The Messenger



Issue 158
April
2025

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH
MAGAZINE
AWARDS

THE MESSENGER TEAM



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News, features and advertised events in the Messenger magazine are added daily to the Messenger Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/themessengergismeltho

Next issue: May 2025
Copy deadline: Monday 14th April

E-mailed or hand-written submissions always welcome.

The editor reserves the right to edit, amend or omit submitted items at his discretion.

Digital copies of each issue can be downloaded from the Messenger website at:
www.the-messenger-online.com

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

WELCOME TO THE MESSENGER



Welcome to the April issue!

On Saturday 15th March there was a huge turn-out for the EcoPower Suffolk public consultation at Gislingham Village Hall regarding their proposals for a 15,000-acre solar farm covering fields between Mellis and Gislingham. On page 49, Rowland Warboys, our District Councillor, gives his views on the project.

Just before going to print, we received news that there is to be a public information event at Mellis Memorial Hall on Monday 31st March 2.00pm-6:30pm regarding the battery energy storage system (BESS) proposal in the vicinity of Mellis, Yaxley and Thrandeston.

On a more positive note, there has been some sterling community work undertaken in the past few weeks! Both Gislingham and Thornham held their Spring Litter Picks; and a huge amount of rubbish was cleared, as can be seen on pages 7 & 15. Thank you to all those who helped out.

Back in February, I wrote about the need for more volunteering in our villages. The fantastic turn-out of over 50 people (or all ages) in Gislingham for the Litter Pick, proves the community spirit is still alive and kicking! But every month, I receive emails from local groups looking for volunteering positions to be filled, and these requests tend to be dotted around the contents of the magazine. So, this month, on page 11, I have collated all the current vacancies, within our villages. I will update this each month.

As always, this issue includes details of a variety of local events to enjoy in April and early May. There should be something of interest to everyone. In particular, for senior residents, there is a 'Spring Get Together' at Gislingham Village Hall. So there is no need to be alone at home. See page 8 for details.

Our May issue is due out the last weekend in April, which this year falls on Easter weekend. Therefore, please note the early deadline of Monday 14th April for contributions to the May issue. Obviously, the sooner the better to ensure inclusion.

Finally, from the Messenger Team, we wish you all a Happy and Healthy Easter!

I hope you enjoy this issue!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: The Walled Garden in Thornham Walks

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Tuesday 1st April: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 mid-day.

Friday 4th April 2025: Pub Night
- Gislingham Village Hall. Doors Open 5.00 pm / Last orders 9.45pm

Saturday 5th April: Book Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon
- All children's books and biographies will be FREE.

Sunday 6th April: Breakfast Club with a talk by local wildlife photographer Adrian Barnard
- Thornham Parish Hall: 10.00am. See page 47 for details.

Saturday 12th April: Spring Get Together
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 mid-day. See page 8 for details.

Wednesday 16th April: Gislingham WI.
- Speaker Charles Garland '' Dad's Army - The nation's favourite comedy".
- Gislingham Village Hall 7.30pm.

Friday 18th April 2025: Pub Night
- Gislingham Village Hall. Doors Open 5.00 pm / Last orders 9.45pm

Friday 25th April: Film Night – 'Past Lives'
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.30pm: £5. Booking: films@thornhams.org
- See page 35 for details.

Weekend 2nd, 3rd & 4th May: Thornham Arts and Craft Show
- Thornhams Parish Hall: See page 14 for opening times over the 3 days

Saturday 3rd May: Open Day at Thornham Magna Bowls Club
- Thornham Bowls Club: From 10.00am – See page 17 for details

SAVE THE DATE
- Saturday 14th June: Gisfest
- Saturday 12th July: Gislingham Summer Fair
- Saturday 9th August: Gislingham Gardening, Arts & Produce Show

Please note, any event changes after the magazine goes to print are updated on our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/themessengergismeltho

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

Our next issue is May 2025. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Monday 14th April

CLUBS, CLASSES & REGULAR EVENTS

GISLINGHAM

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

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

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

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

Gislingham WI: 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.

Gislingham Silver Band: Band Hut. Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Contact Iris Debock: 01379 788066 or debock.iris@gmail.com

French Classes: Village Hall. Every Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am. Contact Karen 07952 908125 / fluent.fast@outlook.com

Yoga Classes: Gislingham Village Hall. Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.30pm
And via zoom on Thursdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Both term time only
Contact Clare Hall on 07704 570877 or email: thornhamyoga@yahoo.com

Gislingham Variety Club: A local multi-talented group who perform twice a year in the Village Hall. If you are interested to join us, please contact by email: gislinghamvariety@gmail.com

THORNHAM

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

Pilates Classes: Parish Hall. Tuesdays 10.00am - Pilates Seated & Standing (no floorwork). Contact: Michelle via email hello@yapl.co.uk

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

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

MELLIS

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

Mellis Canicross: 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

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07308466333

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Website: rossleegardendesign.co.uk

GISLINGHAM LITTER PICK REPORT

The Gislingham Spring Litter Pick took place on Sunday 16th March organised by 1st Mendlesham Scout Group.

There was a fantastic turn out 48 people including 24 children (15 of which were from the 1st Mendlesham Scout Group) to help pick up all the litter from the roadsides, grass verges, and footpaths around the village. It was also encouraging to see so many children enthusiastically getting involved and also someone who only moved into the village 2 months ago came along to help.

Even more people arrived to help but realised there was already enough people to cover the various streets to be covered, so were not needed.

Amongst the rubbish collected was part of a wheel barrow and a large axe head!

So, a very BIG thank you to everyone who helped on the day and of course to Martyn Bryant for organising this event.







Spring

GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Get Together

For Senior Residents or anyone needing some Company

TEA, COFFEE, CAKES & MUSIC

FREE EVENT

Call 01379 788795 or email

jo@gislinghamparishcouncil.com to book a space

Gislingham Village Hall

12th April 10.00 – 12.00

GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTES





The Watson Bowl and Volunteer of the year for 2024 – Nominations

Every year an award is made to an individual or team of people that have made an outstanding contribution to our village, plus there is an award to recognise an outstanding contribution as a volunteer.

The winners of these awards will be announced at the Annual Village Meeting in May, the exact date has yet to be finalised.

Please send your nominations with a brief reason for your nomination to the Parish Clerk at clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

Winter Get together

Gislingham Parish Council are very concerned that in our village there are some residents who are on their own. On the 12th January we held our first 'Get Together' which was well received and a number of residents came along. Some delicious cakes were made by the Gislingham WI which were well received. Thank you to all who made the Cakes. GVC and J Singers provided a good selection of songs that everyone enjoyed. All in all, a great success.

We have therefore booked the village hall again on the 12th April. If you are on your own, or know an elderly person who would benefit with meeting like-minded people then please let the Parish Council know, or accompany them along on the 12th April. Free to all who are on their own and would like to find like-minded friends, run by the Parish Council and helped by volunteers. We look forward to seeing you. (See details opposite).

Bus Stop Bench

The Bus Stop (Gislingham High Street) Bench Base has been installed and the bench should be installed by the of March. Thank you to Mid Suffolk District Council' Pride in Your Place' for providing the funding for this project.

Emergency Planning

Have you ever thought about what would happen if you had an emergency at home – especially if you live alone.

We have been giving this a lot of thought and have some help for you. From the address below you can download (for yourself or maybe a neighbour) a useful sheet that helps you plan for various events. For instance, who needs to be called/number(s); where is your emergency bag (to save neighbours or emergency staff trying to find things); what should be put in place for your pets; does a trusted neighbour have a key in case you need help plus lots of other advice?

Do you know who is vulnerable in your area? Do you know who can give emergency support in your area? If the answer is no - why not find out.

Would you be interested in being a representative for your area? If you would why not give me a call to talk about what might be involved – Jo Pitt 07790 195798

Visit: **suffolkprepared.co.uk** or come to the next **Parish Council meeting 28th April** at 7.00pm and collect a free fridge magnet version.

Martin Roper
PHOTOGRAPHY

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED



MELLIS CHURCH

The Treasurer on the PCC at Mellis who has managed the finances of our church for several years will shortly be stepping down from this role. We are looking for someone who may be able to take on this voluntary position, which involves oversight of the finances, attending four meetings each year and preparing end of year accounts for our auditors. If you feel you have the skills and would like to join our small, friendly team, please email Owen at pandomurphy@aol.com for more information.

GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCILLORS

If you feel that becoming a Parish Councillor is something you would like to do or if you would be willing to take on any role to help the community, please contact our clerk and we can give greater insight into what is involved in any role. Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

If you're passionate about road safety and want to connect with your neighbours, consider becoming a Community Speed Watch volunteer in Gislingham. It's a rewarding experience that can have a lasting impact. To get involved, contact Steve Critchley at: s.j.critchley@btinternet.com

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED FOR THE MESSENGER

We are looking for additional help – magazine distributors to help-out during holidays, a "back up" distribution co-ordinator. Please email Goyle Weir: goyle@mac.com

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Have you ever thought about what would happen if you had an emergency at home – especially if you live alone. Gislingham Parish Council are looking for representatives in the area to help with this. Contact: Jo Pitt 07790 195798 or see page 9 for more details.

VOLUNTEERING AT THORNHAM PARKRUN

The Thornham parkrun takes place every week and everyone is welcome to volunteer, we'd love you to join in! There are plenty of opportunities to try new roles, apply your skills or learn new ones, be with friends and family, meet people and be a part of the parkrun community.

You don't need any experience of parkrun, junior parkrun or of volunteering. You can volunteer alone or team up with someone else, and there are always people on hand if you have any questions. Anyone wishing to volunteer can email thornhamwalks@parkrun.com or look on our Facebook page.

If you feel you have the skills and would like to join our small, friendly team, please email Owen at pandomurphy@aol.com for more information.

If your group or organisation is looking for volunteers and you would like us to publish the details on this page next month, please email: themessengereditorial@gmail.com

GRAND CHARITY HAT SALE

Have you ever wanted to try on lots and lots of hats?

We have a collection of about 200 hats in every colour and style.

Come and try them on and, if you want one, it will probably cost you £10 (apart from a few very special hats).





PLUS: A large selection of Dolls House figures and furniture (also being sold for charity)

Gislingham Village Hall,
Saturday May 10th, 10.30 to 2.00

All proceeds to

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 4th & Friday 18th April: Pub Nights
Doors Open 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.

Friday 2nd May & Friday 16th May: Pub Nights
Doors Open 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 17th May: Quiz Night
Doors open at 7.00 pm. Entrance Fee £5.00. Bring your own Food, Drinks and Glasses.



Saturday 14th June: Gisfest - Watch this space for details.



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.


Thornham Art &
Craft Show
Private View Evening
Friday 2nd May 7-9pm £8 inc
bubbles & canapés
OPEN
Saturday 3rd May 10-4pm
Sunday 4th May 11-3pm
Free Entrance
Thornham Parish Hall, IP238HB
info: email
events@thornhams.org

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL





On Sunday 16th March, the Spring Litter Pick in Thornham took place. Amongst the various car parts collected were: a number plate, a wing mirror and several hub caps. Also, pieces of pipes, large bits of black plastic, so many Red Bull and Monster cans, empty glass bottles and other bottles of unidentifiable liquids…a big thank you to all who helped.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Sunday 6th April: Sunday Breakfast Club - with talk by local wildlife photographer Adrian Barnard. 10.00am: £10 / Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org

Friday 25th April: Film Night – 'Past Lives'. 7.30pm: £5. Booking: films@thornhams.org

Weekend 2nd, 3rd & 4th May: Arts and Craft Show
Friday 2nd May: Preview Evening - to include wine & canapes: 7.00pm – 9.00pm: £8.00
Saturday 3rd May: 10.00am – 4.00pm / Sunday 4th May: 11.00am – 3.00pm

Friday 16th May: Film Night – 'A Complete Unknown' – Bob Dylan's early days
7.30pm: £5. Booking: films@thornhams.org

Bank Holiday Monday 26th May: Special Afternoon Tea. 2.00pm: - in aid of Oncology Day Unit Ipswich Hospital with fun events for children

Friday 20th June: Film Night – tbc

Sunday 13th July: Tea – Wimbledon Men's Final

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Pilates Classes on Tuesdays 10.00am - Pilates gentle floorwork



To book please contact Beth Fredrikssen-Jones, the Booking Clerk, using hallhire@thornhams.org

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY BOWLS?

Would you like to play bowls? If so, THORNHAM MAGNA BOWLS CLUB will make you welcome!

No one is too young or too old (but under 16's need to be accompanied by an adult). Bowls is a good way of meeting people and socialising with others. **OPEN EVERY SATURDAY, MAY TO SEPTEMBER 10.00AM to 1.00PM**

If 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. We can guarantee that you will be made most welcome.

WE ALSO HAVE AN OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY 3RD MAY FROM 10.00AM.

The address of the Bowls Club is: Gislingham Road, Thornham Magna, IP23 8HH. You can find us opposite the estate farm entrance.

All you need to play is some flat shoes, everything else will be provided.



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Announcing *Skulduggery in Stowmarket*

Saturday April 26th 2025



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

Join us at Stowmarket Library on Saturday 26th and meet our guest authors: Barbara Nadel, Kate Rhodes, Tom Mead, Sophie Morton-Thomas, Alison Bruce, & Bridget Walsh. 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/resources/skulduggery-in-stowmarket

Gislingham SUMMER FAIR NEEDS YOU!

Following the success of last year's event, Gislingham Summer Fair is back again this year.

The event will be held on Saturday 12th July

Once again, the School, Playgroup, Church, Village Hall, Scouts, and W.I. will all come together to bring a fun filled afternoon to the Village.

On the day various stalls are run by these organisations, which and these help to raise money for them.

The Gislingham Summer Fair Committee would be grateful for donations of tombola items & alcohol for the Barrow of Beer.



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

If you can donate, please take your donation into the school office by Thursday 26th June. If you'd like to book a trade stall, please contact us asap.

Your support would be very much appreciated!

Gislingham Summer Fair Committee.

All enquiries: gislinghamsummerfair@gmail.com

FINNINGHAM RAILWAY STATION



Above: Finningham Station with staff & shunting horse in 1910.

Finningham railway station was a station physically located in the neighbouring parish of Bacton, on the Great Eastern Main Line between London and Norwich. It was closed on 7th November 1966 as part of the Beeching Axe with other smaller stations on the line although the line remains open.

Early history

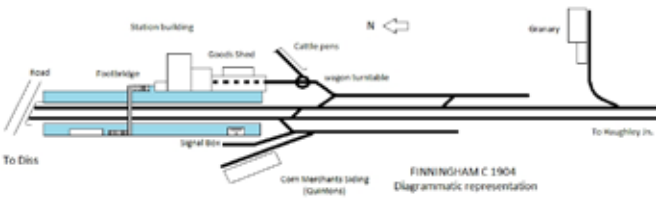
Work on the extension of the Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds Railway line from Haughley Junction towards Norwich commenced in early 1848 by the Eastern Union Railway (EUR). A single-track railway opened as far as Finningham on 7 June 1848 which was for goods traffic only. Extension towards Diss and Norwich was difficult due to the challenges presented by Thrandeston bog and the line to Diss opened 28 May 1849. Six months later on 11 November 1849 the line opened through to Norwich with a second track.

The EUR, who were short of money, decided to only erect temporary buildings at Finningham to see whether passenger traffic would develop to justify more permanent buildings. Operation of the EUR was taken over by the Eastern Counties Railway in 1854 and following a financially difficult period almost all of the railways in East Anglia were merged into a single operation called the Great Eastern Railway (GER). Following gales in the winter of 1863 which destroyed the temporary buildings, the GER approved and built a substantial station building in 1865.

In 1881 the line was fitted with Absolute Block signalling. Between 1923 and 1947 the station was operated by the London and North Eastern Railway.

Description

Around 1900 Finningham station had two platforms joined by a footbridge, a small goods shed and cattle pens on the up side (East side) of the line and a loop and sidings on the down side. A siding located a short distance to the south on the up side also handled grain traffic.



Above: A diagrammatic representation of the station c1904.

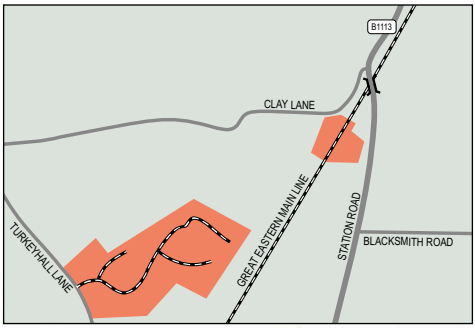
The signal box, which had 18 levers for points and signals, was situated at the south end of the down platform more or less opposite the main station building which was just to the north of the goods shed. There was a small brick-built shelter on the down side for Norwich bound passengers.



Left: A Derby Lightweight DMU pulls into Finningham railway station bound for Norwich. Photo taken 23.03.1964 by Roger Joanes.

Closure

Following the nationalisation of the railways in 1948, Finningham station became part of British Railways Eastern Region. Freight, which for many years during the 1950s consisted of a daily pick-up freight train between Norwich and Stowmarket, was finally withdrawn on 28 December 1964 and the goods sidings were all lifted the following year on 15 July 1965. The connections to the goods loops lasted until 5 June 1968 when the last points were removed and the signal box abolished. The last passenger trains called on 5 November 1966 when the Ipswich to Norwich stopping service was withdrawn. The line to and from London Liverpool Street and Norwich remains in operational use and was electrified in May 1987.



Right: Map showing the station's location.

Below: The station as it was in 1966.



Source: *wikipedia.org*

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THE RAILWAY TAVERN

APRIL 2025

Thursday 3rd April 7.30pm ***POP MUSIC QUIZ***

A fun music quiz. 1960's to 2000's. Maximum six people per team. £2 per person.

Saturday 5th April 8.30PM ***BACKTRACKIN'***

Playing vintage pop and rock as only the epic Backtrackin' can do.

Thursday 10th April 8.00pm ***OPEN MIC NIGHT***

Calling all musicians and singers. Come along and have a go, hosted by Mike & Jemma

Saturday 12th April 8.30pm ***KARAOKE DISCO***

Musical merriment with Video Disco & Karaoke

Thursday 17th April 7.30pm ***PUB QUIZ***

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

Sunday 20th April 8pm ***THE SANE REVOLUTION***

Sing along rock classics with Insane Asylums front man Gary Gibbs.

Thursday 24th April 7.30pm ***BINGO***

New for 2025 £1 a card for prizes and Final game £2 per card for CASH PRIZE.

Saturday 26th April 8.30pm ***COUNTRY & WESTERN***

THE REDNECK RODEO with LIVE MUSIC from GEMMA FAIRWEATHER



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CHARLOTTE'S BOOK BLOG



One Last Letter From Greece by Emma Cowell

★★★★★ 5/5



Hiya bookworms! Hope you're all doing well and enjoying the recent sunshine. This month I have another incredible book to share with you all. Emma Cowell is an amazing author who I have had the privilege of being in contact with over the last couple of years, she has been an incredible support to my book blog on Instagram and I can't wait to share her work with you all. Her books are bound to make the perfect summer reads!

Set in the glorious Greek sunshine of Methoni, Sophie is on a mission to find her late Mother's mystery painting. Since her mother's passing, Sophie has wanted to find all of her Mum's paintings, of which she used to travel to Greece every year for inspiration to paint from. With one mystery painting nowhere to be found, and no-one knowing anything about it, Sophie decides to travel to Methoni for a Greek getaway she desperately needs, as well as the hope of finding out more about the painting.

Once she reaches Methoni, Sophie immediately falls in love with her surroundings. The people are friendly, the food is delicious and the sea air is exactly what she needed. She doesn't have a lot of information regarding her mother's missing artwork, just an old photo and a few letters. Sophie explores the area and speaks with locals, trying to people who may be able to help.

In doing so she meets Theo, an attractive local fisherman whose family run the local taverna. Sophie falls head over heels for Theo, however is aware that her time in Greece is limited and that her best friend, Tash, back at home desperately needs her, meaning she doesn't have time to shift her focus from the main reason of her visit.

Sophie and Theo live in different countries and run their own businesses, but as Sophie starts to spend more and more time with Theo, she starts to realise that maybe he is also part of that fresh air she didn't know she needed. With time against her, the race is on to find help regarding her mother's art… but maybe that help isn't as far away as she thinks it may be.

I received this as part of a giveaway by Avon Books UK in collaboration with both Emma Cowell and Odysea Ltd, and I had it on my shelf waiting to be read for months because I was so desperate to take it on my holiday to Greece that was coming up. Saving it for that occasion was beyond perfection and well worth the wait. As someone who is fortunate enough to visit Greece every year, I found the writing and general descriptions of food and locations etc within this book extremely nostalgic and they encapsulated Greece perfectly. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I cannot wait to read the rest of Emma's books. Emma also has her fourth book ('Under the Lemon Tree') coming out next month on May 8th and is available to pre-order now.

Want to chat more about this book with others who have also read it? You can find me on Instagram @charlottes.bookblog - where I review and chat about books with the nicest community of people you could ever meet. Can't wait to see you there! **Email me at: charlotte_norman@me.com**

Charlotte x

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GUC Trustees meeting dates for 2025 are as follows: Friday 9th May, Friday 11th July, Friday 12th September, Friday 14th November

Applications, together with the necessary supporting documentation, should be received **seven working days before the meetings** to allow Trustees time to consider applications and request additional information if required. In the event of emergency applications, Trustees will consider an application when received and, if necessary, will call a special meeting to review the application.

Application forms can be obtained from: The Clerk, Lilac Cottage, Mill Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JR
Tel: 01379 783380, Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com
Or can be downloaded from the "Organisations" page on the Parish Council Website:
https://gislinghamparishcouncil.com/organisations/gislingham-united-charity/

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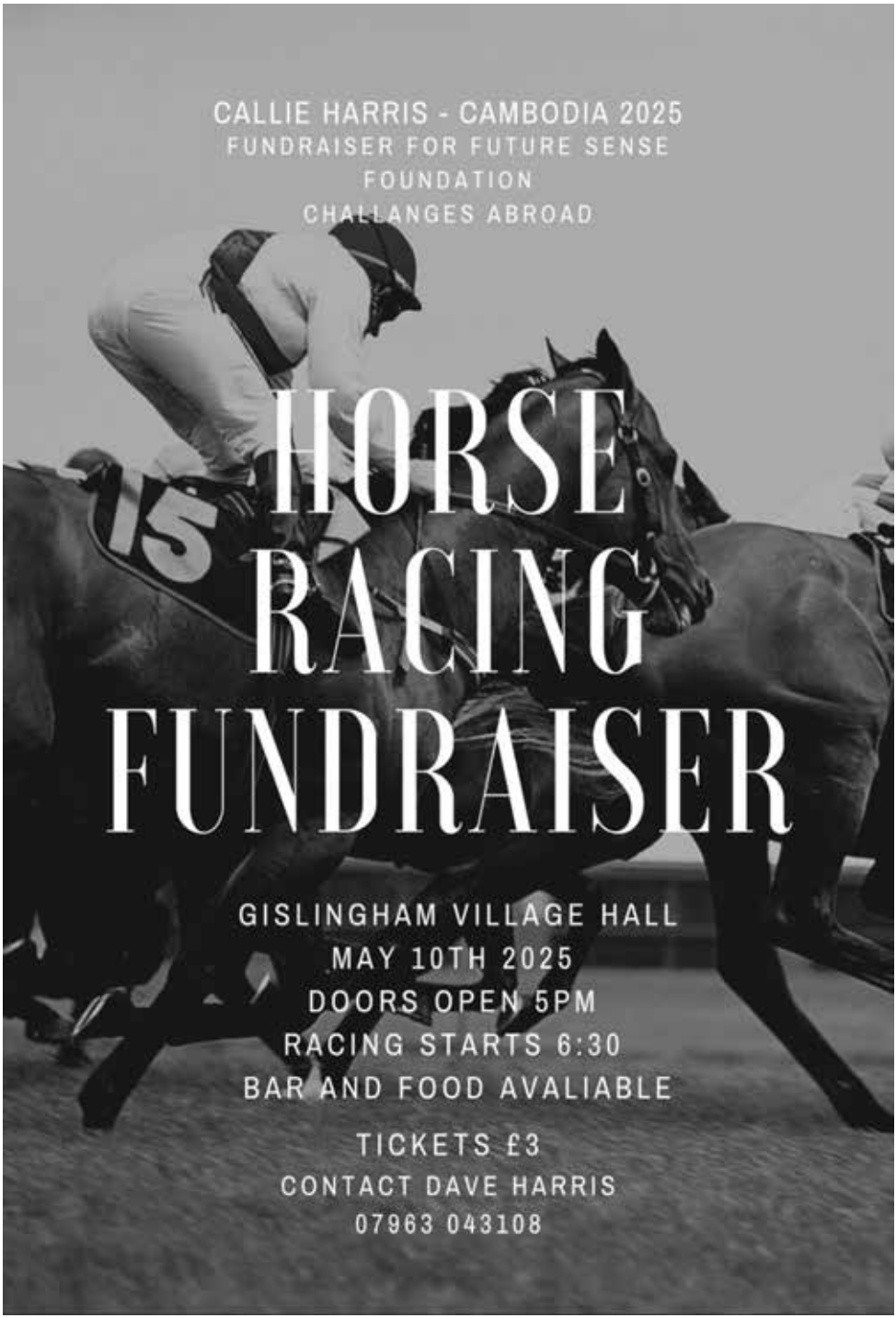




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NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes

As I write in mid-March it's another bright sunny morning, albeit a little cooler than the past few days but it still looks and feels as though spring has arrived. Many of my friends have "had the calling", like Mole in The Wind in the Willows, and have been out in their gardens tidying up and planting seeds for the new season - something I need to be getting on with too.

In the garden I've come across my first sighting of a Bumble Bee this year. This was a particularly large specimen taking nectar from a Hellebore flower. I think that this will have been a queen bee emerging from hibernation as I understand that worker bumble bees perish over winter. An interesting account of the bumble bee's lifecycle can be found at *bumblebeeconservation.org*.

Glyn Simpson in Gislingham recorded his first sighting of a butterfly this year on 11th March - a large, brightly coloured lime-green male Brimstone. Like the Bumble Bee, this will have hibernated through the winter and will now be looking for a mate near its favourite food plants, including Scabious. Other early butterflies to look out for now that hibernate include the Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma. Two other favourites of mine that will soon be emerging from their chrysalis state in which they will have over-wintered are the Holly Blue and Orange Tip.



Brimstone (male)



Holly Blue



Orange Tip (male)



Haring around in Gislingham

An animal that is strongly associated with spring is of course the Brown Hare. Although considered by most of us to be a native species, it was in fact introduced to the UK in Roman times. The Mountain Hare is the UK's native hare but is not so widespread. Originating in Scotland it has been introduced to parts of England, e.g. the Peak District.

Mountain hares are smaller than the Brown species, have shorter ears and change the colour of their coats in winter from brown to white to help against predation. One to watch out for if hiking in the north during winter.

Walking around our villages and countryside in spring it is always delightful to see the appearance of flowers and blossom. A couple of weeks ago whilst walking in Eye I was pleased to renew my acquaintance with an uncommon kind of fungi - the Scarlet Elf Cup. This plant favours damp conditions where it grows on decaying matter and that is where I came across it alongside Lamsey Beck, a small tributary of the River Dove.



Much has been said in the media about the Parade of the Planets. This involved seven planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) lining up on February 28th. The alignment of seven planets is quite rare, the next time will be in 2040. Not all the planets were visible with the naked eye and the line extended over a wide region of the sky. I managed to see Venus (exceptionally bright), Jupiter, Mars and Saturn.



The Andromeda Galaxy

In astronomy circles, spring is also known as Galaxy Season - that time of the year when the Earth's position around the Sun gives us the best view of those parts of the sky where many bright galaxies are located. The term *bright* here is relative as very few indeed are visible with the naked eye. They include the Andromeda Galaxy, which is a very popular subject for amateur astrophotographers, including myself. Another popular subject is Bode's Galaxy which, like Andromeda, is a spiral galaxy, and similar in shape to our own Milky Way. These two photos were taken from my garden using a small telescope. The galaxies are 2.5 (Andromeda) and 12 (Bode's) million light years away from Earth - amazing!

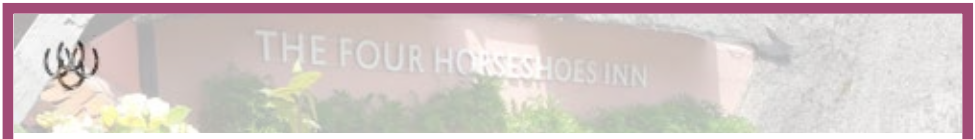


Bode's Galaxy

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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CUPCAKE RECIPE

This traditional cupcake recipe comes from courtesy of Gislingham WI – so it must be good! These easy vanilla cupcakes are perfect for birthdays, picnics or whenever you fancy a sweet treat.



Ingredients (for 12 cupcakes):

- 250g unsalted butter, softened
- 250g caster sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 150g self-raising flour 60g plain flour
- 60g plain flour
- 185 ml milk

Method:

- Cream butter and sugar until pale in colour
- Add eggs a little at a time, add a little flour if mixture starts to curdle
- Add flour (sieved)
- Add other ingredients to make a batter.
- Fill cupcake cases approximate ¾ full
- Bake in centre of oven gas mark 5 or 180 degrees until cakes are golden brown and skewer inserted into middle comes out clean.
- Leave to cool before decorating.

Topping

- 100g Butter softened
- 200g Icing sugar sieved
- 1 tbsp milk
- Vanilla extract/essence to taste
- Decorate to suit the occasion.

Gislingham WI meets on the third Wednesday of every month at Gislingham Village Hall, 7.30pm. If you would like more details, please phone Margaret on: 01379 783903.

CIRCULAR WALK AROUND THELNETHAM

OS Map: 230 / Distance: 4.7 miles/7.5 kms

The flat, wet land later provided an ideal site for a Saxon settlement; the name which the Saxons gave this place, now Thelnetham, derives from old English "elfetu", meaning swans, "thel" meaning a plank or bridge, and "hamm" meaning meadowland, via various spellings over time. Today's pronunciation of the l-nee-tham has also evolved over centuries. By the time of the Norman invasion, Thelnetham was important enough for inclusion in the Domesday Book of 1086.

This small village has 29 "listed" properties, mainly domestic dwellings, large and small, but also including other unique preserved buildings, namely the church, the windmill and the village hall, formerly the village school.



The starting point of this walk is St Nicholas Church. As you approach the village from the direction of Hinderclay, you will see the church on the right. Go past the first opening and then turn right after the next. A track runs up to the church.

St Nicholas Church was built in the 14c. Check out the carriage inside of the church.

Leave the church and turn left and follow the hedge until you reach a small bridge. Turn left here and continue until you arrive at a T-junction of footpaths with a wooden seat on the right. Turn left and continue through the woods and at the end of the fence bear left and continue. You will see an information board promoting the 20-acre Thelnetham Fen, which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Continue ahead and at the T-junction turn left for a short distance until you reach the road.



Turn right at the road signposted for Angles Way. On the way, you will see a house is being renovated and hidden in the undergrowth is an old Landrover. At the end of the road, turn right for a short detour and visit Thelnetham Windmill. This iconic landmark was built in 1819 and restored in the 1980's which is one of the oldest mills in Suffolk. They have opened days to have look around. When you have finished at the mill, go back to crossroads and turn right signposted 'Angles Way' and Spring Farm. Continue along the track and pass a derelict chicken shed on the left. As you approach the entrance to Spring Farm, there are 3 signs informing you that the footpath goes left (making sure you don't make a mistake!). The path skirts the boundary



of Spring Farm and when you reach the end of the farm, turn right continuing on Angles Way and make your way to Hopton village.



At the junction with the road, cross over onto the pavement and turn left. You will pass the fish & chip shop, the Vine pub, known for its selection of beers and cross over the road just before St Nicholas church. Go into the churchyard and you enter this lovely church, through a door to your right. Passing through the curtains, your first sight will be the wooden coffer. Behind you is the belfry with 6 bells. There is an old door that probably leads up to the bells. View the lovely stained-glass window at the end of the nave. If you look up to the roof, you will still small statues at the end of each buttress.



Leave the church, turn left and then left again by the shop. Continue past the school and Village Hall. Turn right onto the path that directs you to Hopton District Bowls and Social Club. Continue past the club and onto a grass track. Look out for the Shepherds Hut in the small enclosure on the left. When you reach the end of the path, there is an old tree trunk turned into a seat, with a plaque suggesting you stop and rest, which we did.



When you manage to get up, take the path to your right (with the seat behind you). You will see in the distance the Mill. When you reach the road, turn right and continue back through the village.

On the way back to your car, why not stop off at the 17c White Horse pub. This is a community run operation, with a selection of beers with the pub achieving Cask Marque accreditation. Makes a change to be offered my beer in a straight or mug, now that brings back some memories. A lovely log fire was keeping us all warm. Speaking to the manager, they are planning to start food in the near future, so it is best to contact the pub to check if they have this option if you plan to eat.



When you leave the pub, turn left and continue back towards the church, if you have parked there, noticing the very different Village Hall at the small crossroads. It was originally a school in 1872 and converted to the Village Hall in the late 1950's.

There is a Thelnetham Heritage Trail with the leaflet available in St Nicholas church.

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Watch The Skies! by Darrel Charles



From time-to-time some interesting military aircraft fly over our villages. They include the large tanker aircraft (KC-135) of the United States Air Force based at RAF Mildenhall and less often seen fighter jets of the USAF based at RAF Lakenheath. One morning in March, I decided to take a look at these fast jets and made the short journey (28 miles) to Lakenheath in the hope of getting some photos.

RAF Lakenheath is home to the USAF 48th Fighter Wing where two squadrons of F15E Strike Eagles and two squadrons of F35A Lightening II aircraft are based. The place is enormous and there's an official viewing area just outside its northern perimeter, close to one end of the runway. There's also a lay-by on the Brandon Road that runs alongside the eastern perimeter of the base and that is where I took the photos shown here. Aircraft movements are not publicised and so what you might see is down to pot luck. I understand that there's little flying at weekends or Friday afternoons and so I visited on a Tuesday. I was lucky and saw lots of aircraft taxi-ing, taking off and landing - quite a show.



Shortly after my arrival at around 10:45 am, a number of F35s came in to land, having completed a morning exercise. On their final approach to the airfield the aircraft were fairly quiet and they took me a little by surprise as they were out of view until they were quite close. Six F35s landed over a few minutes and I was able to take my photos just before they touched down. After the F35s had landed, I only had to wait some 20 minutes before the sound of jet engines could be heard again. This time an F15 taxied into view and made its way to the end of the runway. Over the next 15 minutes or so this aircraft was followed by seven more F15s that lined up preparing to take off, an impressive sight.



When the twin-engined F15s did take to the skies, with their after-burners glowing, the noise was pretty intense - it set off my car's alarm twice! Since its introduction to service in 1988, the F15 has been developed over the years into an extremely capable and versatile aircraft. Its maximum speed is beyond Mach 2.5 (1,875 mph), each aircraft costing around $100 million.

Whilst the F15s were taking off, I noticed more activity on the airfield - a number of F35s were taxi-ing into their positions for take-off. Whilst having just a single engine, these aircraft also generate a great deal of rib-rattling noise when taking off with their after-burner engaged.

The F35 is generally regarded as the most advanced jet fighter in the world and embodies many stealth technologies. The RAF flies a variant of this type, the F35B, that is designed to operate from our new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers. Those aircraft are STOVL types, i.e. capable of Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing. The land base for those UK aircraft is RAF Marham, Norfolk.

For anyone interested in modern military aviation, I would certainly recommend a visit to RAF Lakenheath. You may be lucky, as was I, and experience some truly impressive sights and sounds!









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TERRAPIN NEWS



Last Saturday, "The Ides of March," I drove from Mellis to Gislingham to the Consultation Meeting held by EcoPower Suffolk to launch their proposal for a 15000-acre solar farm, the largest section of which covers field between Mellis and Gislingham. Julius Caesar ignored the soothsayer's warnings and well the rest is history. We cannot ignore this and must engage with this process and make our responses clear and objective. This is an NSIP, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, and is outside the District Council Planning Control and is managed by the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State.

Your District Council is a consultant and has the resources to make a technical response to the proposal. Smaller Solar Farms have been managed by the local planning authority and although we have been unable to stop them, developers have overturned local refusal through appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. What has been achieved are improvements to layout, increased planting of hedgerows, preservation of public footpaths, maximising increases in biodiversity and substantial contributions to communities.

The Parish Councils too are an important forum for discussion and the collation of public responses.

Bron Curtiss, Mid Suffolk's Principal Planning Officer for NSIP's and her team communicate clearly with developers the local concerns and objections but strategically maintain a dialogue with the developers to mitigate the impacts.

In a conversation with her last week, I put forward some of these concerns, particularly the accumulated impact of other developments such as the Norwich to Tilbury Scheme. We discussed the shortness of the consultation period, and the speed of delivery.

This first non-statutory consultation period runs from 10th March until 22nd April 2025. The links to the consultation forms are:
https://ecopowersuffolk.participatr.io/
https://ecopowersuffolk.com/consultation-process/

This is Stage 1; Stage 2 will take place in Autumn 2025. This is the Statutory Consultation when a more detailed proposal will be presented and the public and authorities will have the opportunity to comment further.

One of my concerns is that this is happening during a period of local government reorganisation, blessed on us by the County Council Leader. This scheme is not by any means the last and I have discussed with Bron the need to expand her team and be able to respond nimbly and in forensic detail. That this is happening in a time when local accountability will be diminished is of great concern to me.

Looking through the comments from the public about another smaller scheme between Wortham and Palgrave I was a little surprised at how much support there was for the proposed solar farm, people do acknowledge the environmental and economic benefits alongside the strategic need for energy security. This will be determined in April.

However, as I contemplated this unwelcome further industrialisation of our landscape on my drive to Gislingham, I felt only foreboding. A gloom that, ironically, the bright sunshine didn't lift.

Rowland Warboys, Cllr. Gislingham Ward

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NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM PLAYGROUP

We have been very busy here at the playgroup, welcoming new children and their families.



We also celebrated the Chinese new year, we all dressed up for World Book Day, and talked about St Patrick's Day. We also dressed up for Red Nose Day.



We have also enjoyed some lovely walks around the village going across the fields looking at the environment we live in, watching the farmers getting their crops ready and, listening to the birds singing. We also made Mothers Day Cards and Easter Crafts.





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

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Patient Participation Group

Invite Cancer Patients and Carers to our

Cancer Support Group

Tuesday 22nd April
11:00 – 12:00

Guest Speaker – Louise Timbers
Macmillan Specialist Dietician

will be visiting our group to offer nutritional advice and support to patients related to a diagnosis of Cancer

Please join us at:

Parkview Chaple, The Street, Botesdale, IP22 1BX

Entrance and car park at the rear of the building

Please contact Debbie Waghorn, 07541118551

or email botesdaleppg@gmail.com for any enquiries.

Confirmation of your attendance would be helpful.

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Cotton Village Hall	Mondays	7:20 p.m.
Gislingham Village Hall	Wednesdays	9:15 a.m.
Gislingham Village Hall	Wednesdays	10:15 a.m.
Westhorpe Village Hall	Wednesdays	12:15 p.m.
Gislingham Village Hall	Thursdays	7:10 p.m.

TOTAL FITNESS (45 mins):

Gislingham Village Hall	Thursdays	6:15 p.m.

GENTLE FITNESS (45 mins)

Westhorpe Village Hall	Fridays	10:00 a.m.

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For more information contact Becky on
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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!



Protect yourself from Holiday fraud

People looking to snap up online holiday deals ahead of the summer are being warned to stay extra alert and do their research before booking their getaways, as new data reveals victims lost a total of over £11 million to holiday fraud last year.



Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a holiday fraud campaign, urging the public who are looking to snap up their next holiday deals online to look out for suspiciously enticing offers online, including on social media, and do their research before booking their getaways.

New data shows there were 6,066 reports of holiday fraud made to Action Fraud last year, with July recorded as the highest month of reporting with 647 reports.

Holiday makers lost a combined total of £11,183,957 in 2024, which is comparatively less than the £12.3 million lost in 2023. Despite, the drop in reported loss, the average loss per victim remains at similar levels, with £1,851 the average in 2023 and £1,844 in 2024.

What can you do to protect yourself from holiday fraud?

- Check the travel company is legitimate: about to book a holiday? Do some research first to check that the company is legitimate, especially if you haven't used them before. Use consumer websites, or reviews from people (or organisations) that you trust.
- Look for the logos: look for the ABTA, ABTOT or ATOL logos on the company's website. If you're unsure, you can use the links below to verify membership:
  - o ABTA - https://www.abta.com
  - o ABTOT - https://www.abtot.com/abtot-members-directory/
  - o ATOL - https://www.atol.org
- Use a credit card to pay: use a credit card for payments (if you have one). Many of these protect online purchases as part of the Consumer Credit Act.
- Only provide required details at checkout: when making your payment, only fill in the mandatory details (often marked with an asterisk) such as your address. Unless you think you'll become a regular customer, don't create an account for the store.
- Keep your accounts secure: create a strong and unique password for your email. If 2-step verification is available, always enable it.
- Watch out for suspicious links: whether it's in an email or social media post, be wary of promotions for unbelievably good holiday offers. If you receive a suspicious email, report it by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk

If you've lost money or provided your financial information to someone, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

THE MESSENGER NINE LETTERS QUIZ

The first letter of each answer will spell out an anagram (a Suffolk village).

What is it?

1. Who is the Coach of the England Rugby Union Team?
2. Which king abdicated in 1936?
3. Name the animal that closely resembles the llama?
4. What was the famous concert held at Wembley Stadium in 1985?
5. What is the capital city of Peru?
6. What bird is also know as the Sea Hawk?
7. Who was the lead guitarist of Slade?
8. What football club are known as the Toffees?
9. In Norse mythology who is the God of thunder, strength and protection?

Answers appear on page 59.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

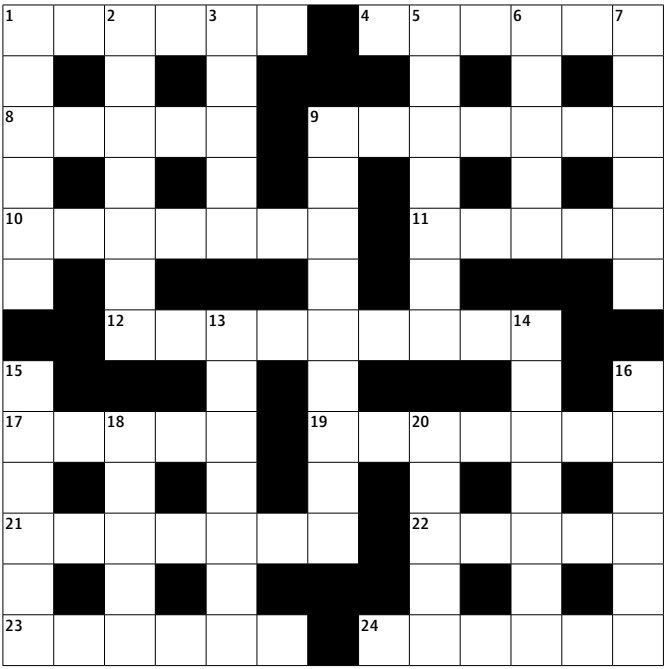
	3				4	2		7
7			1				3	
						9	4	6
		4		2	6			
		8	3		5	6		
			9	4		7		
6	8	3						
	2				8			9
9		7	4				6	

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Fall into line (6)
4 Tap on a cask (6)
8 Customs (5)
9 Hairy (7)
10 2023 Wimbledon champion (7)
11 Extremist (5)
12 Soldier's shelter (6,3)
17 Lamp (5)
19 Do away with (7)
21 Gaffe (4,3)
22 Cereal grass (5)
23 Urge (6)
24 Mark of disgrace (6)

Down

1 Percussion instrument (6)
2 Percussion instrument (7)
3 Contemptible person (5)
5 Disquiet (7)
6 Emaciated (5)
7 Pierce the skull (6)
9 Risky (9)
13 Certain 3 Down (2-5)
14 Radiography (1-6)
15 Suppress (6)
16 Swiss city and canton (6)
18 Approximate (5)
20 Disgorged matter (5)

Last issue solution

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

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NOTICES

GISLINGHAM ALLOTMENT & GARDEN ASSOCIATION (GAGA)

We currently have two vacant plots available.

If you live in Gislingham and would like to have fun growing your own produce, fruit, veg or flowers, with like-minded, helpful and friendly neighbours, please give me a call on: 01379 788998 or by email:
emma-ed@hotmail.co.uk



BELL RINGING AT GISLINGHAM

On Saturday 26th April, at 10.00am Saint Mary's Church Gislingham welcomes a band of Ringers representing the Suffolk Guild of Ringers to ring a peal. This will be about three hours ringing and is a significant achievement for those involved. The band will be led by Rowan Wilson, former chair of the Guild, which has about 700 members, at different levels of experience. The Guild is involved in the promotion of ringing and the training and development of ringing skills.

Also in the preservation, maintenance, and improvement of church bells in Suffolk; through practical help and technical advice, often providing financial support to projects. If you are interested in learning to ring, please contact Alan Stanley 07834 964188.

WANTED

We are looking for a pianist/organist or someone who could accompany the hymns for our services once or twice a month. We currently have a service on the first and third Sunday at 10.30 in St. Mary's church, Gislingham. If you can help, please contact the churchwarden, Ann Cottee on 01379 788633.

HARTISMERE SCHOOL: CLASS IF 1985 REUNION

I am organising a school reunion this year for pupils from Hartismere High School, who left the school in 1985.

This year will be 40 years since we left school and I thought it was a good time to try and get as many of us back together, so I am asking for your help.

I'm asking for any pupils who left Hartismere in 1985 to contact me via email at:

houlddeb@aol.com for details of the reunion being held in May of this year (2025)

Debbie Houldey (Was Debbie Lockwood at High school)

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 56.

1. STEVE BORTHWICK, 2. EDWARD VIII, 3. ALPACA, 4. BAND AID, 5. LIMA, 6. OSPREY, 7. DAVE HILL, 8. EVERTON, 9. THOR, 10. BOTESDALE.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



A message from Reverend David Mulrenan,
Associate Priest of the Hartismere and Hoxne Deanery

I've always been puzzled by why Easter seems to be, for the best part, ignored by the great British public, in favour of Christmas. Obviously, for children, there is the great attraction of Easter egg hunts and the "choc fest" that follows. For adults, it's a chance to have a few days off work just to spend that time in the DIY stores, sorting out the garden or decorating the front room! None of which appeals to me, I have to say!

Christmas is a great festival for everyone coming, as it does, in the middle of our dark winter nights adding gaiety and colour amidst the gloom. Yet, from a Christian perspective, it represents just the start of Christ's problems as he struggles, albeit purposefully, to get us to change our ways and look into His eyes to digest the joy of a meaningful life.

The difference between Christmas and Easter is all about the intrinsic meaning. Christmas represents the nativity, the birth of a child who would eventually turn the world on its head but where the real blockbuster story is told is at Easter. That is the time where the real reason for the incarnation is revealed. Christ's death, in all its brutality and injustice represents the greatest universal act of forgiveness ever witnessed and that all of us will find that there is a meaning to life and a place to look forward to experiencing when we die. A place where there is no pain, no sorrow, no grief and no loneliness... but at what cost? Just by letting Christ into our lives. In what way, you might ask? There are so many. Some are already subliminally letting this happen by the way they are, the way they act and interact with others, the compassion they show towards those they meet, by being a good neighbour, simple acts of kindness, charitable donations, community volunteering, lending an ear to those who are hurting and ultimately praying for those who need support. International diplomats would do well to study how they are acting at this distressing time for the world!

Easter, for me, tells such a greater story of hope and love and one which will last eternally. It also comes at such a great time of the year as we shrug off the yoke of winter to look forward to a period of growth and rebirth. Even the word "Easter" comes from the Celtic and Pagan, "Oestre, the Goddess of Light, who brings fertility with the spring." Many Christian traditions in this country have overlaid ancient Pagan rites. With life beginning to be seen again in our gardens and countryside, it refreshes us and gives us a new sense of that hope and anticipation. We need this and some!

But before we celebrate the joy associated with such an incredible event such as Jesus' resurrection, Holy Week presents us with a walk through a crescendo of betrayal and suffering and the humility of a condemned man washing the feet of his servants - a model of how we should treat others.

Good Friday gives our churches the chance to focus on the appalling ordeal that Christ went through. For us. But that is not the end. We have that mind-blowing celebration which has no peer in the Christian year. The joy of Easter Day.

So, if you have ever wondered why Christians feel so strongly about Easter. You may have questions. If so, why not come along and ask those questions at one of the many Easter services there will be and likely at a church near you. Whilst the pathos of Good Friday can be very telling, that consequent explosion of joy on Easter morning can be commensurately so uplifting.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter. ***David***



APRIL 2025

Sunday 6th April	Thorndon	10.30am	Worship for All
5th Sunday of Lent	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th April	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Worship for All
Palm Sunday	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Holy Communion
Monday 14th April	Thornham Parva	7.30pm	Sung Compline
Tuesday 15th April	Thornham Parva	7.30pm	Sung Compline
Wednesday 16th April	Thornham Parva	7.30pm	Sung Compline
Thursday 17th April	**Fressingfield**		
Maundy Thursday	*Deanery Service*	7.00pm	Holy Communion
Friday 18th April	Stoke Ash	2.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Good Friday	Stoke Ash	3.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 19th April	Yaxley	8.00pm	Easter Eve Holy Communion
Easter Eve			
Sunday 20th April	Gislingham	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
Easter Day	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th April	Yaxley	10.30am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of Easter	Thornham Magna	10.30am	Mattins

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am (NOT 17th)



Reverend Debbie Nicholls – Rector
rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com ✆ 07762 116 335

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LOCAL INFORMATION

BUS TIMETABLES

Gislingham Bus timetable

Route No. VC0001: Gislingham to Stowmarket (Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays)
Leaves Gislingham 09.45 / Arrives Stowmarket, Bury Street 10.26
Returns from Stowmarket, Bury Street 13.00 / Arrives Gislingham 13.41

Fareline Bus (Wednesdays 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 (Wednesdays 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
23 April, 21 May, 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec, 31 Dec.

Times:
Broadfields Road: 15.10 = 15.45
Mill St.: 15.50 – 16.05

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Anglian Water Emergency	0800 145145
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Church Wardens: Gislingham - Ann Cottee Mellis - Vacant (TBC) Thornham Magna and Thornham Parva - James Fawcett	01379 788633 01379 788130
Citizens Advice Bureau Diss	01379 640530
Clerk (Parish) (Gislingham) clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com	07833 705915
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) email: bookmellishall@gmail.com (Thornham Parish Hall - Beth Fredrikssen-Jones) 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 - Adrian Ramsey adrian.ramsay.mp@parliament.uk	07534 933356
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

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