The Messenger



Issue 173
August
2026

Serving Gislingham, Mellis, Yaxley and the Thornhams

THE MESSENGER TEAM



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

Editor & Photographer: Jeff Norman 07795 088764
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

Thornham News & Events Co-Ordinator: Eileen Chandler
email: chandlersuk@yahoo.co.uk

Yaxley News & Events Co-Ordinator: Ian Luff
email: via clerk at Yaxley Parish Council - philip.c.freeman@btinternet.com

Graphic Design: Jo Clifford, email: jclifford2009@gmail.com

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

Facebook: Bob Stuart, email: stuart.bob@gmail.com

Distribution Co-Ordinator: Goyle Weir
email: goyle@mac.com

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

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E-mailed or hand-written submissions always welcome.

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

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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 August issue!

Since our last issue, EcoPower Suffolk has held a hastily arranged second round of public consultations in Gislingham, Occold and Eye between 26 June and 3 July regarding its proposed 2,200-acre solar and battery farm, which would cover a large area of Mid Suffolk. The revised proposals are open for public feedback until 16 August, after which an application for development consent will be submitted. Having attended the consultation in Gislingham and spoken with many residents afterwards, it is clear there are significant concerns about both the construction phase and the locations of the completed development. These concerns are shared by representatives from a number of local parish councils.

Gislingham Parish Council will be preparing an official response to the consultation and is encouraging residents to submit any concerns they would like the Council to consider or include in its response. Please see page 9 for further details. Alternatively, you can submit your views directly via the EcoPower Suffolk consultation website: https://ecopowersuffolk.com

Suffolk County Council has also published its proposed response, recommending that it objects to the current plans. While recognising the importance of renewable energy in meeting national climate and energy targets, the Council believes there remain a number of significant issues that have not been adequately addressed by the developer.

Councillor Tristan Gale, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service, said: "The recommendation to the Cabinet is that the county council objects to this scheme on a number of grounds. Most notably, around 96% of this project is on Suffolk's best and most versatile agricultural land, and road access to many parts of the project is, at best, problematic. The potential impact of the construction of this scheme in terms of traffic, disturbance and the well-being of our communities must be addressed by EcoPower. The battery storage proposals are also of significant concern, and the dispersed arrangements mean that parishes across the project are now hosting battery storage. The council will continue to engage with EcoPower Suffolk and seek changes that reduce impacts on local communities and the environment."

Elsewhere in this edition, we look back at two very successful summer events held in Gislingham: Gisfest and the Summer Fête. Unfortunately, we can only include a selection of photographs within the magazine. However, if you would like to see more, please visit our Facebook page, where you'll find additional photos from Gisfest, the Gislingham Summer Fête and The Hidden Gardens of Mellis. We'd love you to like and follow the page to keep up to date with future events and community news: *https://www.facebook.com/themessengergismeltho*

Looking ahead, August promises another packed programme of events across our local communities, with something for everyone to enjoy. You'll find details throughout this issue.

Until next month,



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: Taken at Gisfest by Colin Davis

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DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



AUGUST:

Saturday 1st August: Coffee morning & Book sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am to 12 noon.

Tuesday 7th August: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Saturday 8th August: Gislingham Garden, Arts and Produce Show - Gislingham Village Hall. See page 11 for details.

Wednesday 19th August: Gislingham WI - Speaker Christine Webber 'Positive Ageing' - Gislingham Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday 22nd August: Jumble Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 noon. See page 12 for details.

Saturday 22nd August: Dance Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm – 10.00pm. See page 28 for details.

Sat 29th, Sun 30th, Mon 31st August: St. Mary's Church Gislingham Annual Flower Festival.
- See page 23 for details.

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

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Friday 4th, Sat 5th & Sun 6th September:** Yaxley Village Hall Centenary Programme of Events
- **Saturday 12th September:** Quiz Night at Gislingham Village Hall
- **Sunday 20th September:** Gislingham Silver Band at Town Yard, Gislingham. – See page 59.

Our next issue is September 2026. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Saturday 15th August

CLUBS, CLASSES & REGULAR EVENTS

GISLINGHAM

Chat & Craft Club: Gislingham Village Hall. 1st Wednesday of every month. 12.00-2.00pm. Contact: Elspeth Tranter on 07473 131841.

Baby and Tots Group for the Under 2's: Primary School (School Term time only)**.** Every Wednesday 9.45am – 11.00am. Contact Debbie Nicholls: 07762 116 335

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

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 every Tuesday. Sit to Stand Pilates – 10.00am. Pilates – Strong, Stretch, Relax – 11.30am For information please contact: Michelle 07572 500465 or 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

The Pub Book Group (Sonnets and Psalms) *starts in September 2026* Last Tuesday of each month at The Four Horseshoes at 6.00pm for dinner followed by discussion. Contact: Sheila Linder e) sheilalinder@hotmail.com

Mellis Cricket Club plays at Thornham Estate (May to Sept.) Phone: James on 07789 111165 or email: jameshkw@icloud.com

MELLIS

Circuit Training Fitness Class: Memorial Hall. Mondays 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Gus: T: 01379 788506 or 07716 118235 / anguswilkinson@btinternet.com

Scentwork for Dogs
Meetings on Tuesdays 2.00pm – 3.00pm at Mellis Memorial Hall
Further details: 07725 567110 or email: info@trailingtails.co.uk

YAXLEY

The Art Club
Meetings on Tuesdays 10.00am to 12 noon once weekly at Yaxley Village Hall
Dates: 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th August. All abilities are welcome. £4.00 per session.
Come and create something artistic in your own style in a relaxed atmosphere.
Further details: Glyn Owens 07768 026065 gavowens@aol.com

The Garden Club
Thursday, 6th August. Afternoon Visit ro Wyken Hall Gardens
More details: Abby Brett: 01379 783984 tony1andabby2@hotmail.com

Yaxley Needlework & Craft Group
Meetings on alternate Wednesdays 5th and 19th August
from 2 to 4pm at Yaxley Village Hall - £2.50 per session
Finish old projects or start a new one – enjoy a chat and a cuppa!
Further details: Celia Armstrong 01379 788754 celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk

THE PUB BOOK GROUP
New Members

Join the pub book group known as the Shakespeare Group to enjoy and discuss **SONNETS AND PSALMS**

All welcome. Enthusiasm is the only qualification

Starting in September 2026

Where : The Four Horseshoes Pub
When : Last Tuesday of each month
Time : 6 pm for dinner followed by discussion

Contact : Sheila Linder sheilalinder@hotmail.com

The Shakespeare Group has been meeting for over 15 years. During those years the group (members coming and going) has read :
Shakespeare – all the plays (41) plus the long poems.
Thomas Hardy – all the novels and most of the poems.
Philip Larkin – poems.
The Bible – Old and New Testaments.

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GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

EcoPower Suffolk Project

Econergy International Ltd will be holding a public consultation on the proposed EcoPower Suffolk project — a solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an anticipated export capacity of approximately 250 MW.

The consultation period will run from Monday 22 June to Sunday 16 August 2026. During this time, residents and stakeholders are invited to review the updated proposals and provide feedback. All comments received will help shape the final design before an application for development consent is submitted.

The Council will be preparing an official response to the consultation. Residents are encouraged to send in any points, concerns, or suggestions they would like the Council to consider or include in its submission. This may include topics you feel should be discussed, issues you believe require clarification, or ideas you wish to see reflected in the final design. Please send to: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 17th August at 7.00pm at Gislingham Village Hall.

Sharlene Budd, Clerk to Gislingham Parish Council



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GISLINGHAM GARDENING, ART & PRODUCE SHOW
Gislingham Gardening, Art & Produce Show
Saturday 8th August 2026
Gislingham Village Hall
NEW CLASSES
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JUMBLE SALE

Gislingham Village Hall

Saturday 22nd August 2026

- **Free Entry**
- **Clothes**
- **Bric a Brac**
- **Refreshments**
- **No Electrical Goods**

Please bring jumble for sale to the Hall on the day between 9:00am and 9:30am

Doors open at 10:00am



NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

June and July saw the Village Hall host two major village events. On 27th June the annual 'Gisfest' music festival took place. The Village Hall Committee organised and manned the BBQ and Bar. Thanks to Chris Saunders and Richard Adams for arranging the entertainment. The event was very well attended and everybody seemed to enjoy it.

On 11th July the Gislingham Summer Fete was held with the Village Hall Committee organising and manning the Bar. Various other village organisations supplied stalls with Gislingham Variety Club providing some entertainment. We were blessed with good weather and the day was a resounding success. Congratulations to the Summer Fete Committee for organising the day.

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 22nd August: Jumble Sale - Free entry. Doors open at 10.00am. Clothes, Bric-a-brac, Toys, Books and Refreshments. Please take clean and quality jumble for sale to the Hall on the day between 9.00am and 9.30am

Saturday 12th September: Quiz Night - Doors open at 7.00 pm. Bring your own food and drinks. £5.00 entry. Tickets available from Terry Williams at gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com or 01379 83903

Saturday 17th October: Bingo Night - Watch this space for details.

Saturday 7th November: Music Night – watch this space for details

Saturday 12th December: Quiz Night - Doors open at 7.00 pm. Bring your own food and drinks. £5.00 entry. Tickets available from Terry Williams at gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com or 01379 83903



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.

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

YAXLEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Running a parish council is rarely dull and I, with the invaluable help of the Clerk, find myself every month trying to solve issues that come up between meetings, such as concerns raised by parishioners, external projects and small emergencies that require immediate action. Sometimes reacting to such things requires a policy decision and has to be put to the full council before action is taken. Sometimes the action needed is clear and it is within our power to act quickly and decisively. Quite often the action required falls outside of a parish council's limited powers and we have to depend on the co-operation of others, such as private property holders, in order for a satisfactory solution to be reached. In my experience as Chairman of Yaxley Parish Council over the last ten years and as a parish councillor over the last twenty, the last, more nuanced, category is very much the hardest to explain to the public. People come to us with an issue and expect it to be solved, but sometimes do not realise we are bound by powers that have been given to us by Parliament and by the law and we cannot please all of the people, all of the time. Outcomes oscillate between frustration and success and recently we have experienced both.

Frustration: The Eternal Problem of the Footpath (and Lack of Footpath) on Mellis Road

Ever since I was voted onto the Parish Council in 2005 serious issues regarding pedestrian access to Mellis School from Yaxley Village have appeared on our agendas numerous times. Essentially, the first half mile between the Cherry Tree and Maple Close is without a footpath despite the fact that the road contains many blind bends and is used by a copious number of cars, heavy lorries, and buses. The second half mile between Maple Close and Mellis School does have a footpath which is narrow along its whole length but is particularly so opposite Yaxley Manor House. This narrowness is compounded by mud and dead vegetation in the winter months and by hedge growth in the summer months meaning that adults pushing pushchairs or guiding toddlers often have to take extreme care.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council's powers to improve the situation are very limited indeed. Maintenance of the road and of the footpath are both the statutory responsibility of Suffolk County Council Highways, and the trimming/cutting back of the many hedges abutting the road and the footpath is the clear responsibility of the owners of the land on which the hedges have their roots. Neither are therefore the responsibility of the Parish Council but this does not mean we do not strive to address problems.

Construction of a Footpath?

Whilst Keith Pawsey was Chairman of the Council he responded to a local petition and managed to persuade County Cllr Jessica Fleming and Highways to commission a scoping survey of the feasibility of constructing a footpath from the Cherry Tree to Maple Close. This identified a very large number of obstacles to such a scheme such as the relocation of communication cables and identification of land on which to route a footpath without narrowing the road still further. The cost projected ran into the best part of a million pounds and the County Council's Highways department, understandably perhaps, decided not to proceed.

Maintaining the Width of the Existing Footpath: Surely Easier?

The Parish Council recognises that mud and decaying vegetation encrusted on the path do reduce the usable width of the footpath and, even though this really is the responsibility of SCC Highways we employ a contractor to clear these regularly throughout the year by shovelling clear the area of the whole tarmac and snipping off brambles stretching across the path. The overgrown hedges are a much more difficult problem. Much as the Parish Council would like to cut back the hedges

along the footpath it simply does not have the official power to do so. The footpath is abutted by many private properties. Many of these property owners cut back their hedges diligently. Some do not. In the case of a hedge overgrowing the footpath to some extent the Parish Council's sole course of action is to write a letter requesting the property owner to cut back his or her hedge outside of bird nesting season, which, ironically, is the period of maximum hedge growth. Often these letters are responded to, sometimes they are not. If they are not our only recourse would be to refer the matter to Highways using our weight as a public body. Reporting is also open to individuals via: https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/en-gb

Some complainants may not have appreciated these issues, and I thought I would take this chance, not to make excuses, but to explain the realities of the situation. I would appeal to owners of hedges abutting the footpath to trim regularly if they do not already do so.

Success: Emergency Action and Potholes

On a happier note, Suffolk Highways acted promptly and impressively in early July to react to our report of a severely damaged heavy branch overhanging the footpath close to Thornham Road. This branch appeared to have been hit by a high vehicle and was a threat to both pedestrians and vehicles heading to and from the school on the day of the School Fete. Highways had 'made safe' within less than an hour of the call.

I am also glad to report that several potholes around the village have been extremely well repaired since my last article. This was a result of constant pressure from the Parish Council and intervention from County Councillor, Mr Paul Bains and District Councillor Mr Tim Weller. Thanks to all involved.

Pre-emptive Action

The Parish Council pays a contractor to give extra cuts of verges in areas of reported obstruction of view to traffic. Most notably this is done on the entrance to Cherry Tree Close and the Eye Road roundabout on the A140.

Eco Power

By the time you read this the parish council will have joined with other local parishes to receive information from the relevant SCC Cabinet member, our local councillors, Paul Bains and Tim Weller and previous cabinet member Cllr Richard Rout relevant to our response to the consultation to the Eco Power Project.

Water Main Renewal

Although Essex and Suffolk Water did give much notice and information on the essential scheme to renew the water main (dating in Yaxley from 1952) along the Mellis Road the project was delayed and notice of its new date commencing on 29th June was received by us only two days before. We put notices in our notice boards the same day and put the information on our website but many may not have seen them. In a nutshell, the crucial information from E&S Water given also at a recent 'drop in' is:

'Work will begin on Monday 29 June 2026 and will be delivered in three phases. To carry out the work safely, a full road closure will be required for Phases 2 and 3:

Phase 1: Monday 29 June – Friday 24 July 2026 (The Common, Mellis – private land)

Phase 2: Monday 20 July – Monday 31 August 2026 (Mellis Railway Tavern to Judas Lane, including the closure of Thrandeston Road)

Phase 3: Monday 31 August – Friday 16 October 2026 (Judas Lane to Yaxley Cherry Tree)'

Let's brace ourselves for this. We have little alternative.

Ian (Chairman Yaxley Parish Council)



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YAXLEY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our Centenary Weekend will soon be here and we are all looking forward to celebrating 100 years of Yaxley Village Hall. By the time you read this all Yaxley residents should have received a free copy of the programme. All non Yaxley residents will have been able to see a copy in the July Messenger. We hope everyone will be able to pop in over the weekend of the 4th to 6th September, to see the historical display, attend one of the events, or just have a drink at the bar. Raffle tickets will be on sale throughout the weekend with the grand draw being made on the Sunday evening.

For anyone wishing to hire the hall for an event we are pleased to announce that for a small extra charge we now have a projector available for hire along with a sound system, which not only provides a PA system but can link to your own mobile phone and play music for your entertainment.

The running of the Village Hall relies on the good will of our committee of volunteers, and it is with regret that we have to announce that two of our long serving members will be retiring shortly after years of loyal service. This may result in the remaining members unable to continue as that will leave only 4. At one time not so many years ago there were 15 active members which made life easier as everyone shared the work that had to be done. It is now that we have to appeal to the residents of Yaxley to come forward if you are able and help to continue the activities of the hall into the future. If you have an hour or so a month to spare and would like to assist us in running the Hall then please get in touch with Gill Stone (Chairperson) gill.ianstone@yahoo.com

Do you know of a good home for a Table Tennis table?





Our Table Tennis group have now ceased operations and we have a modern folding table which we would like to give away free to any group or organisation that can put it to good use. All you have to do is arrange transport to collect it by calling: 01379 788754.

Bingo Night

Finally, join us on Saturday 19th September in Yaxley Village Hall for BINGO with your resident caller John Hawes

HIRE OF YAXLEY VILLAGE HALL
To book or enquire, please contact Celia Armstrong on 01379 788754 or email: celiaarmstrong @hotmail.co.uk



WORTHAM POST OFFICE

The Wortham Post Office, located on Long Green in Wortham, has operated as a central village hub for nearly two centuries. Housed in a historic Grade II listed building that dates back to the early 1800s, it has served generations of the local Suffolk community.



As far back as 1860, when the store was run by a Mr. Youngman Browne. It served as a vital gathering spot for villagers to post letters and collect goods. But it was also the best place for a good old chin wag! Or so wrote Wortham's Reverend Richard Cobbold (pictured right), in his book *Features of Wortham*, which he illustrated with 120 of his own paintings (see above). He wrote the book for the amusement of his wife. He had this to say about the store's proprietor...

"Who in the Parish of Wortham can forget Mr Browne or Mr Browne's Shop? I wonder how many villages in England are without a Browne - or how many Browne's Shops there are in this country. Let there be as many as there may be, there are very few more decided characters than Mr Charles Youngman Browne, the respected Shop keeper in this parish. He is a man of no mean capacity, and one whose power of speech when he gets upon his favourite topic, human capacity or such, that I wish for once a shorthand writer would take down all he could say in one hour. He is a very civil well-behaved and well-to-do man. Light hearted, lively and active, the most voluble talker - and ready for an argument at any time. - He said to me the other day - 'I see no reason why a man such as myself should not live to be a hundred years old' I replied: I see many thousand reasons why it should not be so! - In the first place it is thirty years beyond the usual period of life allotted to man - and each day of those years is a reason against it, so there are thirty times three hundred and sixty-five days with a reason against it each day."

During the war, the store was owned by the Clarke family. Mr. Clarke also ran a bakery from the right-side of the building. As you can see from the 2 photos below right, taken by T Legg, in 1947 and 1950 respectively, and the recent photo at the bottom of the page, the building really hasn't changed very much over the years.

The property was officially recognised for its historic importance and received a Grade II listed building designation in July 1955.

In the 1960s, historical records indicate that Mrs. Aldridge was the postmistress in charge of the branch. Over the decades, the post office grew into a joint business featuring Wortham Stores and Teashop.

In 2008, the business was taken over by Peter and Janice Lloyd, who expanded the services to include a community teashop and well-stocked village store. The combined store, tearoom, and post office continued serving the community under long-time operators, the Lloyd family. The branch provides standard postal, banking, and travel services to the village of Wortham and surrounding areas.

In 2023, the property, which includes a neighbouring cottage and a three-bed flat, was placed on the market as the owners prepared for retirement. Fast forward to 2026 and, whilst the business has proved difficult to sell, at the time of writing, we understand a new buyer has been found to carry on its legacy.







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22nd July 2026
5th August 2026
19th August 2026

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Group Tours can also be arranged through the above link.



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NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



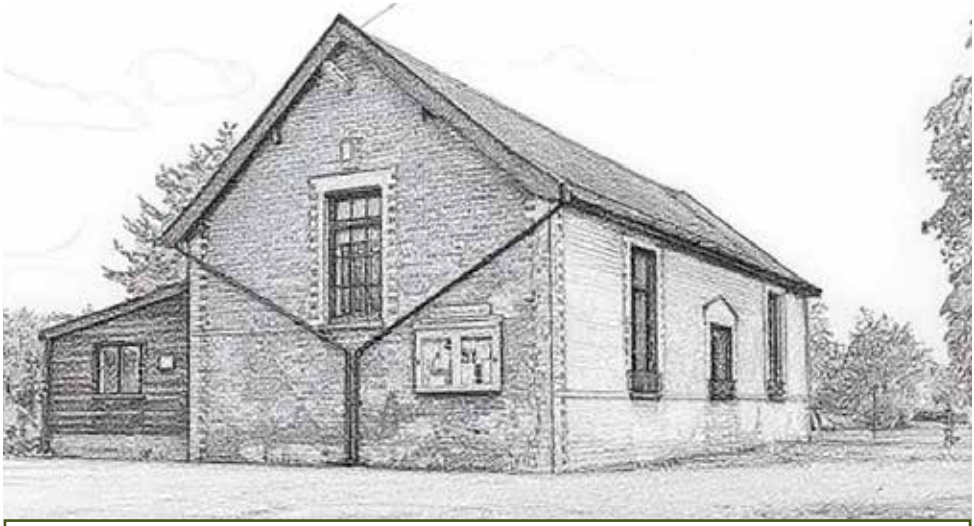
FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday 4th October:
Coffee Morning – details to follow.

Sunday 15th November:
Winter Fair: – details to follow.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesdays:
Sit to Stand Pilates – 10.00am.
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Gisfest 2026 proved to be a wonderful event, blessed with glorious summer sunshine and attracting a huge crowd from Gislingham and the surrounding villages.

The day got underway with Norman Herbert and his guitar, followed by Charlie Grout, who entertained the audience with his acoustic set. Next to take the stage was Hara, a talented four-piece folk band whose harmonies shone through a mix of original songs and covers.

The entertainment continued with Dukes of Uke, delighting the audience with a selection of classic hits from the 1960s, before Leanne and Reg delivered a memorable performance. Their moving rendition of Never Enough from The Greatest Showman brought a tear to many an eye. Chris and Reg then changed the pace with a selection of guitar classics, expertly accompanied on keyboard.

A new band featuring Bay and friends performed next and was warmly received, treating the crowd to songs by Radiohead and The Cranberries.

Chris Saunders' band, the Poppy Seeds, followed with a set of popular covers that kept the audience thoroughly entertained. Chris Jolly then had everyone singing and dancing along to a collection of rock classics, finishing with a rousing rendition of Wonderwall, which has now become England's World Cup anthem!

The festival concluded in style with The Zanticks and the first live performance of their new singer, Bex. It was the perfect way to bring a fantastic day of music to a close.

I would like to thank everyone whose hard work helped make Gisfest 2026 such a tremendous success, including all those who gave their time to run the bar and barbecue and to Scott Faulker for providing the keg beer. Special thanks must go to Chris Saunders for his invaluable technical expertise, advice and support. Without his dedication, Gisfest simply would not have been possible.

I am delighted that the event raised almost £740 towards the Village Hall funds. Thank you to everyone who came to support Gisfest 2026. See you next year. ***RA***

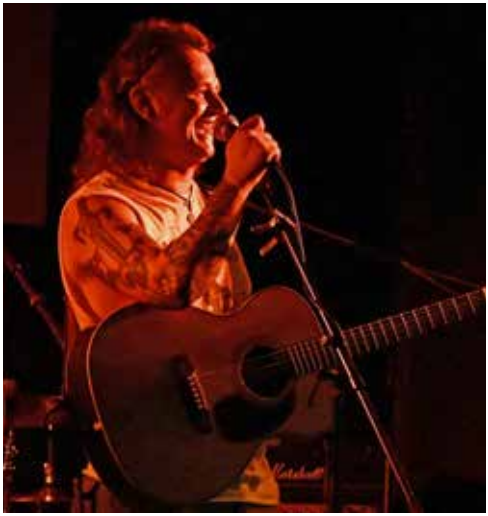




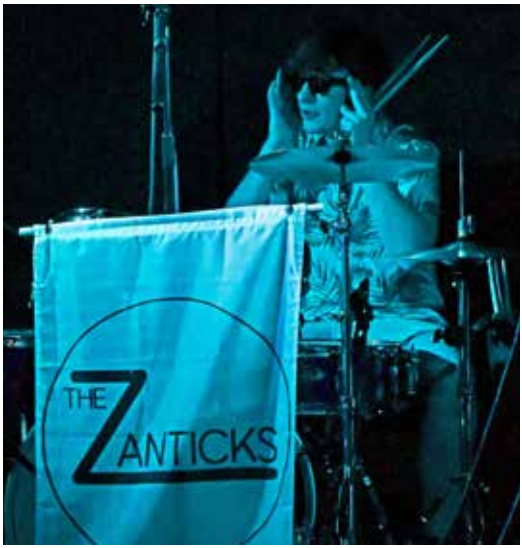








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GISLINGHAM VILLAGE FETE 2026



What a perfect day for a Fete! On Saturday 11th July, Gislingham held its Summer Fete centred on the Village Green. The day started coolly, ideal for setting up and by 1.00pm at the start of the Fete it was glorious sunshine, warm, but not baking hot. Nevertheless, the ice cream van did a steady trade as did the drinks tent and the tea rooms with home made cakes, brilliantly catered by the Gislingham WI. As ever, the BBQ was in full swing throughout the afternoon, delicious burgers and hot dogs prepared by the 1st Mendlesham Scouts. Live entertainment was provided by the Gislingham School choir who opened proceedings at 1pm, followed at 2:30 by the Gislingham Variety Club singers who sang a medley of 50s songs in splendid 50s dresses.

There was ample opportunity to win a variety of prizes on many games provided by Playgroup and Friends of Gislingham School, including; ping-pong; penalty shoot-out; bowling for a pig; Skee ball; hook a duck and many others. There was also an opportunity to be "face-painted", extremely popular with children, but some adults relished the chance to display the flag of St George on their cheeks in readiness for that evening's World Cup quarter-final against Norway. Although there was the traditional "pound-in-a-bucket" and lottery with a top prize of £50 and many other prizes donated by local attractions and pubs, the star "prize" was a barrow of booze which as the name suggests was a new wheelbarrow (generously donated by Clarke's of Walsham) full to overflowing with bottles and can of various alcoholic beverages. Not surprisingly there was much interest in this prize and astonishment and disappointment when the winner was revealed to be the same person that won it in 2025!

It was an event enjoyed by many, but it wouldn't have happened without the commitment of many volunteers and especially Robbie Walker who took over the chairmanship when it seemed there would be no Fair or Fete in 2026.

However, as well as all the hard work by the volunteers the committee is especially grateful to those local businesses that supported us through donations of prizes for the lottery and we would like to thank: The White Horse at Stoke Ash; the Four Horseshoes at Thornham; Jimmy's Farm; Stonham Owl Sanctuary; Henry Watson Pottery; Diss High Altitude Trampoline; Angel Café Diss; and author Ruth Leigh.

All profits from the day will go to support FOGS, Friends of St Mary's, Village Hall, Playgroup, WI and scouts. Once again, many thanks to all who took part as volunteers, donors or attendees. We look forward to the 2027 Fete.

CP

GISLINGHAM VILLAGE FETE 2026
IN PHOTOS











GISLINGHAM VILLAGE FETE 2026
IN PHOTOS

















NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes



Comma



Red Admiral



Marsh Orchid



Bee Orchid



Pyramidal Orchid



Turtle Dove



Hummingbird Hawk Moth

Last month I mentioned that Greater Spotted Woodpeckers had been spending time in the garden feeding their young. Here's a photo of a mature female bird waiting to feed her offspring as it takes a cooling bath.



There have been plenty of butterflies to see so far this summer, including Commas, Red Admirals Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers as well as many Cabbage Whites.

Despite the recent very hot weather, there have been many beautiful wild flowers to admire in hedgerows and meadows around our villages. Rob Farrow has kindly sent in a photo of a Pyramidal Orchid that he spotted growing in long grass whilst walking his dog around Yaxley. In the UK there are 52 different species of orchids, many of them are really spendid and some very rare. A couple of other species that I have come across locally are the Bee Orchid, whose flowers uncannily resemble a bee taking pollen from a flower, and the Marsh Orchid. Mellis Common is a good place to visit to see orchids and is where the rare Green Winged Orchid may be found (www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/melliscommon). Well worth keeping an eye out for these when taking a walk.

It's been a few years since I heard of a Turtle Dove being seen in Gislingham and I myself have never been lucky enough to see one in the wild. During a recent visit to the Pensthorpe Nature Park near Fakenham in Norfolk, however, I was pleased to come across one of these birds, albeit it was within an enclosure. Whilst not as satisfactory as seeing one in the wild, it did at least give me an opportunity to admire its beautifully patterned and colourful plumage close up. Sadly, Turtle Doves have become rare in the UK since the mid 1970's. This being due to loss of its preferred food during its breeding season and unsustainable hunting in France, Spain and Portugal along its migration routes.

I have heard several people comment recently upon seeing Hummingbird Hawk Moths in their gardens. These are large daytime flying months, about 35mm long and, like a Hummingbird, are able to hover perfectly still as they take nectar from a flower before darting away to another. Particular flowers that they favour include Buddleia, Lavender, Honeysuckle, Red Valerian and Verbena. This moth beats its wings at up to 80 times a second and can move very swiftly. If you decide to try and photograph one, I recommend using flash as it will help freeze the action.

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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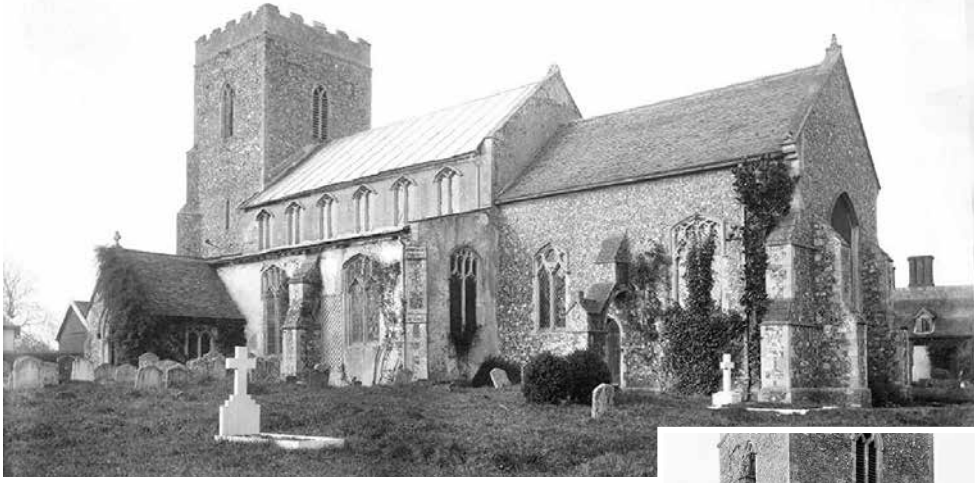
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THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, YAXLEY AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF YAXLEY





For centuries until bypassed in the 1970s the village of Yaxley lay at a kink on the Roman Road originally built from Colchester to facilitate rapid military access to the enforced settlement for the remnants of the rebellious Iceni tribe at Caister St Edmund in Norfolk.

After about 1340 travellers approaching Yaxley's later notorious, double bend couldn't help but see the lovely flint church tower of St Mary the Virgin which still retains some of its original medieval glass and still dominates the bends to this day. This church is likely to have been built on the site of an earlier Roman or possibly Saxon place of worship dating back over more than a thousand years.

By 1480 the Yaxley family had paid for the addition of 'a large and richly ornamented north porch' which is truly the jewel in the crown of this lovely little church. This porch is described in the prestigious and authoritative Pevsner Architectural guide as being of 'one of the most swagger in Suffolk'. Considering that Suffolk has some of the finest churches in England that is praise indeed for the quality of Yaxley's small church which has also received the relatively rare designation of a Grade 1 listing giving it the highest level of protection.

Within the church is a late medieval rood screen which shows both glorious painting and marks of defacement from the protestant high tide of the reformation in the reign of Edward VI (1547-53). Above is the remnant of a medieval 'doom' painting designed to frighten churchgoers into rectitude. Outside in the churchyard over literally layers of the graves of Yaxley's villagers from many centuries lay a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo, John Bond, and the director of the Royal ballet, Sir Frederick Ashton and other prominent villagers.

Now Yaxley church is under real threat of partial collapse. The south aisle is showing severe cracking at both ends and masonry is falling to the extent part of it has had to be cordoned off.







It is covered by a rotting timber roof which has never fully recovered from the theft of its lead in 2016 and a subsequent two years under a tarpaulin as funds were sought for repair. The south porch is cracking badly, and the flying buttress is literally falling apart.

Yaxley Parochial Church Council is responsible for the building and not only has to try to fund repairs but also commission architects and structural engineers to report before intricate permissions can be sought to carry out even the simplest of repairs on a listed ecclesiastical building. Recently the drainage system was identified as one cause of the cracking and was repaired at a cost of £13,000 funded by applications for grants to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust after extensive professional reports made it possible to make a convincing case for help to a grant awarding body. Other grants can and will be applied for but many demand a matched or significant Parish contribution which will be very difficult to raise. The congregation is tiny and fund-raising through the Strawberry Tea, Soup Lunch and Harvest Supper brings in a hard earned but relatively minuscule amount.

The Church needs your help!

To attract grants we must be able to show that the PCC is able to contribute some significant funds to repairs and its coffers genuinely are nearly empty. Repairs to the south aisle cracks, proper re-roofing, rebuilding of the porch and attention to the Flying Buttress plus associated reports and permissions will cost around £250,000.

All in all, this church building is something very special. Special for worship. Special for research. Special for even the non-religious as Yaxley's finest historic building by far. Special for those who prize the history of the village and, more coldly, even special for those who have no interest of any of the above but realise that a functioning and beautiful church boosts property values.

Can you, the people of Yaxley, help to save this special church. Could you consider contributing to the restorations and repairs. You may have ideas as to how to fund raise for this beautiful building. Nobody is asking for vast sums but if the PCC can show that the people of Yaxley care about their church then it has a much-increased chance of obtaining significant repair grants.

Please help. If you would like to, send what you can to:

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Yaxley Parochial Church Council

Photos: taken c1950 by T. Legg



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TAKE THAT'S THE CIRCUS TOUR 2026



Take That's legendary 2009 Circus Tour became one of the biggest tours in UK history, selling over one million tickets and becoming famous for its spectacular circus-themed production. Seventeen years later, Gary Barlow, Mark Owen and Howard Donald brought the iconic show back for one final run, recreating many of its most memorable moments while making the production even bigger and more ambitious. I was lucky enough to attend the London Stadium show on 26th June with my mum for our first ever stadium concert together, and it was an unforgettable experience from start to finish.

The evening began with support acts Belinda Carlisle and The Script, who were both fantastic. Belinda performed classics including Leave a Light On and Heaven Is a Place on Earth, while The Script got the crowd dancing with favourites such as Superheroes and Hall of Fame. They certainly won my mum over and were the perfect warm-up for what was to come.

As the clock struck 8:30pm, the circus officially began. Just as in 2009, Balón and his circus troupe opened with Adventures of a Lonely Balloon, building anticipation before revealing Take That beneath a hot air balloon as they launched into Greatest Day. Starting on the B-stage in the middle of the audience, they followed with hits including Could It Be Magic, Pray, A Million Love Songs and Back for Good, complete with their original 90s choreography - they've still got the moves!

One of the evening's standout moments came during The Garden, when a breathtaking 30-foot mechanical elephant emerged from beneath the stage carrying the band. Complete with a water-spraying trunk and an acrobat hanging upside down flicking her long hair to form the tail, it slowly walked from the B-stage to the main stage and was unlike anything I'd ever seen before. The show continued with energetic performances of Shine, Up All Night, Babe and their new song You're a Superstar, accompanied by trapeze artists, trampoline performers and other circus acts. It was brilliant to hear the new song live alongside so many classics.

The pace then slowed as everyone left the stage, leaving Gary to perform a moving mash-up of Love Ain't Here Anymore and Nobody Else, followed by The Circus while, in one of the most magical moments of the night, tightrope walker Ellis Grover crossed a wire suspended 19ft above the audience.

The iconic 'Clown Medley' returned exactly as fans remembered it, with Gary, Mark and Howard applying clown make-up live on stage to the song What Is Love before launching into Do What U Like, Promises, It Only Takes a Minute and Take That and Party. One of the funniest moments came when Mark and Howard rode unicycles back to the B-stage, while Gary appeared on a tricycle with stabilisers. It looked like they were all having great fun 'clowning around' despite the 35C heat that day.

Then came the encore, and WOW! It somehow raised the bar even higher. A giant inflatable ringmaster with Zoe Birkett's projection-mapped face introduced Relight My Fire, featuring aerial performers amongst the flames and Zoe delivering an incredible vocal performance.

Finally, Hold Up a Light brought every performer back on stage, including the elephant, for a joyful celebration of the cast and crew's incredible performances of the show, before Rule the World closed the evening with spectacular fireworks around the stadium roof.

Overall, this was one of the most memorable concerts I've ever attended. Having watched the original 2009 DVD many times, seeing The Circus recreated live felt surreal, and at times it genuinely felt like I had stepped inside the DVD. The production was somehow even bigger than the original, and every detail demonstrated why this tour remains so iconic and popular with fans. With Take That confirming this will be the final time The Circus is performed, I feel incredibly grateful to have experienced it.

Charlotte

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TERRAPIN NEWS



My grandchildren 8 and 10 have just invested in a small fish tank complete with fish, snails, shrimps and plants, a small ecosystem, quite self-contained one might think. Except the fish depend for their existence on imported food and a small electric pump that oxygenates the water. That pump is connected to our electricity grid. Today at 2.25 that electricity is sourced from: 4.9% Gas, 41.4% solar, 24.6% wind, 0.6% hydroelectric, 9.0% nuclear, 4.3% Biomass, 17.9% imported from Europe and 2.8% is going into pumped storage. https://grid.iamkate.com/

On 10th July we reached the end of Week 6 of Better Recycling and completed two full collection cycles under the new service arrangements. From the council's perspective, the service is now operating as intended, with all scheduled rounds completed this week, and reports of missing bins and collections are reducing rapidly in number.

In the week ending 3 July, the new food waste service collected 180.83 tonnes of food waste across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, and 153 tonnes in the week ending 10 July. While this remains variable, it is a very positive result.

Those tonnes represent material that would previously have entered the residual waste stream and been sent for disposal via Suffolk's Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility at SUEZ, Great Blakenham.

In 2024, the Suffolk Energy-from-Waste facility processed a total of 286,588 tonnes of mixed waste, our black bins and exported 184,402 MWh of electricity to the grid, enough to power over 50,000 homes. This equates to approximately 643 kWh of electricity exported per tonne of waste processed. [suffolkefw.co.uk]

Food waste is now being diverted to anaerobic digestion (AD), which produces renewable biomethane and nutrient-rich digestate that can be returned to agricultural land. This is generally regarded as a preferable treatment route for food waste because wet organic material produces relatively high biogas yields, whereas burning food waste is less efficient due to its high moisture content. However, the anaerobic digestors that process food waste requires a guaranteed amount of biomaterial to run efficiently so farmers are commissioned to grow crops specifically for them.

DEFRA reports that in 2024 approximately 142,000 hectares of UK agricultural land were used to grow bioenergy crops, representing around 2.3% of UK arable land.

By comparison, ground-mounted solar farms currently occupy approximately 15,600–17,400 hectares across the UK, equivalent to around 0.06–0.07% of total UK land area. Researchers estimate that achieving future solar deployment targets would require approximately 0.45–0.82% of UK agricultural land.

Nationally, this suggests that continuing present trends, meeting current targets for solar expansion, bioenergy crops will still occupy at least three times more agricultural land than solar farms are expected to require. As processing food waste reduces the need for farmers to dedicate crops for bioenergy, farmland may be released to grow crops for human consumption. Perhaps sufficiently compensating for the installation of solar farms on agricultural land. A win for both food and energy security.

We may think we live independently but we are existentially connected in so many ways.

Rowland Warboys Cllr. Mid Suffolk District Council, Gislingham Ward

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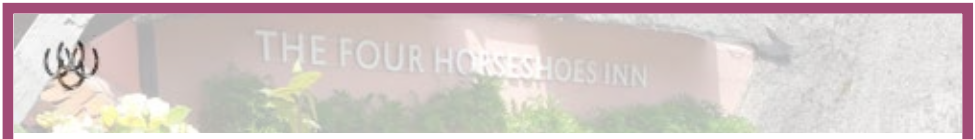
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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!



This month, Trading Standards have notified us about two scams that are currently prevalent in Suffolk and Norfolk.

Scam Alert - Emails claiming to be from 'EE'

Trading Standards are warning EE customers about scam emails circulating claiming to be a 'Payment Reminder as 'your last bill payment was not settled in full and there remains an outstanding balance of £4.27 on your account'. The email goes on to state that 'to avoid any potential service interruption' payment should be made via a link included in the text.

These emails are fake and anyone following the link will be taken to a fake version of the EE website which will attempt to gather personal, account and financial details or download malware onto your device. The criminals sending these emails often use small amounts as the figure to be paid as they believe people are more likely to make payment to avoid issues with their service but would question requests for larger amounts

Trading Standards advice is always to be wary of claims made in unexpected email approaches and never click on links or open attachments if approached in this way. It is highly likely that versions of this email will be circulating claiming different outstanding amounts.

If you are concerned about the security of an online account log in to it directly via the official website or app or contact your service providers customer service via a number available on a recent bill, official website or app, never use contact numbers given in these emails.

You can report any suspicious email received by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Cold Calling Alert - Telephone cold callers regarding solar panels

Residents with solar panels on their property are being asked to be on their guard for telephone cold callers who call making claims regarding existing systems and checks which they will state are needed. This follows further reports received from residents which included one where the cold caller made a number of claims about the resident 'previously agreeing to checks on their solar panels' and then attempting to make an appointment for a visit to their property.



Trading Standards advice is always to be very wary of any approach made in a telephone cold call and never agree to services, to having work done, to purchase additional items or for someone to visit your home if approached in this manner. Solar panel owners should always talk to their supplier before allowing any work or 'maintenance' to take place on their panels.

Generally, a solar panel system does not need servicing, but it may benefit from being cleaned if the panels are dirty. Any work on the electrics of a solar panel system should only be carried out by a qualified electrician.

If you need advice about telephone cold calling or have agreed to a visit during a cold call, contact Trading Standards via their partners the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone: 0808 223 1133

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WHO AM I? QUIZ

Below are seven clues as to who I am this month..

1. 60 years ago, almost to the day, I became a sporting legend.
2. I was a talented cricketer who played once for Essex in 1962.
3. In 1959 at the age of 15, I signed as an apprentice for West Ham United football club.
4. In the summer holidays, I would paint the stands at the football club to earn extra money.
5. I scored 242 goals in 500 appearances for West Ham United.
6. Ironically, my mother's side of the family originate from Germany.
7. I was the first player to score 3 goals in a World Cup final. A record held for 56 years, until 2022.
8. I am the last surviving member of the legendary England football team that won England's only men's World Cup in 1966.

The answer appears at the foot of page 59.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

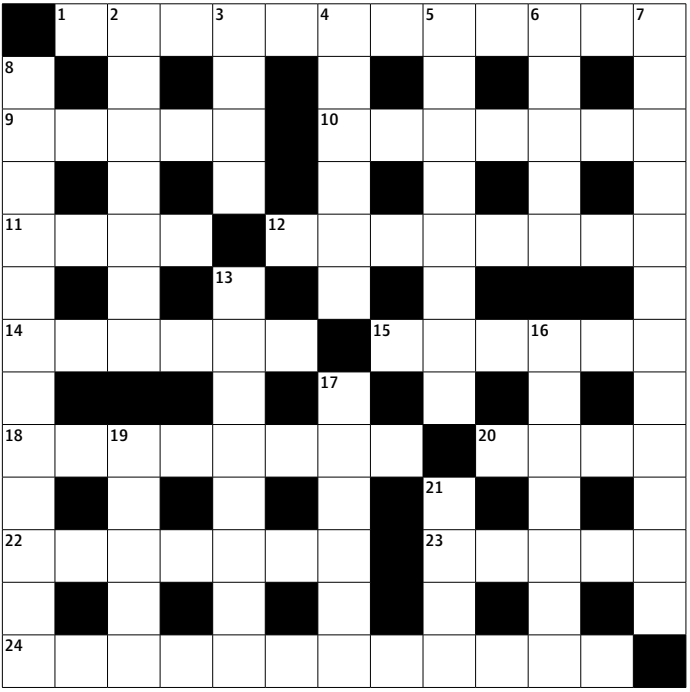
	4				1			6
1						7	2	
	8				2			5
9		4	3	1				
		3		8		6		
				9	5	3		1
8			5				1	
	3	9						8
7			8				6	

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Jittery (6-6)
9 Made of a particular wood (5)
10 Top voice (7)
11 Void partner? (4)
12 Music recorder – in the 1980s? (4,4)
14 To vary (anag.) – staunch believer (6)
15 Good (business) judgement (6)
18 More than peckish! (8)
20 Mastery – hold tight! (4)
22 Persistently annoying (7)
23 Amalgamate (5)
24 Radio set (6-6

Down

2 Test smudge? (7)
3 Goose sound (4)
4 Bootlicker (3-3)
5 Very little money (8)
6 Employment (5)
7 Struck instrument (12)
8 It could just happen! (3,5,4)
13 Adriatic seaport – toast (8)
16 Gin and dry vermouth (7)
17 Precious lump (6)
19 Prayer period to keep? (5)
21 Taurus charger (4)

Last issue solution

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

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NOTICES

LOVE SUFFOLK CHURCHES?
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The Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride event for 2026 will take place on Saturday, September 12th. Participants can cycle, walk, or ride horses between local places of worship from 9:00am to 5:00pm, raising sponsorship money split equally between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and a specific church of their choice.

The annual event is the largest fundraiser for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and helps preserve over 500 historic churches and chapels across the county. Participants plot their own routes, enjoying Suffolk's countryside while gathering signatures at each church they visit.

You can sign up as an individual or group, download sponsorship forms, and set up a donation page directly via the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride page at:

https://shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

The Gislingham bike ride organiser is Jackie Campbell for St. Mary's Church and can be contacted on: 01379 783329 if you would like to participate.



Answers to the Who Am I? Quiz on page 56. *Sir Geoff Hurst.*

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



Dear friends,

As late summer settles in—golden evenings, gardens heavy with fruit, school lists appearing on kitchen tables—I find myself grateful for the quiet gifts of this season. After the bright rush and oven temperatures of June and July, August and early September invite us to slow down and notice: the long light on familiar lanes, the way the air hints at change without hurrying it.

The Gospel often meets us in such ordinary moments. Jesus points to seeds, fields, lamps on stands—simple things that become parables in the hands of God. Perhaps that is our invitation now: to let the simple things preach to us. Where have you seen faith grow quietly this summer? In a conversation reconciled, a meal shared, a habit of prayer rekindled, a neighbour helped? Grace rarely arrives with fanfare; it slips in like evening light and reveals what was already being formed.

This is also a time of preparation. Students ready their school bags, teachers prepare classrooms, families re-set routines, and our parishes gear up for ministries beginning anew.

For me, the late Summer will mean something quite extraordinary. Not going back to work in September for a new school term. I shall be retiring from work at Framlingham Sir Robert Hitcham's School after nineteen years there and fifty-three years working overall. Not bad for someone approaching the big 70 next May, even if I do say so myself!

As Autumn approaches, I think it will have a significant meaning for me. The power of the Sun and heat in the air starts to lose strength but that invites me to slow down and take in more of what is around me. To get on my walking boots and appreciate more and wonder more at the great design of nature. I'm often quizzed about God's hand in creation. The inquisitor is often atheist and doubts the possibility of a grand design in favour of a great accident of evolution. Me, well I find it a whole less plausible that there isn't a grand design when you consider how things work, especially in reproduction. The response is normally a disbelieving frown but "faith believes not questions how" to quote a line in our hymnody.

A word, too, for those who find this time heavy. Late summer can stir loneliness, grief, or uncertainty—especially when the year hasn't unfolded as we hoped. Please know you are not alone. Bring your needs to the Lord; bring them to our communities, to our churches. Let us carry one another.

Three simple invitations for the weeks ahead:

- Make room for silence. Even five minutes of unhurried prayer can re-centre a scattered heart.
- Practice gratitude. Name three gifts each day; watch how it changes your vision.
- Recommit to Sunday. Our worship gathers our fragments and sends us out as one body.

As we approach harvest time, may we become people who gather: gather the overlooked, gather our attention back to what matters, gather courage for the works of mercy before us and may Christ, the true Light, guide our steps.

God bless you and those you love.

David Mulrenan, Associate Priest, Hartismere and Hoxne Deanery.

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST *9th Sunday after Trinity*	Gislingham	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST *10th Sunday after Trinity*	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST *11th Sunday after Trinity*	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST *12th Sunday after Trinity*	Yaxley	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST *13th Sunday after Trinity*	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am



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LOCAL INFORMATION

BUS TIMETABLES

GISLINGHAM AND THORNHAM 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 460 (Thursday only) from Eye to Stowmarket
Leaves Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 09.25 / Gislingham (Shop) 09.31 / Stowmarket (Argos) 10.02. **Returns** from Stowmarket (Argos) 12.15 / Gislingham (Shop) 12.45 / Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 12.52.

Simonds Bus 72 (Fridays only) Gislingham (via Thornham) to Diss
Leaves Gislingham Village Hall 09.30 / Thornham Magna Four Horseshoes 09.41 / Diss Bus Station 10.05. **Returns** from Diss Bus Station 13.00 / Thornham Magna Four Horseshoes 13.30 / Gislingham Village Hall 13.35.

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



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



Mobile Library: Gislingham
2026 visits will be on the following Wednesdays: 12 Aug, 9 Sept, 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec, 30 Dec.

Times: Broadfields Rd: 15.10-15.45

Mill St.: 15.50-6.05

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Anglian Water Emergency	0800 145145
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Citizens Advice Bureau Diss	0800 8127 138
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: gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com	01379 783903
Mellis - Helen Timmons: bookmellishall@gmail.com	01379 783449
Yaxley - Celia Armstrong: celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk	01379 788754
Thornham - Beth Fredrikssen-Jones: hallhire@thornhams.org	
Mendlesham Health Centre	01449 767722
Member of Parliament - Adrian Ramsey adrian.ramsay.mp@parliament.uk	07534 933356
Mind's support line - a safe place to talk about your mental health	0300 102 1234
NHS Direct	111
Parish Councils:	
Gislingham (Clerk): clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07833 705915
Mellis (Chairperson - Lawrie Read): mellisparishcouncil@gmail.com	01379 788248
Yaxley (Clerk): Philip.c.freeman@btinternet.com	01379 783203 / 07958 623897
Thornham Parva (Clerk - Christine Moore):	01379 783226
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