485

Ear We Go

Mobile ear wax removal
Microsuction & Irrigation

07921550958
earwego12@gmail.com

COUNTRYSIDE, CONSERVATION & TREE SERVICES

SPECIALISTS IN

Tree surgery
Hedge management
Fruit tree pruning
Landscape projects
Fencing



Peter Kerry

01359 230100
07792 995483
peterkerry2018@gmail.com
www.cctrees.co.uk

£5,000,000 public liability insurance

AMANDA'S FUND-RAISING EXPLOITS

Gislingham's Amanda Kemp completed the Cambridge Half Marathon on March 3rd, in 2hrs 21 minutes – raising a total of £845 for EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices).

This was the culmination of money raised from her Just Giving page and the Coffee morning she held at Gislingham Village Hall on February 13th.





Amanda said: "I would like to thank everyone that sponsored me, and also for all the raffle prizes and cake donations at the Coffee Morning. The support from everyone has been fantastic! My next challenge is a 16-mile walk in May, again for EACH."





AW CHIMNEY
& Flue Services

Chimneys & Flues Cleaned

CCTV Inspections & Surveys

Trained by National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS)

NACS Certificates Issued for Insurance etc.

Please contact Adrian - Tel: 07947 918170

Email: awchimney@btinternet.com

For more information, please visit: www.awchimney.com

YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL PLUMBER
For Eye & Diss etc

approved plumber
anglianwater
Anglian Water Approved

Mark Jardine
Plumbing & Heating

iphe Registered Plumber

- **All Household Plumbing, Large or Small**
- **Full Bathroom Installation**
- **Domestic Heating, Radiators, Pumps etc.**
- **Water Softeners**
- **All Work Anglian Water Certified**
- **24 Hour Emergency Call Out**

Tel: 01728 628291 Mob: 07854 924 801

Email: mgjardine@btinternet.com



Gislingham SUMMER FAYRE NEEDS YOU!

Gislingham Summer Fair is back this year after a 5-year absence!
The event will be held on Saturday 6th July.

This is where The School, Playgroup, Church, Village Hall, and W.I. all come together to bring a fun filled afternoon to the village. On the day, various stalls are run by the organisations, which help to raise money for them.

The Gislingham Summer Fair Committee would be grateful of any donations of Tombola items, alcohol for the barrow of beer, fill a jar (jars can be filled with small toys, pencils and paper, sweets, or anything you think children would like).

We also need prizes for the GRAND DRAW!

We would also like to incorporate a Classic Car Show in the School playground.
If you wish to exhibit your vintage or sports car please email: gislinghamsummerfair@gmail.com - it is free to enter your car!

In addition, trade stalls are available on the day, at £15.

If you can donate, please take your donation into the school office by the Thursday 20th June.

Many Thanks
Summer Fair Committee
All enquiries: gislinghamsummerfair@gmail.com



G.C.COBBOLD

GATES

ALL ASPECTS OF GATES UNDERTAKEN

FREE QUOTATIONS GIVEN
PLEASE CONTACT

01379783092 / 07841026220

garycobbold@googlemail.com

LOUISE ALEXANDER
EST 2001
Massage Skincare Beauty

FHT IHBC IIHHT

Facials Massage Waxing
Manicures & Pedicures Lash & Brow Tinting

Highly Experienced Therapist offering professional, classic treatments from a bespoke treatment studio, set in private, tranquil surroundings, in Wortham.

For more information or to book your treatment please contact Louise

07711 524019

www.loualexanderbeauty.co.uk
loualexanderbeauty@gmail.com

DAVID COTTON
PAINTER & DECORATOR

FULLY QUALIFIED WITH 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL/ DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

FREE ESTIMATES

TEL: 07902 550 797
EMAIL: david.cotty@live.co.uk
www.davidcottonpainterdecorator.org
david cotton painter decorator
View my rating on RatedPeople.com

EMMA EDWARDS

MOBILE HAIRDRESSING

- Salon experience in your own home.
- Fresh, creative approach to mobile hairdressing.
- Former salon owner bringing with her years of experience.
- Dedicated to customer satisfaction.

Evening appointments also available.

To make an appointment call Emma on
07900 683 649

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 you can contact the Chair of the Parish Council on **07900 963471**.

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.

Parish Councillors would like to thank **Councillor Ian Urwin** who recently resigned as a Councillor, due to personal reasons, for his contribution to the Parish Council. He will be very much missed.

*We currently have **Parish Councillor vacancies** on the Parish Council.*

We meet once a month on the third Monday of the month.

*If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and would like details, please contact the Chair, Cllr Julie Bell by email **julie.bell@gislinghamparishcouncil.com** or on **07900 963471***

At the March Parish Council Meeting Councillors were pleased to award the following Organisations requested funding from Grants and Donations:

- ✓ Gislingham Summer Fair £150 towards their event to be held on Saturday 6th July at Gislingham Primary School.
- ✓ Gislingham Variety Club £150 towards the production of the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings being staged in the Village Hall from Thursday 11th April to Saturday 13th April.
- ✓ FOSM Flower Festival £150 towards the event being held over the August 2024 Bank Holiday weekend.
- ✓ PCC (St Mary's Church) to assist with rising electricity costs the Parish Council agreed to set aside an amount up to £150 when the bill for 2024 is received.

Parish Councillors would like to thank **Jo Clifford** for all her hard work in designing the new Footpath and Bridle Path Signage located outside the Village Hall.

The Parish Council would like to wish residents an enjoyable Easter break.

Julie Bell, Chair, Gislingham Parish Council



MPD TANKS LTD



Steel and Plastic oil tanks installed

Fully Insured

Telephone:
01449 767820
07708 395889

Mendlesham

OFTEC
Registered Technician

ELITE FENCING & LANDSCAPING

All types of fencing erected.

Patios, Bases, Turfing, Decking.

Paths, Hard surface pressure washing.

All outdoor work undertaken.

Home 01359 221128,
Mobile 07761 651567
Trevor@elite-fencing.co.uk
www.elite-fencing.co.uk

JWC Brickwork Ltd

New & traditional brickwork
Garden walls
Re-pointing
Chimneys & fireplaces
New builds & extensions
Patios
Shed bases
Groundworks
Insurance jobs
No job too small

01379 788092 (Gislingham)
07793 028 606
jamiesonchambers@gmail.com
www.jwcbrickwork.co.uk

NEWS FROM THORNHAM MAGNA PARISH MEETING





Despite the rain, nine people turned up for the Thornham Litter Pick on Sunday 17th March.

Around twenty bags of rubbish were collected, including a rucksack filled with bills and tax returns for a person in Norwich. Plenty of beer bottles and one whiskey bottle.

Thanks go to Tom and Geraldine and also Rodger and Sue who organised and supported the event most.

THE THORNHAM MAGNA PARISH MEETING NEEDS YOU!

The Thornham Magna Parish Meeting meets three times a year to listen to the views of residents and support village life. We need someone to become the Clerk and / or Responsible Finance Officer.

Neither role is very demanding and you can make a difference with only a few hours commitment.

If you can help, contact Malcolm Goodwin by email at magnaclerk@thornhams.org.

The next Thornham Magna Parish Meeting and AGM is planned for Saturday 8th June at 10.00am

Malcolm Goodwin
Chair / Clerk of Thornham Magna Parish Meeting (magnaclerk@thornhams.org)
Chair of Village Hall (malcolmgoodwin@outlook.com)



My Care AT HOME
Providing care and support in your own home
RECRUITING CARE PRACTITIONERS NOW!
Do you need help with:
Personal Care
Dementia Care
Overnight Care
Help around the house
Companionship?
Contact us for more information or a brochure:
01449 678000 / 01284 711845 / 01379 771111
www.mycare-athome.co.uk

CopyDiss
42a Mere Street, Diss,
Norfolk IP22 4AG
Telephone: 01379 644 567
PHOTOCOPYING AND PRINTING
♦ INCLUDING BUILDING PLANS UP TO A0 ♦
We can design for you or print your own creations
BUSINESS STATIONERY
Business Cards - Letterheads- Flyers - Posters
Laminating - Binding (Comb and Thermal)
We also offer flexible Secretarial Services
PERSONALISED WEDDING STATIONERY
Designed and printed
PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTWORK
Quality reproduction of photos and artwork
Canvases and Giclee printing
OTHER SERVICES
Support for your self-publishing project
PERSONALISED ITEMS
Mugs - Coasters - T Shirts - Mouse Mats - Tote Bags
Calendars - Greeting Cards etc.
WE PRINT FROM YOUR OWN COPY, CD, MEMORY STICK OR YOU CAN EMAIL YOUR DOCUMENT TO US
email: hello@copydiss.co.uk
www.copydiss.co.uk

Cut Above
Ladies & Gents
Hairdressing Salon
Est 2007
Creative Hair Design
Covering a wide range of
Hairdressing Services
The Street, Rickinghall, Diss
Norfolk. IP22 1EG
01379 890647

TIP TOP LAWN CARE
FREE LAWN SURVEY/QUOTES
Local Independent Lawn Care
Seasonal Lawn Treatments
Aeration ● Lawn Renovation
Over Seeding ● Scarification
Top Dressing ● Lawn Mowing
Patio/Drive Weed Control
For a quote:
01379 788 684 or **info@tiptoplawncare.co.uk**
www.tiptoplawncare.co.uk
Tiptoplawncare1 Tiptoplawncare

MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



TREE PLANTING ON MELLIS GARDEN

On Saturday 9th March, Mellis Parish Council organised tree planting at the new Mellis Garden, due to be officially opened on Saturday 8th June from 10am (further details to follow).

We were given 20 fruit trees from The Orchard Project, 12 Silver Birch and hedging from the Suffolk Biodiversity Officer and Viv also donated a cherry tree, thank you very much.

The Orchard Project offered training to ensure the correct trees were selected which are plum, gage, apple, cherry, pears and quince. We had a great turn out with 16 parishioners aged from 15 years, helping dig holes, sorting trees and planting. Not only have we got some lovely trees, the day enabled our neighbours to meet up, develop new relationships and strengthen our community. So much so that we are already discussing a harvest festival for next year in the Mellis Garden, installing seating, community BBQ.

What a wonderful experience to be part of so a huge thank you to our volunteers and councillors on what turned out to be a glorious day.

Councillor Farley











H.E. SOUTHGATE, GROCERS & TOBACCONISTS

H.E. Southgate, Grocers and Tobacconists was situated in Mill Street, Gislingham. In time, the shop became more of a General Store and the village pump was just outside the main gate.

The photo below, taken in 1959, shows Ivy and June Southgate outside the shop.



The original shop sign shown below is now preserved by residents Gail and Stuart Wells who have owned the property since 2000.



DOWN Memory LANE

Taken in 1962, the photo below shows: (from left to right) Hubert and Vera Fisk, Ivy and June Southgate with children, Steven and Judith. Fisk's Coal and Grain Merchants were situated next door but two.



You can see from the photo below, taken in January 2024, that the property has changed almost out of all recognition. It is now called Dewpond Cottage.





A Look into Wolsey's Rise and Fall and his connection with Ipswich school

Email **breakfast@thornhams.org** to book tickets.

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



FUTURE EVENTS:

Friday 19th April: Thornham Film Night – 'Once'
7.30pm: Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Sunday 28th April: Breakfast Club – speaker Adele Manson – Wolsey and the Tudors
10.00am: Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org £8.00

Friday 17th May: Thornham Film Night – details to follow
7.30pm: Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Sunday 9th June: Breakfast Club – Don Mobley (Airbases WW2)
10.00am: Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org £8.00

Sunday 14th July: Wimbledon afternoon tea - with live match screening
2.00pm: Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org £15

Saturday 17th August: Flowers at Frog Farm. 2.00pm

Saturday 7th September: Pre-loved/vintage sale. 12.00 noon – 3.00pm

Saturday 14th September: Last night of the proms with canapes and cocktails. 7.00pm
Sunday 13th October:
Autumn Fair – Raffle, tombola, craft stalls, refreshments, and more…

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Pilates Classes on Tuesdays 10.00am - Pilates Seated & Standing (no floorwork) and Wednesdays 11.15am Every Body Pilates (general & all levels)



Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Mellis

Memorial Hall IP23 8DW

10am - 12pm

on Tuesday 2nd April

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays

coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

https://www.facebook.com/MellisMemorialHall

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL

NEWS FROM MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL



Mellis Memorial Hall Management Committee

Registered Charity No.1081393

Notice of

Annual General Meeting

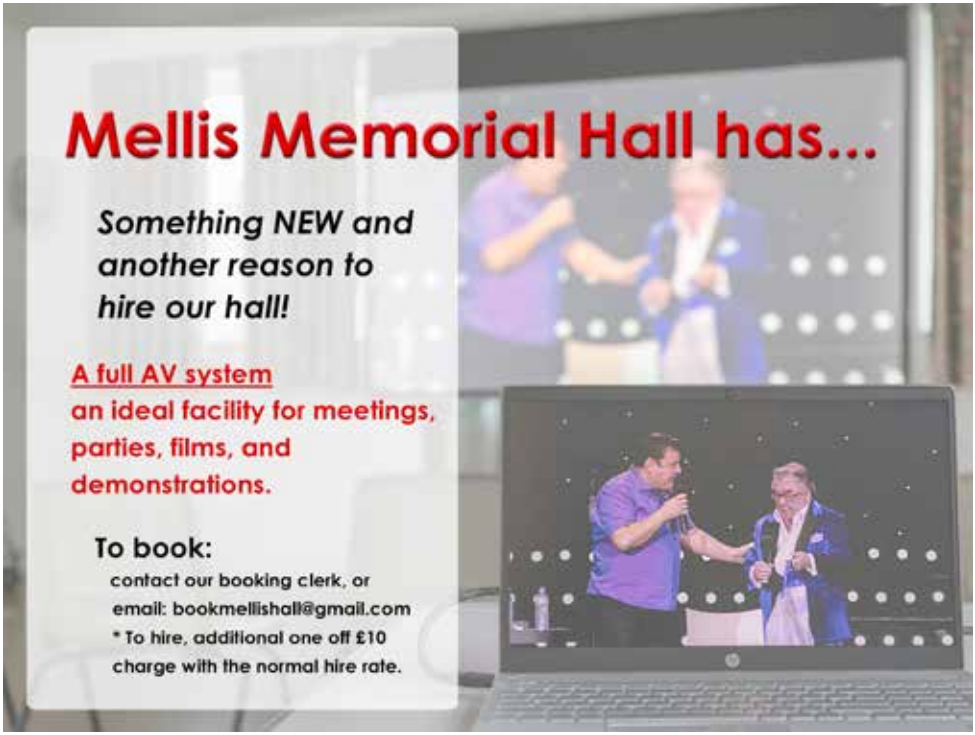
6.30pm Thursday 18th April 2023

To be held at Mellis Memorial Hall

Chairman: Doug Rogers

Tel: 01379 783127 E-mail: doug.rogers@btinternet.com

This is an open meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend



Press Notice

Application for a Premises Licence

Name of Applicant: Gislingham Village Hall Management Committee

Name of Premises: Gislingham Village Hall.

Postal Address of Premises: Mill Street, Gislingham, Eye IP23 8HP

This application may be viewed at:**www.midsuffolk.gov.uk** or for further information contact the Licensing Team on:0300 123 4000 Option 6.

The Proposed Relevant Licensable Activities are:
Sale and Supply of Alcohol for consumption ON & OFF the Premises, Performance of Plays, Films, Recorded Music, Dance (All Indoors) and Live Music (Indoors & Outdoors).

Dates between which representations may be made to the Licensing Authority:

Start Date: 25th March 2024

Closing Date: 21st April 2024

Representations must be made in writing for the attention of the Licensing Team, Mid Suffolk District Council (as the Licensing Authority) at Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, or by e-mail to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Are there are any events that you would like to see take place at the Hall? If you have any ideas, please let us know.

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 5th April: The Village Social - Pub Night
Doors open at 5.00 pm. Last Orders 9.45 pm.
Again, we would like to point out that under the terms of our licence, only drinks purchased at the bar can be consumed on the premises.

Saturday 18th May 2024: Quiz Night
Entry £5.00 Bring your own nibbles, drinks and glasses.
Tickets available from Terry Williams: 01379 783903.
Or email: gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

Saturday 15th June 2024: Gisfest
Details to follow

Saturday 10th August: Quiz Night
Details to follow

Saturday 21st September: Jumble Sale
Details to follow

Saturday 19th October: Quiz Night
Details to follow

Saturday 7th December: Christmas Quiz Night
Details to follow



Follow us at www.facebook.com/GislinghamVillageHall/ PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL

The Hall is available for hire at a cost of £10 per hour, which includes tables, chairs, 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.

Susan Whymark Funeral Service Ltd

Independent and Family Run

Serving Eye, Harleston, Diss and the surrounding areas since 2004

We offer a range of services to suit your individual needs

- Funerals tailored to your needs and budget
- Full estimates given at time of arrangement
- Pre-Paid funeral plans available
- Direct Cremations
- Support Groups
- Memorials

We provide an efficient but friendly service through our professionally qualified staff

Chestnut House, 12 Progress Way, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HU
Tel: 01379 871168 (24hr)

Denmark House, 1 & 2a Carmel Works Park Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4AS
Tel: 07879 776175 (24hr)

Ley House, 11a London Road, Harleston, IP20 9BH
Tel: 01379 851253 (24hr)

See our customer reviews at
www.susanwhymark.co.uk Email: susan@susanwhymark.co.uk

M.A. Heating Services Ltd

Oil, Gas & LPG Servicing and Repairs

01379 783427

Wickham Gate, High Street, Gislingham, EyeSuffolk, IP23 8JD

maheating.co.uk

Like us on Facebook!

GAS safe REGISTER

OFTEC

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY BOWLS?

THORNHAM MAGNA BOWLS CLUB
WILL MAKE YOU WELCOME

No one is too young or too old
(Under 16's to be accompanied by an adult)

Bowls is a good way of meeting people
and also to socialise with others

"You are interested" then why not make a telephone call to
01379 871881 or 07979 771303

To find out more details about us and when you could come and give it a try, you will be made most welcome.

But also, we have an open day on
Saturday 4th May from 10-00am

The address of the Bowls Club is,
Gislingham Road, Thornham Magna, IP23 6HH
(Opposite the estate farm entrance)

(Just come with flat shoes, everything else will be provided)



Gipping Press

DESIGN | PRINT | PROMOTION

Tel: 01449 721599
www.gippingpress.co.uk
enquiries@gippingpress.co.uk

Units 1&2, Lion Barn Industrial Estate,
Needham Market, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 8NZ



Nick Bobby
Tree Services

All Aspects Of Tree and
Hedge Work Undertaken
All Access Stump Grinding
Fully Insured
Competitive Rates
Professional Service
For a free quotation please call
01379 871459

Andrew Gaskin
Gardening
Services

Grass cutting
Pressure washing
Small tree work
Hedge cutting
Gutter clearing
Fence repairs and painting
Shed felting

01379 783515

Claire's Dog Grooming

Professional Groomer
Fully Insured

The Hollies
High Street
Gislingham
Eye
Suffolk IP23 8HS

Tel: 07506 515 762

clairesdoggrooming@hotmail.com



GISLINGHAM VARIETY CLUB

PRESENTS

DOORSTEPS, DOODLEBUGS AND D-DAY

A WORLD WAR II THEMED VARIETY SHOW

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL - FRIDAY 12TH APRIL - SATURDAY 13TH APRIL

GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL - DOORS OPEN 19:00, SHOW STARTS 19:30

TICKETS £9 ADULTS, £6 CHILDREN (under 16)

EMAIL: gislinghamvariety@gmail.com OR CALL 01379 788304 TO BOOK



LT AUTOSTYLING

GRAPHICS & VALETS

We are a mobile valeting/detailing and signwriting service covering trade and private customers across East Anglia.

We offer a wide range of services to meet all your car detailing needs, including

- Standard/Maintenance packages
- Standard Plus packages
- Paintwork decontamination
- Machine polishing
- Ceramic coatings
- Interior deep clean
- Wet vacuuming
- Mould removal and more

Prices start on a Standard package from £40
Standard Plus starts from £70
Ceramic coating starts from £450 (Stage 1 machine polish and 2 year ceramic coating on a small car)
Signwriting services are priced on an individual basis.

Find us on Facebook or Instagram to view previous work or get in touch via our website or mobile.

www.ltautostyling.co.uk **07949 953980**

THISTLE & ROSE BOUTIQUE FLORISTS

Mellis florist Helen Timmons is a people person and it's clear that she uses her creativity and love of flowers to engage with others. After 20 years working in recruitment Helen headed back to college and immersed herself in the joyous medium of flowers.

She loved the mix of people she met on her course and this continues now with her business Thistle and Rose, which she runs from her home studio. You may have come across her at one of the wreath making workshops she runs in the lead up to Christmas at the Memorial Hall or perhaps ordered one of her bouquets for a special occasion. Helen confides that although it may sound strange, she finds the process of creating funeral wreaths and flowers particularly rewarding.



"Creating funeral pieces feels really worthwhile, I'm contributing to someone's send off and supporting the family."

Helen tries to carry out a home visit if possible because she feels then she can really 'add meaning' with her arrangement of the flowers.

Thistle and Rose has its own website: **www.thistleroseflorist.co.u**k and is on social media showcasing Helen's love of creating natural style bouquets.



She has a particular fondness of big and flouncy flowers (she's not the only one!) but it's the 'connection when you do things for people' that she loves most about being a florist.

"People get a lot out of it, some people don't feel they can do it themselves," she says of the art of creating a beautiful bunch of flowers. I can only agree with her on that as someone who excitedly cuts flowers from the garden only to stare in dismay at the sad display stuffed into a vase, creating beautiful floral arrangements is a both an art form and an impressive skill.

Helen can be contacted on: 07883 127418 or email: helen@thistleroseflorist.co.uk

Angeline Braidwood

Cocoa Mama

The Dove Valley Chocolate Co.

Chocolaterie

4 Broad Street, Eye
Suffolk, IP23 7AF



Visit;
www.cocoamama.co.uk
Telephone 01379 870688
Open; Monday - Saturday
9-3pm

Cocoa Mama Gift & Chocolate Shop



Making beautiful Suffolk chocolates for more than a decade... a family business creating delicious chocolates using our own recipes and all natural-coloured cocoa butters.



Alongside chocolate treats, we have a fabulous range of gifts from The Tilting Sky Gift shop, including British designed greetings cards, children's gifts, soft toys, glass, china, handbags, jewellery and much more.



NOW SERVING... great espresso coffees, hot chocolates and delicious homemade cakes in our courtyard and cosy barn... DON'T MISS fresh sourdough delivered every Wednesday & Friday!

dream on
personal attention for you



Shop Local

Local ladies boutique with beautiful collections for every occasion. We also stock accessories, gifts, footwear and vouchers available too!

Compton House,
13 castle St,
Eye
Tel: 01379 678483

Visit our website to learn more about us, see our clothes and have a look at our makeover days !
www.dream-on.co.uk

Every small purchase makes a big difference

THE RAILWAY TAVERN

The Common, Mellis IP23 8DU Tel: 01379 783416

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

Fresh Fish & Chips served every Friday along with our regular menu from 6pm. Pub open from 4pm

SUNDAY BURGER KITCHEN

A choice of 13 burgers along with a selection of wraps. Served every Sunday from 1pm.

Pub open from 12.30pm

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 9PM *FROMAGE*

A fantastic party band playing mainly 1980's pop classics. A Cheese Fest!

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL 8PM *OPEN MIC NIGHT*

Calling all musicians and singers. Come along and have a go on stage.

Hosted by Mike & Gemma. Pub open from 6pm.

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 8.30PM *KARAOKE DISCO*

Musical merriment with video disco and karaoke.

Hosted by Paul "On the Road Again" Draper. Pub open from 2pm.

THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 7.30PM *QUIZ NIGHT*

A fun general knowledge quiz. Maximum six people per team. £2 per person.

ALL money goes in to the prize pot. FREE snacks and nibbles during the interval

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 5PM *DA BLUZ BROTHERS*

An incredible Blues Brothers Tribute Act playing all the songs from the Films. Minnie the Moocher to Everybody Needs Somebody to Love.

Tank Change Limited

WIDE RANGE OF STEEL & POLYETHYLENE OIL TANKS SUPPLIED & INSTALLED

FAMILY BUSINESS ESTABLISHED 1989

OVER 16,000 INSTALLATIONS TO DATE

FULLY INSURED PARISH MAGAZINE READERS DISCOUNT

WWW.TANKCHANGE.CO.UK

Kingspan TITAN Accredited Installer

01449 781210
07899 898720

OFTEC

TOMLINSON GROUNDCARE

JOHN DEERE

Horticultural & Garden Machinery Suppliers

Sales Service Parts Repairs Toys



Ride on mowers

Walk behind petrol & battery mowers

Strimmers, hedge cutters, blowers, chainsaws etc

Garden tools, paddock & turf machinery

Service & repair all makes



Set in over 20 acres - Try before you buy

Established in Buxhall since 1991 - We hope to see you soon

Brettenham Road, Buxhall, Stowmarket IP14 3DL
01449 736060 www.tomlinsongroundcare.co.uk

AL-KO EGO ECHO WEIBANG

RE-ARRANGED DATE

GISLINGHAM SPRING LITTER PICK SUNDAY 7th APRIL



10am start – for approx 1 hour

Please meet at the village hall

Hi-viz, grabbers and bags provided

Refreshments afterwards supplied

Once again, the Mendlesham Scout Troop will be organising the event this year. They are pleased to volunteer as it will help go towards their badges.

We are asking for your continued support on the day, as the Scouts will not be able to cover all the areas of the village to pick up the litter.

If you do require further information, please contact Martyn Bryant on 01379 788998/07900 147912.

NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes!

Unexpectedly, March turned out for me to be a good month for seeing a couple of birds of prey at fairly close quarters. My first sighting came about as I followed up on a tip-off from Anne Cottee that a number of Hares were to be seen in a nearby field. As it happened to be a particularly pleasant evening I donned my wellies and set off with my camera. I found the Hares alright but, canny creatures that they are, they were in the centre of a large field of newly emerging crops into which I could not go. From the sidelines they were just too far away to get a decent photo but it was fun to see them haring around. After this, I decided to walk the long way home when I came across a Kestrel perched upon a wire, basking in the evening sun. I managed to creep quite close before the beautiful bird took a long look at me and flew off - but not before I'd taken a few photos, including that below. A Kestrel's main food consists of field voles, with mice, shrews and worms also being taken - I imagine these are all in plentiful supply in our local fields. As I'm sure you'll know, their hunting technique is to hover high above the ground and use their extremely sharp eyesight to find their prey that they then swoop down upon to catch. This behaviour can often be seen by our roadside verges.



Frolicking Brown Hares



Kestrel (female) seen in fields to the south of Mill Street, Gislingham



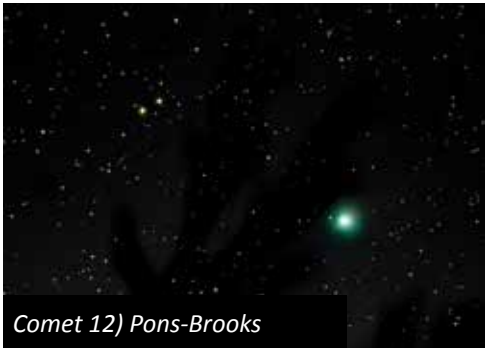
Sparrowhawk - Male



Sparrowhawk - Female

My second bird of prey sighting was of a male Sparrowhawk in my garden and brought to my attention by Anne Braybrook who was visiting at the time. Sadly, by the time I'd got my camera ready the bird had flown away - the photo above (left) was taken in the exact same spot a couple of years ago. For comparison, a photo of a female Sparrowhawk is shown above, this time the bird is feeding on a pigeon it had caught. The female is not only coloured differently to the male but it is considerably larger, like other birds of prey.

In the night sky, the big news at the moment is of the appearance of Comet 12P Pons-Brooks. This comet passes the earth once every 71 years and during March this year it may be bright enough to see with the naked eye, low in the western night sky. Unfortunately, we've had many cloudy nights so far in March and so opportunities for star gazing have been very limited. Happily, the skies did clear for a while on 8th March when I took this photo. Like many comets, its core appears greenish in colour. I had hoped that my photograph would include the tail of the comet but due to "technical problems" on my part that didn't happen! Hopefully I'll get another chance this month before it zooms off on its travels around the sun. After that, I think we'll have to wait until September before another bright comet passes our way, designated Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS).



Comet 12) Pons-Brooks

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.





FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S CHURCH, GISLINGHAM

Registered Charity No: 1137891

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Everyone Welcome

St Mary's Church, Gislingham
Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7pm

Special guest speakers
Jean Archdeacon & Helen Spencer

Find out why Historic England regards St Mary's as a site of national significance and how you can contribute to the Historic England "Missing Pieces" project.

Free refreshments to follow.
To ensure we have enough agendas, reports, etc., we would appreciate it if you could email Sandra Smith (sjaynes1@hotmail.co.uk) to confirm if you wish to attend.

CHARLOTTE'S BOOK BLOG



A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman ★★★★★ 4/5

Hello bookworms, Happy April! This month I'm really excited to share with you a book that I did actually read a few months ago now, 'A Man Called Ove' by Fredrik Backman.



Please note that this book review does cover some very sensitive topics that some may find upsetting.

Ove is a grumpy man, who finds himself surrounded by (in his words) idiots. Joggers, people who can't drive, shop assistants, dog owners and his neighbours. When Parvaneh moves in next door, a pregnant Persian lady with a "nitwit" husband and two children, Ove gets more frustrated than ever with their constant pestering.

All he wanted to do was die in peace. But with the never-ending disruptions he becomes the handyman, the baby sitter, the taxi driver, the hotel owner and the only man around who seems to be able to keep the neighbourhood under control. He finds himself never being able to achieve his only goal. Parvaneh continues to edge her way into his life and finds that there is more to Ove than everyone thinks… and in the end sees that there is something which is quite irresistible about the grumpy guts that no one else can stand to be around. It might just be her and her family that brings a new light to his dull, miserable life.

I have this book a 4-star rating, mainly because of the fact I did find it hard to get into initially. It was funny from the start however I felt the plot took a small time to get going. However, once it started to pick up pace, I really started falling in love with the characters and was desperate to get to the end. It's safe to say that despite the slow start, this book didn't disappoint!

I also watched the film (starring Tom Hanks as Ove) right after finishing the book and thoroughly enjoyed it! One thing I preferred about the book over the film however is the build-up of the relationship between Ove and Rune and also Sonya and Anita - I felt that the depth of their friendships could've come across stronger in the film and should have been emphasised a little more. However, I did really enjoy the film and I think Tom Hanks did an amazing job of playing Otto (they changed the names for the film) and likewise Mariana Treviño who played Marisol (known as Paravaneh in the novel). This is by far one of my favourite book-to-film adaptations!

Have you got a book you have enjoyed and want to share with Messenger readers? Let me know what book and why in 50 words or fewer and I'll look to feature an assortment of recommendations from readers one month. Or if you'd like to be a "Guest Reviewer" one month, send me a book review of approx. 350 words along with a "Head and shoulders" photo. And the page is yours! **Email me at: charlotte_norman@me.com**

Charlotte x

CHARLOTTES.BOOKBLOG

www.instagram.com/charlottes.bookblog
Insta: @charlottes.bookblog

twitter: @char_bookblog

Lamberts Service Station Ltd

Shop Green, Bacton, Stowmarket, IP14 4LG, Tel: 01449 781260 Mobile: 07834 778116

www.lambertsservicestationltd.com Email : lamberts.1@btconnect.com



Car Service, MOT Testing and Repairs

We have a fully equipped workshop where all manner of repairs can be undertaken. An MOT testing station and a Body Shop where we can undertake Insurance accident repairs, general repair work and re-sprays. We also operate a Recovery service which includes Home Starts. We are one of the few remaining rural Petrol Filling stations and offer forecourt attended services. **Please visit our website for full list of services.**

WORKSHOP
Service all Makes and Models
Air Conditioning
Engine Diagnostics
Fault Finding
Engine Management Lights
Exhausts
ABS

MOT TESTING
MOTS while you wait - By Appointment
Petrol
Diesel
Electric
Hybrids

BODYSHOP
Accident Work
Body Work Repairs
Paint Work
Re-Sprays
Welding

ITEMS STOCKED
Tyres
Batteries
Wiper Blades
Bulbs
Calor Gas

RECOVERY SERVICE
Home Starts
Breakdown
Accident Recovery

FORECOURT SERVICES
Petrol and Diesel
Tyre Pressure and Levels Checked
Bulbs Fitted While You Wait
Antifreeze Check

Competitive prices on Tyres - Quotes given
Free no obligation Estimates on work needed

Find us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/lambertsservicestation

GISLINGHAM UNITED CHARITY

VACANCY: CLERK TO GISLINGHAM UNITED CHARITY

A vacancy has arisen for a freelance Clerk to Gislingham United Charity (GUC).

The work consists of approximately 12 – 15 hours per month. The rate of pay is dependent on experience.

The prospective candidate should be an experienced Administrator who can demonstrate excellent administrative skills, including the maintenance of both paper and electronic records. There would be a handover from the current Acting Clerk.

Knowledge of Charity Management and Charity Law would be advantageous but is not essential as training will be given. The Clerk acts as the interface between the Trustees and applicants for grants, and between the Trustees and outside organisations like the Charity Commission.

GUC Trustees meet six times per year, currently on the third Friday of every other month at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Candidates would be expected to take accurate minutes and have experience of Microsoft software, in particular Word and Excel.

Those interested should apply in writing or email with a copy of their CV and covering letter to:

Acting Clerk
Sheila Eade
Woodberry, High Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JD
01379 783541
Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com

The Gislingham United Charity continues to welcome applications from residents of Gislingham who find themselves in hardship or need. We also consider requests for educational purposes, for residents of all ages, whether at school, in further or higher education, or in vocational training.

The Trustees will consider all applications received up to 48 hours before each meeting.

The remaining meeting dates for 2024 are 17th May, 19th July, 20th September, and 15th November.

All applications should be made to:
The Acting Clerk at 'Woodberry', High Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JD.
Telephone: 01379 783541. Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com

Gislingham United Charity is a registered charity, No. 208340. The Trustees are volunteers.

The Trustees are seeking to appoint a new permanent clerk. Anyone interested in this part-time paid position should contact the Chair on chairguc@gmail.com

Bishop & Miller

AUCTIONEERS VALUERS

We offer free no obligation valuations on a wide range of objects either in our Stowmarket saleroom or from the comfort of your own home.



















www.bishopandmillerauctions.co.uk

19 Charles Industrial Estate, Stowmarket, IP14 5AH

01449 673088 enquiries@bm-auctions.co.uk

TRIED & TESTED RECIPES by Debbie



SUPER QUICK SPAGHETTI BEEF RAGU

I can highly-recommend this is a super quick Spaghetti Beef Ragu recipe, where you'll have a tasty meal in just 15 minutes!

Ingredients for 4 people:

- Beef Mince – 480g
- Sliced Mushrooms – 180g
- Spaghetti – 360g
- Mixed Herbs –1.6g
- Worcester sauce – 30g
- Tomato Passata – 400g
- Sun-dried tomato paste – 50g
- Red wine Jus paste – 30g
- Grated hard Italian Style cheese- 40g
- Sugar – 2 tsp



Method:

1. Boil a full kettle
2. While it boils, heat a frying pan on medium-high heat (no oil).
3. Once, hot, fry the mince and sliced mushrooms, 5-6 mins.
4. Break up the mince as it cooks. Seasons with salt and pepper.
5. Cook so there's no pink in the middle.
6. Meanwhile, pour the boiled water into a saucepan with ½ tsp salt on high heat.
7. Boil the spaghetti, 8 mins.
8. Once the beef has browned, drain the fat.
9. Stir in the mixed herbs and Worcester sauce. Simmer 30 secs.
10. Stir in the passata, sun-dried tomato sauce, red wine jus paste and sugar.
11. Bring to the boil, then lower the heat. Simmer, stirring occasionally, 4-5 mins.
12. Once the pasta is cooked, drain and add to the sauce
13. Stir through three quarters of the cheese
14. Add a splash of water to loosen if needed. Taste and season with salt and pepper.
15. Serve in bowls with the remaining cheese on top.

Recipe by 'Hello Fresh'

CIRCULAR WALK AROUND BADWELL ASH

OS Explorer Map: 211 West Sheet. Distance: approx. 8.5km/5.3 miles

Badwell Ash may have been inhabited first by nomads but there has definitely been a permanent settlement on the site since the Iron Age, 2000 years ago.

We parked our car on the High St, near the White Horse pub.

Start your walk heading west along the road towards St Mary's church. Unfortunately, the church was closed, so we could not venture inside.

The Turret Clock in the tower at St. Mary's dates from around 1680, either during the reign of Charles II (d.1685) or James II (1685-1688). The tower was built to house the peel of 5 bells during the reign of Richard III (d. 1485). Turret clocks were used wherever people needed to gather at specific times for religious services, such as churches or monasteries. Originally, the clocks were set using sundials so different clocks would tell different times. Luckily, accuracy wasn't crucial as the pace of travel was dictated by the horse!

Leave the church and turn right. When you reach the Fish & Chip shop on the opposite side of the road turn right onto the footpath which is set back from the road. Continue through the gap and the metal gate. The path then bears to the right. At the end of this path there is a bridge to the right with a sign stating 'Closed to prevent damage being caused whilst birds are nesting'. Turn left and approach a large wooden bridge which goes over the small stream. Continue along the footpath with the new paddock fencing on your left until you reach a metal gate near the church.



Enter the meadow and have a closer look at the C14 St Mary's church in Langham (left). Again, the church was locked when we visited.

You now have a choice, continue walking across the park by following the faint line in the grass that marks the footpath leading to the entrance gate to the Langham Estate (below left). The lovely Langham Hall will be to your right. Alternatively, you can return to the metal gate, turn left and continue along the footpath where you will have a better view of Langham Hall, an C18 manor house (below right).Continue along the footpath next to the paddocks and the stud. Go past the cottage on your left, through a gate and walk towards the road. On your left is Langham Clinic, which is a holistic centre, and the entrance to Langham Hall's Walled Garden which is open most Thursdays and Fridays.





Turn left and continue down the road until you will see the large metal gate on your left which is the exit from Langham Park. You can now either walk across the now dry ford or over the bridge. Continue to the T- junction. Turn right and, after about 200 metres, cross the road to the footpath next to the 30mph sign. Continue along the footpath until you reach St Michael's church. You will need to go between the farm buildings and enter the churchyard next to the large notice board. Sadly, this church was also locked.





St Michael's Church, which stands behind the site of the former Hunston Hall, is a most interesting specimen of early English architecture. There are a number of early English windows and some perpendicular insertions (top left). The priest's door to the south is very elegant, with a segmented arch boldly trifoliated, the cusps are terminated with fleur-de-lys. In the chancel there are, apparently, two ancient benches with well carved poppy heads. Near the font is a well-preserved chest of unusual design. The font is Norman.

The C14 flint tower, which contains 5 bells, is plainly decorated in three stages without buttresses but with a large brick parapet. In 1887 the chancel was thoroughly restored.

Leave the churchyard next to the noticeboard and head straight across, past two large silos and a blue lorry trailer with 'Waltham Roadways' on the side. Bear right on the bend of the track. As you reach a small copse, bear left and continue until you reach the next junction. The path bears right by the rotten tree. The path then continues until you reach the road.

Turn right and, after a short distance, take the footpath on the left near some houses. Cross the sleeper bridge and continue until you reach a gate. Turn left and, as you reach the paddocks, bear right, keeping the paddock fence to your left. Continue along the grassy path (there is no obvious footpath sign here). You will see a small reservoir ahead. At the end the path bears right and then left with the reservoir to your left. Continue to a gap in the hedge, turn left and continue to the road. (*On the map there is a FP shown, but there is no finger post or obvious route across the field, so please follow our directions*).

At the road, turn right and, after a short distance, you will see a sign for footpaths on the left and right. Take the right hand path, ignore the first FP and, at the second FP, turn left and cross the field. Continue along this footpath until you reach the main road. Turn right and continue walking back towards Badwell Ash. You will pass the village sign (top right) on your left just before the Fish & Chip shop. The White Horse has been extensively refurbished and has a very comprehensive menu, plus a snack's menu and a good range of beers. We had a well deserved pint here.

Emma & Martyn Bryant

Brudson Media

Websites which help grow your local business

We create simple and easy-to-use websites for local businesses which grow their business through our proven strategy. Round-the-clock ongoing support for updates and new pages included.

*Already have a website? Get a **FREE** video audit of your website. Fill out the form on our homepage.*

Find us at www.brudsonmedia.com
Call us on 01284 598059





THE VILLAGE SOCIAL

POP-UP BAR
GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
FRI 5TH APRIL
5PM - 10PM

INFO@THEVILLAGESOCIAL.CO.UK

@THEVILLAGE_SOCIAL

THEVILLAGESOCIALUK

THE VILLAGE SOCIAL IS BACK ON 5TH APRIL WITH HARRIS' HOG ROAST

BAR OPEN FROM 5PM- 10PM SERVING CASK & KEG BEER, CIDERS, WINE & SPIRITS, CRISPS & SOFT DRINKS

HARRIS' HOG ROAST SERVING FROM 5PM - 8PM

SEE YOU THERE!

Gislingham Gardening, Arts & Produce Show
Saturday 14th September 2024
at Gislingham Village Hall



Come and show us your fruit and veg!

Trophies to be awarded in the following categories:-

- Flowers & Plants
- Fruit & Vegetables
- Baking
- Preserves
- Handicrafts
- Art
- Childrens' categories

For more information or to request an entry form please contact:

GISGAPS@gmail.com

Entry forms will also be available to collect/hand in at the monthly book sale.





CADE CREATIVE

Graphic Design

Logos, business cards, adverts, posters,
brochures, signs, newsletters, flyers etc.

Copywriting/editing/proofreading

Print Buying

For a quote or to see work samples or testimonials:

Tel: 01379 783 380 / 07931 850 813

joclifford@cadecreative.com

Galloway

At Galloway we offer a huge range of coach day trips including West End Shows, concerts, visits to a variety of towns and cities, guided tours and entrance into a choice of attractions, including historic houses, gardens and exhibitions.

Below are a few of the days out we have on offer this summer....

Windsor Lunch Cruise
7th May or 8th August - £72pp

Canterbury Day Out
9th May or 13th August - £47pp

Poppy Factory
13th May - £59pp

Glemham Hall and Aldeburgh
14th May - £69pp

Bury St Edmunds
15th May or 11th September - £29pp

Hamilton the Musical
16th May - £115pp

Moulin Rouge the Musical
16th May - £105pp

Bruges via Eurotunnel
18th May or 21st September - £125pp

Michael McIntyre
25th May - £99pp

Take That at Carrow Road (Travel Only)
28th May - £39pp

Cambridge Day Out
4th June - £35pp

Wakehurst
5th June - £55pp

www.travel-galloway.com - info@gallowayeuropean.co.uk - 0330 1000 360

GISLINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT



Other than the usual scams that have been highlighted by the messenger there is not much to report on the crime front.

It is, however, possible that the 'Nottingham Knockers' may be out and about again, calling on households selling domestic items that may invariably be purchased elsewhere cheaper as they indicate to householders that they are working under some government/prison rehabilitation scheme THEY ARE NOT! IT IS A SCAM.

It has also been brought to my attention that some drivers have not been giving road preference to horses and riders in and around the village, BY LAW as a driver you are required to give a horse and rider a minimum of 2 metres space and should not approach a horse and rider to pass or be passed at a speed of more than 10 MPH. Please remember, be courteous and IT IS THE LAW.



I am also aware of the recent increased volume of traffic using Back Street (Whenever Mill St floods!) drivers should remember Mill Street is built for 2 way traffic and drivers are generally respectful of its speed limitations. Back street is a single file country lane with few passing places and is not generally able to handle large volumes of vehicles especially when many of them go much faster than is safe. We have already had one crash involving a speeding car in a head on collision, with fortunately no fatalities. The next one may not be so lucky. We have approached Highways to try and get the speed limit on Back Street reduced to a sensible level and are currently awaiting feed back from both District and County councils.



Christopher Tranter, Gislingham Neighbourhood Watch
E: christophertranter@gislinghamparishcouncil.com Tel : 0747311 8929

Grove Soft Tissue Therapies, Thornham Magna

I have 20 years experience, am fully qualified & insured to practice:

Sports Soft Tissue Therapy, Structural Integration, Scarwork

SMA
THE ASSOCIATION FOR SOFT TISSUE THERAPISTS

ANATOMY TRAINS Structural Integration

I offer a complimentary ½ hour, no obligation, consultation to possible new clients at my home-based clinic. An opportunity to discuss your needs and the therapies offered.
Please email or phone for an appointment.

Rodger Davis FSMA ATSI

E: GroveSTT@btinternet.com
M: 07976 361016

eye Flooring

Making Luxury Affordable

Wood flooring, Amtico, Karndean, LVT, Carpets, Runners and Sisal

We have moved to
19 Church Street, Eye IP23 7BD
01379 870190 / info@eyeflooring.co.uk

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM – 4PM AND SATURDAY 10AM – 1PM

www.eyeflooring.co.uk

The Four Horseshoes Inn



Good Food & Cosy B&B Accommodation

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Thank you for your continued support!

01379 678 777



Lead The Way

-Dog Walking

-Cats & Small Animal Visits

'Lead The Way'

07736 032951

lucyhignettpetcare@gmail.com

MARTIN HATT
TIP TOP DECORATORS

FULLY QUALIFIED LOCAL
PAINTER & DECORATOR

40 YEARS EXPERIENCE
CITY & GUILDS QUALIFIED

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL
WORK UNDERTAKEN

WALLPAPERING A SPECIALITY

ADVICE GIVEN / FREE ESTIMATES

CUSTOMER RECOMMENDATIONS
AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TEL: 07502 207 216
EMAIL: mdhatt@live.co.uk

MARK FOULGER & SON
CONSTRUCTION

BRICKWORK & FLINTWORK
CONTRACTOR
NEW DEVELOPMENTS
EXTENSIONS
GARDEN WALLS
FLINTWORK
AND ALTERATIONS

View work and reviews on Facebook
(Mark Foulger Construction)

07768 196516
mark@mfconstruction.uk
www.mfconstruction.uk
Wattisfield

T. L. PLANT HIRE

If you are in a hole...
...we'll dig you out

MINI &
MICRO DIGGERS
DUMPERS • BREAKERS • MIXERS
TELEPORTERS • SMALL PLANT
SCARIFIERS • TURF CUTTERS
WACKERS • ROTAVATORS
STRIMMERS
TOOL HIRE

07881 642232

tom@tlplanthire.co.uk

Bridge House, Denmark Hill, Palgrave, Diss IP22 1AB



Diggers can be provided with operator, if required.

BECKY CRUICKSHANK FITNESS
PERSONAL TRAINING AND CLASSES

PILATES

COTTON VILLAGE HALL- MONDAYS 7.20PM

GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL-WEDNESDAYS 9.15AM AND 10.15AM

THURSDAYS- 7.10PM

WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL- WEDNESDAYS 12.15PM

TOTAL FITNESS

GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL -THURSDAYS 6.15PM

GENTLE FITNESS

WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL -FRIDAYS 10AM

COME AND GIVE THEM A TRY!

For more info about classes or personal training please contact Becky on 07734 414151



Martin Roper
PHOTOGRAPHY

Suffolk Wedding and Pet Photographer

Natural and creative photography that captures all your beautiful moments.

Hi, I am Martin and live in Finningham. I have a purpose built home studio where I specialise in capturing forever memories of your beloved pets. I am confident we can create lovely images of any dog, regardless of how well they might behave for a photo shoot!

I absolutely love a wedding and if you are getting married and would like relaxed, natural images that tell the story of your day..... let's chat!

Check out my reviews on Google or my website to see what people have to say about me!



Tel. Martin Roper on 07792 032030
Email martin@martinroper.co.uk

Please take a look at my website
www.martinroper.co.uk





Thornhams Film Night
Friday, 19th April 7:30pm
Thornhams Village Hall

"One of the best romantic comedies in a generation"

Tickets £5 pay at the door
Licensed Bar - Ice Creams -
Bookings films@thornhams.org

TWINKLING TIGER

Buy and sell preloved baby and childrens clothes age 0-12 years



GREAT QUALITY, GREAT FOR YOUR PURSE AND GREAT FOR THE PLANET!

www.TwinklingTiger.co.uk

TwinklingTiger Twinkling_Tiger_Preloved

Flowers for all occasions

Thistle & Rose
BOUTIQUE FLORISTS

Bouquets, Arrangements, Workshops
(Home consultations available for Funeral tributes)

Studio based in Mellis, Suffolk

Tel. 07883 127418

Email helen@thistleroseflorist.co.uk

www.thistleroseflorist.co.uk

thistleroseflowers thistleroseflorist

the forge
THORNHAM

Full English
(Vegan & Veggie)
served all day
Thursdays and Fridays

Spring opening hours:

Café based in the heart of
Thornham Walks
Open: Wednesday – Friday
10:30 until 3:30
Saturday – Sunday
10:00 until 4:00
Serving breakfast baps, lunches, cakes, scones & coffees
All homemade on site!
School holidays open everyday!
(closed Easter Sunday)

Facebook: The Forge
Instagram: theforge_thornham
01379831053

TERRAPIN NEWS





River Catchments were until recently an esoteric topic of conversation. However, since the torrential Storm Babett in October 2023 they have become more and more a matter for public debate.

The responsibility for flood management falls into three main sectors, rivers, they are the responsibility of the Environment Agency, ditches they are the responsibility of the landowners under Riparian rights and responsibilities, and Suffolk Highways to whom flooding of roads should be reported.

Suffolk County council is the Leading Local Flood Authority (LLFA), it has a responsibility to create and maintain a register containing information on all assets deemed to have a significant effect on flooding and to whom all instances of flooding of properties should be reported.

Finally, there is the Planning Enforcement arm of Mid Suffolk District Council who will investigate suspected instances of blocked drainage systems through development and will enforce their reinstalment.

As the LLFA Suffolk CC is currently undertaking 48 investigations into severe flooding across the county, I have tried, without success so far, to have most of Gislingham Ward to be considered a significant event because of the cumulative effects of flooding across the ward leading to villages being “marooned.”

To be frank, with their limited resources, Suffolk CC LLFA are only able to complete, at best, 3 investigations a year, it will take at least 16 years to complete the present investigations, a timescale I think is unacceptable.

I have become an advocate for a Catchment based approach. Most of Gislingham Ward is within the area of the river Dove catchment, starting with the Mendlesham Stream, it is joined by the Finningham Stream at Breckenham to form the River Dove. Gislingham Beck, the cause of chaos along The Street, Thornham Magna joins at the end of Water Lane. Finally, there is the Mellis tributary that crosses Earlsford Road, usually under it, to join at Eye. The name "Eye" is believed to derive from an old word for "island", as in medieval times the River Dove, its tributaries and marshland would frequently flood and render it effectively an island.

There is evidence at Braiseworth Old Hall of a quay, indicating the river was navigable to that point, if not further. Certainly, when in flood, by the time it gets there it is a force to be considered, spilling over into fields, a torrent, in places, four meters deep.

Our Parish councils are looking at commissioning individual investigations into drainage and they are discussing seriously the possibilities of working with other PC’s, the rivers and ditches are no respecters of parish or property boundaries. I aim to fund these investigations wherever possible from my locality budget.

Resources are limited, but by developing a plan across the catchment area it will reveal where individual actions will make an impact and where larger interventions will require careful planning, significant financing and lobbying of responsible authorities.

It is becoming clear that it is not simply a case of getting the water to clear away as quickly as possible, retention on flooded fields also has a vital role to play.

Rowland Warboys, District Councillor

PICTURE FRAMING
BY
CAROLA SETTLE

QUALITY MOUNTING AND
FRAMING OF PRINTS,
PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS,
EMBROIDERIES, ETC.
AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

FRIENDLY ADVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Stanwell House,
High Street, Gislingham,
Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8JE

Tel. 01379 783 415

BOTESDALE HAIR PARLOUR

Unisex Hair salon

Using Matrix and
TIGI Hair products

Open Tuesday – Saturday

Covering all aspects of hairdressing

Please call 01379 890900

Chilvers,
1 Market Place.
Botesdale
Diss. IP22 1BT

www.botesdalehairparlour.co.uk

30+ YEARS TRADING

WILLOWSERVE LTD

Plumbing, Heating & Building Refurbishment Services

Bury St Edmunds

For a Professional, Reliable service & quality workmanship you can trust.

- All types of Heating Installed
- Replacement boilers / Hot water cylinders
- Specialist boiler servicing & Repairs
- Worcester Bosch Accredited Installers offering up to 12 year Guarantee.
- Wet & Electric Underfloor heating
- Bathroom's & Wetrooms Designed and installed.
- Disabled Adaptations
- Ceramic, Porcelain & Natural stone floor and wall Tiling.
- All types of flooring
- Painting & Decorating Inside & Out.
- Carpentry
- Fully Fitted Kitchens Supplied & Fitted
- Plastering

And Much More.....

Visit our website today for the full list of the services we provide.

gas safe register

iphe Registered Plumber

OFTEC

Checkatrade.com

WWW.WILLOWSERVELTD.COM

TEL: 01359 259886

The Messenger

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams for over 14 years



Your independent, local community magazine

Delivered free to over 975 households every month

In print, online and on social media

Cost effective advertising that really works

Editor: Jeff Norman 01379 788669 / themessengereditorial@gmail.com
Advertising: Tracey Askew 01379 783427 / traceyaskew@outlook.com

themessengergismeltho
http://the-messenger-online.com/

WINNER BEST CONTENT PARISH MAGAZINE AWARDS 2022
WINNER NATIONAL PARISH MAGAZINE AWARDS 2021
WINNER WATSON BOWL 2020

Robbie Walker
Bricklayer/Builder

- **With Over 40 years' experience in the building trade**
- **Reliable and Professional service**

My work includes: Small extensions, conservatory bases, garden walls, patios, shed bases, drainage, brick-up jobs, knock-throughs (lintels) & other jobs considered

For free quotes and information please call me on 07547 119957



Email: walker473@sky.com
or message via Facebook



S&S
Safe & Sound
Hygiene and Pest Control



Is your garden overrun with moles?

Do you have a wasp nest?

Are your paddocks overrun with rabbits?

For ALL your domestic or commercial Pest Control.

Woodworm treatment available.

No obligation – free survey/quotes.





Pest infestation can damage your health and your home. Recent surveys show that numbers of mice/rats and bed bugs found in UK homes are on the rise. As Local Authorities are cutting back on free pest control services. We are here to offer you a service at the right price.

Call us to discuss your pests on 07809226109.

www.safeandsoundhygieneandpestcontrol.co.uk

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM PLAYGROUP

This half term we have welcomed new children to the playgroup.

The children have been busy making Mothers Day cards.

We have been on muddy walks around the charity fields and had fun jumping in the muddy puddles.

We are making Leprechauns to celebrate St Patrick's Day and will be busy getting ready for the Easter bunny's visit and looking forward to the Easter Holidays.

Fundraising
We have our Easter egg colouring competition.





GISLINGHAM PLAYGROUP



We provide a safe, warm, friendly and caring setting for children aged 2-5 years, in a purpose built building on the same site as Gislingham CEVCP School, with whom we work closely to provide an excellent education.

Breakfast Club 8.00am - 8.45am

Morning 8.45am to 11.45am

Lunch Club 11.45am to 12.45pm

Afternoon 12.45pm to 3.45pm

"Children arrive with a 'spring in their step' and are welcomed by friendly staff. They immediately join in with their friends and explore a well resourced and fun environment." Ofsted, May 2022.

Please visit our website www.gislinghamplaygroup.com
or phone us on 01379 788934

JDK ENGINEERING

Garden care servicing & sales

Servicing cost

- Walk behind mower £90
- Small ride on mower £204
- Larger ride on mower £300
- Chainsaws, Strimmers, Brushcutters & hedgetrimmers £60

Any repairs or blades will be charged separately

Free local collection and delivery.



We are a local family run business providing an expert, personal service. Please feel free to contact us for quotes on sales, repairs and part exchanges.

Contact us

John - 07887706965

Email - Jdkagriengineering@gmail.com

All prices include VAT

Steeple General Services Ltd

Gislingham

Dave Griffin

Lawn mowing, large or small
Fencing and Shed repairs
Pressure washing
Tree work and Hedge Cutting
Stump removal
Chipping and Shredding
Turf laying

07787 773061

Orchard Digger Hire

Terry Wallis

Mini Digger Hire for Self Drive

Mobile: 07769 818 332
Home: 01379 788 276
In and around Suffolk
Call or text for free quote

Post hole borer available

TIP OFF, RIP OFF!



SCAM ALERT – Digital Switchover

Criminals are exploiting the analogue to digital switchover to scam vulnerable residents who use health care telephony devices into giving out personal information such as bank details.

Action Fraud have received reports from residents who have been contacted by fraudsters who claim that they need to transfer their services to digital. The criminals advise that you need to pay or renew telecare over the phone, claiming to be from the new provider, and they ask for bank details to set up a new direct debit.

The digital switchover is free of charge and residents should be aware that councils and their home care alarm providers or contractors will never ask for personal or financial information over the phone.

If you or someone you know depends on their landline or uses a telecare device connected to a phone line, such as a fall monitor, lifeline or personal alarm, you should notify the provider of this service so that they can advise on how the switch could affect you.

If you have other devices connected to your phone line, such as alarm systems, you may need to upgrade your device to make sure it is compatible. If you are unsure about how a device in your home or business might be affected, it is recommended you contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will remain functional on a digital phone line.

If you have provided any financial details to a scammer, contact your bank immediately. You should report this to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and to us on 0808 223 1133.

SCAM ALERT – Text messages claiming to be from 'Royal Mail'

Trading Standards are warning residents about text messages continuing to circulate claiming to be from the 'Royal Mail'.

One recent example reported states 'Royal Mail: Post Office – We regret to inform you that we are unable to deliver your package due to a missing address' and then offers a link to 'update address'.

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. Always be wary of unexpected messages received and never respond or click on any links or attachments unless you know you can trust them.

Suspicious or scam text messages can be reported by forwarding the message to 7726.

If you think you have interacted with a scam message and provided scammers with your financial details you should contact your bank immediately on a number you know to be correct, such as the one on the back of your bank card. If you have received a text message which you believe to be a scam you can also report it to, the Citizens Advice consumer helpline **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.

1. Which Gerry Anderson TV creation worked for SPECTRUM?
2. Which Sea did Moses' part?
3. Which man of the cloth is a murder suspect in Cluedo?
4. British boy band, formed in 2000, consisting of members Simon Webbe, Duncan James, Antony Costa and Lee Ryan.
5. Peter Sellers starred as Inspector Jacques Clouseau, an inept French police detective in which series of comedy-mystery films?
6. Released on 26th June 2000, this Coldplay song from their debut album 'Parachutes' gave them their first top-five hit in the UK.
7. Who had hits with the songs, 'Lonely Boy' and 'Never let her slip away'?
8. 1984 American rock musical drama film scored by and starring Prince in his acting debut.
9. Her single "Anyone Who Had a Heart" reached number one in the UK in 1964. This English singer and TV presenter born Priscilla White was better known by what name?
10. And the connection?

Answers appear on page 63.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

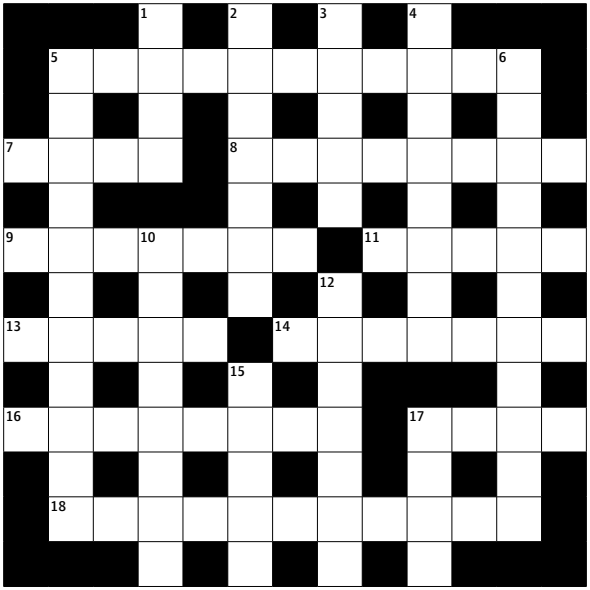
8		2				4	1	9
	7			4				
6					9			
5			6				3	1
			8		4			
7	9				3			8
			3					7
				6			8	
2	6	8				3		5

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

5 Those with in-depth knowledge (11)
7 Old region of northern France now known for its cheese (4)
8 Non-operational (8)
9 Look out, I'm coming through! (7)
11 Part of the leg (5)
13 Negatively charged terminal of a battery (5)
14 With alacrity (7)
16 They're relatively poor (4-4)
17 Citrus peel lining (4)
18 Haulier (5,6)

Down

1 Cruel giant (4)
2 Capitol (anag) — of present interest (7)
3 Dazzling success (5)
4 Suddenly grasped (8)
5 Time to take a bow? (7,4)
6 Exam overseer (11)
10 Mechanical appliances (8)
12 Out of control (7)
15 Small growth protruding from a mucous membrane (5)
17 Prepare (the way) (4)

Last issue solution

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

NEW CLINIC OPENED JUST OUTSIDE SCOLE

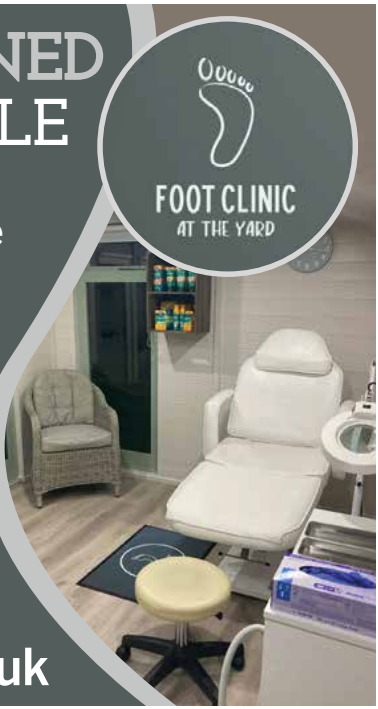
Beautiful countryside setting, ample parking & access suitable for those unable to climb steps

- Nail cutting
- Corn and callus removal
- Thickened nails
- Verrucae
- Fungal infections

07568 374 257

www.footclinictheyard.co.uk

FOOT CLINIC AT THE YARD



EAR WAX REMOVAL EAST

Wax removal specialist

Offering gentle and effective

EAR WAX REMOVAL

using Microsuction and Irrigation methods.

Clinic appointments in Burston, Home visits also available

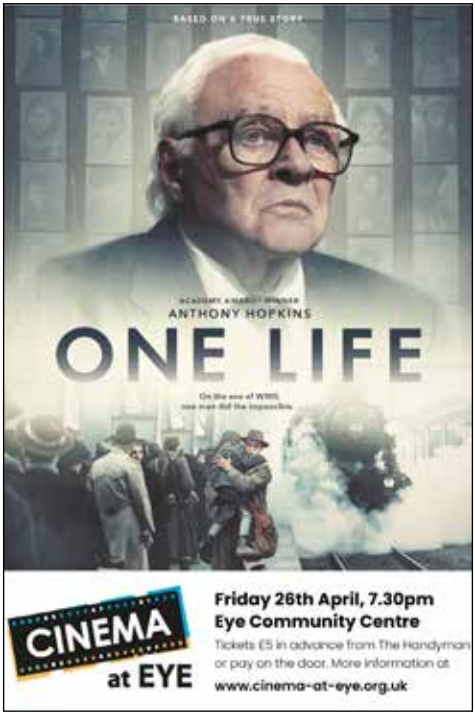
Contact Michelle on

earwaxremovaleast@gmail.com

07507 622554

Provided by friendly Nurse NMC Registered Fully insured

Book online www.earwaxremovaleast.co.uk



NOTICES



ANNOUNCING SKULDUGGERY IN STOWMARKET, SATURDAY APRIL 27TH 2024

Stowmarket Library's Skulduggery team is excited to announce this year's fast-approaching literary crime festival event.

Join us at Stowmarket Library on Saturday 27th and meet our guest authors: Susi Holliday, Lauren North, Tim Sullivan, Vaseem Khan, Olivia Kiernan, & James Henry. Tickets are £5 per author, or £15 for all-day Saturday. Light refreshments are available throughout the day.

Book your place:
www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/skulduggery-in-stowmarket

THE MESSENGER WELCOMES MORE BARBERS TO GISLINGHAM!

Jon Barber would like to welcome his parents, Dawn (Snr.) and Richard Barber to Gislingham!

Dawn and Richard moved into their new home in Mill Street, on Monday 11th March.

Life has come full-circle, as Dawn's Mum used to live in Pear Cottage, Mill Street many years ago!



FOR SALE, WANTED, & FREE TO A GOOD HOME



CONCERT TICKETS FOR SALE

3 tickets for The Pretenders
Regent Theatre, Ipswich

October 26th 7pm. Circle seats. Tickets available as bought in error. Cost price £55 per ticket. Available from Gislingham collection for £45 ORO.

Contact: tarafinney@hotmail.co.uk

1. Captain SCARLET, 2. The RED Sea, 3. Reverend GREEN, 4. BLUE, 5. The PINK Panther, 6. YELLOW, 7. Andrew GOLD, 8. Purple Rain, 9. Cilla BLACK, 10. They are all colours.

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 60.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



When I filled up with petrol recently I purchased a new UK road atlas – after all why would I turn down the chance to buy something that "no serious driver can do without"? Pleased with my new purchase I showed Mrs Rowe who asked whether I was planning a road trip that I hadn't told her about. I wasn't. She asked why I therefore needed a new road atlas as we knew all the main motor way routes to all our favourite places, towns and cities. Where we do not know the way, we put blind faith in one of the many map navigation systems, almost as if we are on auto-pilot.

Whilst it was a comfort to know that I had the most up to date road atlas, I suspect Mrs Rowe was right – maybe we will never need use of it.

I admit to having a character trait where I need to be in control and it should therefore come as no surprise that I have always had a life plan, a road map for my life to control what I can, and accept the things that I can't. Perhaps it is only when we look back on our lives that we can see the paths that we have taken. We of course have to decide for ourselves whether we took those paths out of choice; whether our lives are on autopilot; whether things, especially life changing events, happened over which we had no control or whether there were times when our destiny was perhaps decided for us. In Psalm 139 it says "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed." I often think on this when I consider the 2 road traffic accidents I have endured, the first when I was 10 (As you may have read before) and the 2nd in 2002 when I was hit head-on by an overtaking car whilst riding my bicycle. Those on the scene, and who picked me off the road for the 2nd time in my life, said it was only my cycle helmet that saved me.

In the Easter story we hear that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, he knew the path that he was to follow (and which would eventually lead him to the cross), but he was led into the city to be greeted as a King with cheering and celebration and with palm branches laid before him – but he wore no crown. He had previously spoken with his disciples when he said "And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus knew, and no matter how painful he knew it was to be, that this was to be his destiny through his crucifixion and resurrection on the 3rd day.

Coming back to my own life and the future, of course I can stick to my life plan, I can blindly follow a sat nav and know that I have my new road atlas as back up and, of course, I can always put trust in my cycle helmet, but where then do I put my real faith? - in the man that wore the crown of thorns.

Tim Rowe, Church Warden, All Saint's Church, Thorndon and All Saint's Church, Wetheringsett

From the Parishes:
In loving memory of:
Rex Stubbington (Yaxley); Paul Oldfield (Mellis); Alan Miller (Gislingham)

Sunday 7th April	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of Easter	Thorndon	10.30am	Worship for All
Sunday 14th April	Mellis	10.30am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of Easter	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
Sunday 21st April	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday of Easter	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th April	Thornham Magna	10.30am	Worship for All
5th Sunday of Easter	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Yaxley	10.30am	Holy Communion

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am



Reverend Canon Susan Loxton
Rural Dean of the Hartismere & Hoxne Deanery
revloxton@gmail.com ✆ 01379 388 493

Reverend Debbie Nicholls
Curate
rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com 01379 678 753

Find us on Facebook:
South Hartismere Churches

LOCAL INFORMATION

Gislingham Bus Timetable

Dan's Coaches (www.danscoachtravel.co.uk):

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

Leaves Gislingham shop 09:15 / Arrives Stowmarket (Argos) 10:18
Return leaves Stowmarket (Adj Station Road West / Bury St) 12.50 / Arrives Gislingham 13:43

Route 456 to Diss (Fridays only – Market Day

Leaves Gislingham shop 10.06 / Thornham Walks & Church 10.09 / Arrives Diss Bus Station 10.35
Return leaves Diss Bus Station 13.15 / Arrives Gislingham shop 13.46

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

Leaves Gislingham 09:46am / Arrives BSE bus station 10.48
Returns from Bury St. Edmunds leaves 13:25 / Arrives Gislingham 14.32

Mellis Bus Timetable

https://www.simonds.co.uk/local-bus-times)

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

Thornham Bus Timetable

Fairline Bus 320 (Weds only)

Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 09:40am / Arrives BSE bus station 10.48
Returns from Bury St. Edmunds 13:25, arriving back at Thornham Magna 14:36



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



Mobile Library: Gislingham
The 2024 dates for the Mobile Library are as follows:- 24 April, 22 May, 19 June, 17 July, 14 Aug, 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec.
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 Diss	01379 640530
Clerk (Parish) (Gislingham) clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com	07900 963471
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 -) email gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com (Mellis - Helen Timmons - Mellis) email: bookmellishall@gmail.com (Thornham) email: hallhire@thornhams.org	01379 783903 01379 783449
Mellis Parish Council Chairperson (Lawrie Read) mellisparishcouncil@gmail.com	01379 788248
Mendlesham Health Centre	01449 767722
Member of Parliament - Jo Churchill jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk - www.jochurchill.org.uk	01284 752311 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

botesdaledental

PRACTICE & IMPLANT CLINIC



High quality dental treatment in a **calm, comfortable** and **relaxing** environment

Find us on
www.botesdaledental.co.uk

Tel: 01379897176
Email: reception@botesdaledental.co.uk
Botesdale Dental Practice, Holly Close,
The Drift, Botesdale, Suffolk IP22 1DH

Denplan
Part of Simplyhealth

Denplan EXCEL
QUALITY ASSURED

UKAS
PRODUCT CERTIFICATION
8616

MSS10105-1220