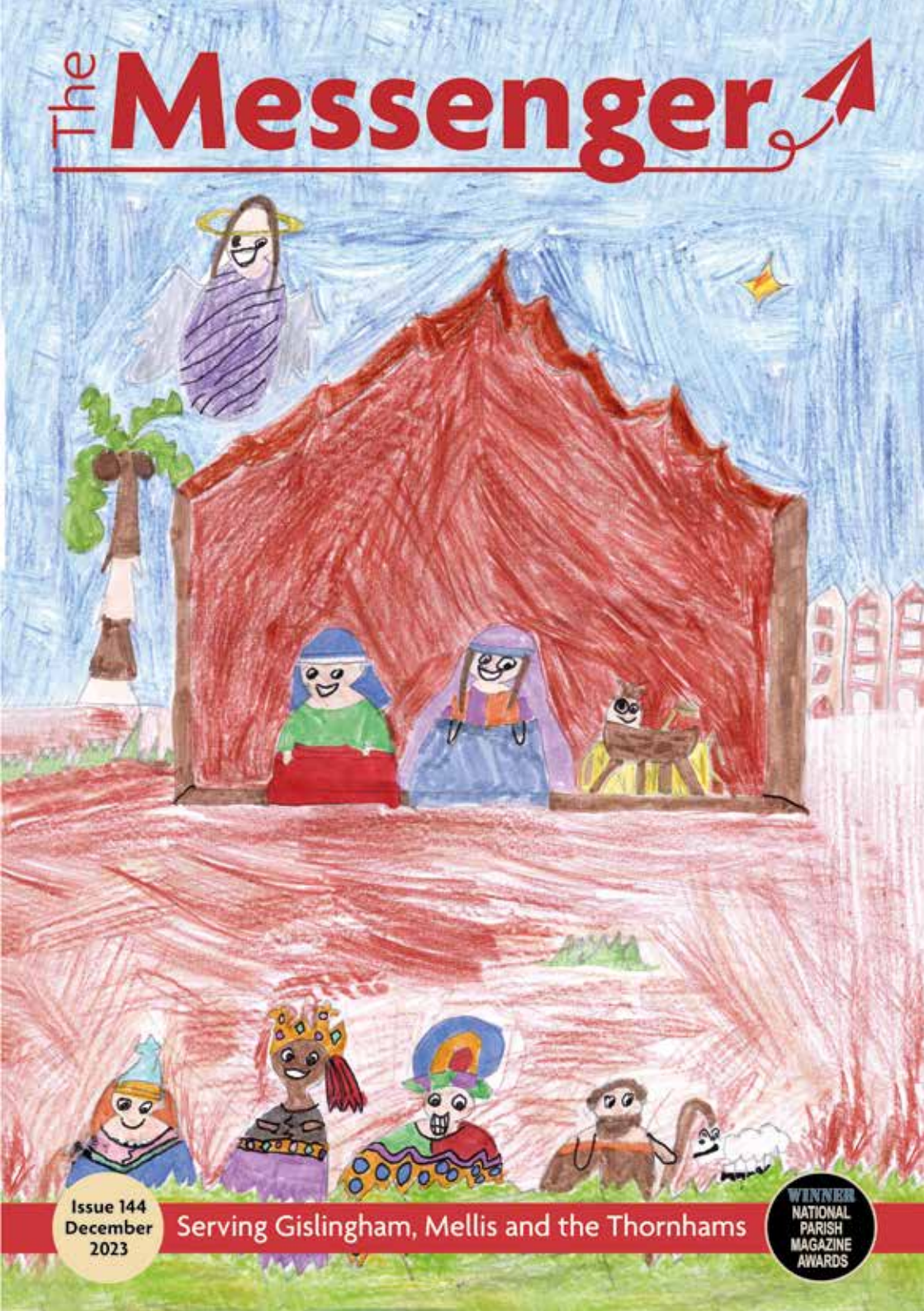
The Messenger



Issue 144
December
2023

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH
MAGAZINE
AWARDS

CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION WINNERS



Winner of the 9-10 years category:
George Rossell, Gislingham



Winner of the 5-6 years category:
Ben Gibbs, Mellis

More on inside back cover...

WELCOME TO THE MESSENGER



EDITOR'S NOTES – December 2023

Welcome to the December issue!

Our December issue wouldn't be the same without the Children's Christmas Artwork.

This year we chose Jemima Ross' picture for our front cover. The winning entries in each age category appear inside the front and back covers. A full list of winners and runners-up can be found on Page 7.

For anyone travelling to or from Mid-Suffolk on Friday 21st October; the experience will remain etched on the memory for years to come! Storm Babet caused huge flooding and disturbance across Suffolk as it was declared a "major" incident. Towns and villages in Mid Suffolk were among the worst hit by flooding in the East of England, experiencing the third wettest 3-day period for England and Wales since 1891.

So many people have their own tales to tell. My own experience for example put things into perspective. Having ventured out of Gislingham at 7.30am with no issues, I managed to attend two meetings in Surrey and upon leaving "sunny" Egham at 1.00pm (well it was Friday!) my sat nav indicated a 3.00pm eta in Gislingham. Things were going so well, until I reached Bury St. Edmunds! I finally got home at 9.30pm, after seeking refuge in The Four Horseshoes for a couple of hours to have dinner, whilst some of the flooding subsided.

The 'Help and Support in Gislingham' Facebook page proved an invaluable source of up-to-date information to help me navigate my way back home to Gislingham safely via Back Street. (Albeit a 15-mile journey!). I have since learnt of another resident who was stranded in Debenham, so decided to leave his vehicle there, and walk home to Gislingham. So that sums up the issues of getting back to the village, but there were many that found themselves trapped in the village, unable to get out.

And that is when the fantastic community spirit that still exists in Gislingham came into play, with numerous acts of kindness and generosity offered to complete strangers. We have devoted 4 pages to some of the stories and photos. As well as page of comments taken from social media, directed towards those who helped! It truly was an extraordinary day!

I would like to thank everyone who has helped contribute to the magazine this past year.

I do appreciate the time and effort taken in submitting articles and photographs, so we can try and cover as many local topics and events as possible.

Finally, a reminder, that we do not publish in January, but we will be back in February. The deadline for the next issue is January 17th. In the meantime, on behalf of the Messenger team, may we wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2024!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover picture by Jemima Ross, Age 8 from Mellis.

THE MESSENGER TEAM



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

Next issue: February 2024
Copy deadline: Monday 15th January

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

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

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

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

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Friday 1st December: Annual Open Day at Street Forge Workshops
- Street Forge Workshops, Thornham: 10.00 – 15.00
- See page 54 for details

Friday 1st December: The Village Social Pop-Up Bar
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm – 10.00pm
- See page 16 for details

Saturday 2nd December: Christmas themed Book Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon
- Mulled wine, mince pies, raffle, Christmas dress optional
- See page 9 for details

Sunday 3rd December: Christmas Fayre
- Walled Garden, Thornham Estate: 12.00 – 3.00pm
- See page 15 for details

Wednesday 6th December: Gislingham WI - Christmas Lunch
- The Black Horse, Thorndon: 12.00 noon

Friday 15th December: An evening of Christmas Music & Carols
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm – 9.30pm.
- See page 27 for details

Friday 12th January: The Village Social Pop-Up Bar
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm – 10.00pm
- See page 16 for details

Wednesday 17th January: Gislingham WI - Stephen Poulter, Supernatural Suffolk.
- Gislingham Village Hall 7.30pm

Friday 19th January: Thornham Film Night - 'The Great Escaper'
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.30pm. See page 39 for details

Friday 26th January: Cinema at Eye: 'Barbie'
- Eye Community Centre: 7.30pm. See page 54 for details

Saturday 27th January: Jumble Sale
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 12.00 – 3.00pm. See page 18 for details.

Saturday 27th January: TCT Quiz Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 12.00 – 3.00pm. See page 13 for details.

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

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

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CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION WINNERS 2023

We would like to thank all the children who submitted entries for this year's competition. It is very much appreciated and it is never an easy task choosing a winner in each age group. The judging panel of four took a long time deliberating and disagreeing on the merits of the various entries. But we finally came to this conclusion.

Age Group 2-4: Winner - Archie Allum (age 3) – Mellis
Runner Up - Florence Rossell (age 4) - Gislingham

Age Group 5-6: Winner – Ben Gibbs (age 6) - Mellis
Runner Up – Lucy Chown (age 5) – Gislingham

Age Group 7-8: Winner – Jemima Ross (age 8) – Mellis
Runner Up – Sophie Whatling (age 7) – Gislingham

Age Group 9-10: Winner – George Rossell (age 10) – Gislingham
Runner Up – Alice Collier (age 9) – Gislingham

In addition, the following entries were highly commended: - Kevin Pearson, Jessie Binnons, Tommy Lambert, Emily Gibbs, Layla Rose, Connor Branton, Eva Rossell, Imogen Spencer, Margot Ross, Tabitha Ross, Katie Lloyd and Eva Rossell.

The winner in each age category will receive a £10 Book Token and a Certificate, before Christmas.

But if you didn't win this year, please enter again next year!

Finally, we would like to thank the Gislingham resident who every year very kindly donates the Book Token Prizes for the winners. You know who you are!



POPPY APPEAL FOR 2023 IN GISLINGHAM, WESTHORPE AND FINNINGHAM

This year's House-to-House and static collection in Gislingham, Westhorpe and Finningham raised the sum of £2199.83.

This excellent sum was achieved by the splendid work of all the volunteer collectors and the generous private donations in all three parishes, and successful trays in the Gislingham Londis shop, the Sunnyside Farm shop, Gislingham School, St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds, and in Westhorpe and Finningham churches.

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

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



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Saturday 2nd December 2023

From 10am – 12noon

In Gislingham Village Hall



This will feature a Christmas festive theme with:

- *Free Glass of Mulled Wine*
- *Christmas refreshments with mince pies, etc*
- *Raffle*
- *Pre-loved books for sale*
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We look forward to seeing you there. Come and enjoy!!



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GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTES





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

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

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

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

Councillors would like to express their gratitude to **Chris Pitt** who arranged, through the British Legion, the **Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath** which was laid at St Mary's Church Memorial on Sunday 12th November in memory of those Gislingham residents who died in the First and Second World Wars serving their Country.

Please see the contact details for your **County Councillor** Jessica Fleming,
Tel. 07714597980 Email: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

Please see the contact details for your **District Councillor** Rowland Warboys,
Tel 07484186121 Email: rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Please see below links to report any issues you may have:

Link to report Flooding https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk

Highways Signage https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue

Careless Driving can be reported by calling 101 or online www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us

Antisocial Behaviour, Noise Nuisance and Missed Waste Collections can be reported at: Report it - Mid Suffolk District Council - Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils - Working Together

Bus Service Updates: Suffolk on Board - Bus / Bus timetable updates

Julie Bell, Chair, Gislingham Parish Council



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

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IN THE GARDEN



Hello winter! As we speed towards the end of the year, preparations are not only being made for winter in the garden, but also for Christmas. Produce and such are now being made for our stand at the Eye Christmas Market in the evening of Friday 1st December and we are excited at using lots of what we have grown in what we will have on sale at our own Christmas Fair on Sunday 3rd December 12-3pm at the Walled Garden.

The seasons have seemed a little delayed this autumn, with leaves only starting to fall quite recently with recent frosts, a sign that apple trees are now heading into dormancy, which while pruning is on our minds, so is buying in new trees to plant to the front of the main entrance, we are excited to make reference to the Estate by planting two Henniker apple trees as a part of a bit of a revamp of the entrance.

With high winds recently we have been keen to get a few jobs completed, pruning roses is always something we aim to get done before high winds arrive, to protect against the damage they can do.

Meantime the double border is still holding on, why chop when there is still green vegetation, once chopped the heart of the garden will look rather bare for a good few months.

We have been busy with clearing the kitchen garden, and starting to make a few small changes with its layout, so that it works even better for us next year, as plants go dormant, we enter the time of year when we can start to reorganise and plan for the new year. Those who think that winter is a quieter time in the garden are very much mistaken, the more preparation and planning that can be made in the coming month or so, the more productive and beautiful a garden can be come spring

Stanley, one of our gardeners gives his account of working in the garden recently;

"This last month has been Halloween, we did some weeding, digging around and had a Halloween disco. In the next few weeks, we are going to replant some of the flowers, and think about what vegetables we are going to grow next year, so we can get the seeds from places nearby.

In December we usually start getting festive making wrapping paper, making mince pies using some of the garden fruit and making wreaths using holly and berries and pretty flower heads.

During winter the weather gets chilly, we wrap up warm and wear old boots because it gets muddy. We wear gloves to keep warm and keep our hands clean."

Phill V-Williams



THE VILLAGE SOCIAL

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GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

FRI 1ST DECEMBER & FRI 12TH JANUARY

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NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Pub Night - Friday 3rd November
The second Pub Night was very well attended. The event was enhanced by the Wood and Smoke Kitchen who did a very steady trade selling Pizzas. Again, a good selection of products supplied by the Village Social Bar and the queuing problems from the first night were sorted out.

The next Pub Night will take place on Friday 1st December.



Night of the Floods – Friday 20th October
It was fantastic to see people rally round to help those who got stranded in the village through no fault of their own. This was an email sent to us by one of them.

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you to your committee and wider community for the amazing hospitality shown to my husband, our dog and I last night. What a lovely village hall you have, and what an absolutely amazing community you are. Thank you so much. Despite a stressful journey we have now made it to our destination in North Norfolk safely, and I know things would have been very much worse for us if we hadn't had the chance to take some refuge in your lovely hall. Please also feel free to pass on our gratitude to the local people who were so generous to us all last night."

Well done everybody, you know who you are!

FUTURE EVENTS:

Friday 1st December: Pub Night
Doors open at 5.00 pm. Last Orders 9.45 pm. 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 16th December: Christmas Quiz Night – Please note this event is now SOLD OUT.

Saturday 27th January 2024: Teenage Cancer Trust Quiz Night
Tickets £10, to include a Ploughman's Supper, available from Kevin Cook on 07542 065807. All proceeds to the Teenage Cancer Trust charity. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Doors open 7.00 pm.

Saturday 17th February 2024: Jumble Sale
Saturday 16th March 2024: Quiz Night
Saturday 27th April 2024: Mystery Event
Saturday 18th May 2024: Quiz Night
Saturday 15th June 2024: Gisfest

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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.

THORNHAMS PARISH HALL

The Street, Thornham Magna, IP23 8HB

jumble sale

Saturday 27th January 2023: 12 – 3pm

Admission: 50p



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Friday 26th January: 10.30am – 11.30am

Saturday 27th January: 10.30am – 11.30am

VOLUNTEER HELPERS REQUIRED – PLEASE CALL IF YOU CAN ASSIST

(all proceeds will go towards refurbishment of the village hall)

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



FUTURE EVENTS:

Sunday 3rd December: Christmas tree decoration, handbells, mince pies and mulled wine
3.00pm: Outside the Forge workshop in Thornham Magna.

Friday 19th January: Thornham Film Night – The Great Escaper
7.30pm: Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Saturday 27th January 2024: Jumble Sale
12.00 – 3.00pm: 50p admission

Sunday 18th February: Breakfast Club – speaker details tbc
Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org

Friday 15th March: Thornham Film Night – film tbc
7.30pm: Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Saturday 24th March: Mini Spring Fair - raffle, tombola, made in Thornham, cakes and more… 11.00am – 3.00pm

Saturday 13th April: Grand national evening
- Sweepstake and posh fish finger sandwich supper - £10 4.30pm – 7.00pm

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

Sunday 28th April: Breakfast Club – speaker details tbc
Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Wednesdays 9.30am: Pilates gentle no floorwork
- Thurs 9.30am to 12 noon: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month - Chat and Play - Babies, Parents and Carers group



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JAKE & KATIE'S FIRST YEAR AT THE AUBERGE

THE AUBERGE

Jake and Katie Berridge have just celebrated their 1st anniversary (November 8th) at the helm of The Bull Auberge.

During the year, they have managed to retain both their 2-rosette award AA rating in the Yaxley Bull restaurant and their 5-Star AA rating in the Auberge.

Katie told us: **"It has been an incredible year for us. As well as retaining these two awards, we have begun transforming the outdoor space for customers to use; we have revitalised the kitchen garden and are now using much more home-grown produce, and we are slowly beginning to show customers our identity in the restaurant with the dishes we create. In addition, our new log burner will be arriving any day and we're both very excited to have a crackling fire warming the Yaxley Bull Restaurant."**

When asked about plans for the future, Jake said: **"We're only just getting started! Next year, we are hoping to broaden what The Bull Auberge has to offer. Expanding our dining options, looking to utilise the now amazing space we have created in the garden for those wishing to host events. We are incredibly grateful for all of the support from the local community and the enthusiasm towards our future journey and ambitions. We look forward to welcoming long standing and future guests into our family home."**









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GISLINGHAM FOOTPATH REPORT – Dec. 2023



This is a quick update of the current situation with the footpaths.

Uncut Footpaths

Unfortunately, there were a few footpaths that were not cut by Suffolk CC or the Parish Council's contractor this year, which made walking these footpaths very difficult. Hopefully, this will not happen next year.

Finger Posts

You may be wondering where some of the Finger Posts have gone. There are now 5 posts that require replacing, some of which have been down for over a year. SCC have these in hand, but waiting for their contractor to do the work. Watch this space.

Ploughed Fields

I have received several reports of fields that have been ploughed and sown with the new crop, but the footpaths have not been reinstated. These have been reported to SCC and the landowner has been notified. If you do come across a field where the footpath is not been reinstated, please let me know.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for all your reports and concerns and I would like to Wish You All a Very Happy Christmas and Have a Peaceful New Year.

If you need to get in touch, please see my contact details below:
Home: 01379 788998.
Mobile: 07900 147912.
email: martyn_bryant@hotmail.com

Martyn Bryant,
Gislingham Footpath Warden





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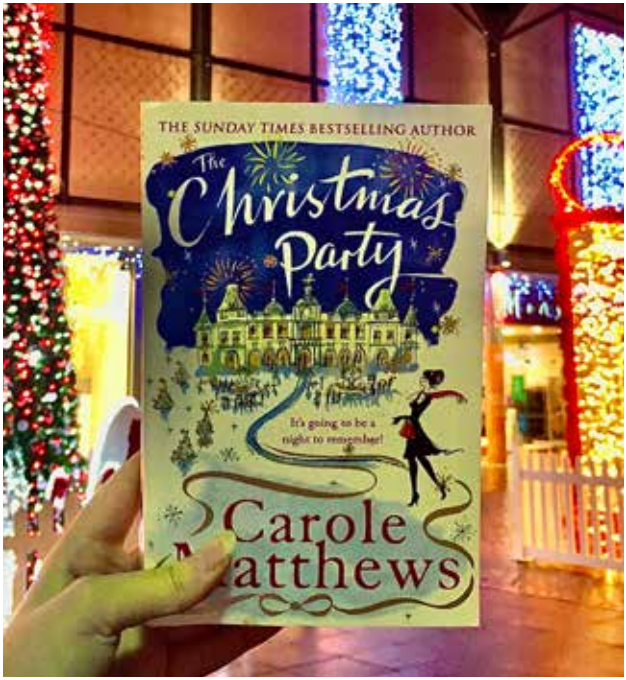
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CHARLOTTE'S BOOK BLOG



The Christmas Party by Carole Matthews ★★★☆☆ 3/5

Hello everyone, happy December! It's that time of year again where I feel that a review of a Christmas book would be absolutely perfect. Having been at university I unfortunately haven't found the time to read as many Christmas-themed books as I usually do… however I read this one last year so will share my thoughts on that one!



Carole Matthews is one of my favourite authors ad she never disappoints. I did find, however, that this wasn't exactly one of my favourites of hers. This could have been because I had very high expectations though, considering I'd read many of her amazing books before this.

Louise Young is a single mother who's one priority is to provide for her daughter. Louise gets a good job in a huge international corporation which she's extremely grateful for. However, her boss can't seem to keep his hands to himself, and Louise isn't sure if she can handle him. Tyler however, is a married man. And little does he know; his wife is also interested in someone else. Louise doesn't go on nights out - but the work Christmas Party is an absolute must. She's completely unaware of the others around her that are playing dangerous games. All she knows, is that she has fallen for the lovely Josh Wallace.

The storyline was very good and kept me interested- with lots of twists and turns within it. I did find the book had a bit of a slow pace and feel it could have been made a bit shorter. Saying that, I would still recommend it as it was still a good, festive read!

I hope you all have an amazing Christmas, and have lots of time to chill out and read! I'm certainly hoping to use my time off to catch up with the many books I have that are still waiting to be read, so hopefully some exciting reviews in months to come! Have a good one, Charlotte.

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Friday 15th Dec 23

Gislingham Village Hall

7:30 - 9:30pm

This is NOT a concert but an opportunity for the community to gather and sing Christmas Carols & Songs. The event will be free but there will be a raffle and a collection in aid of the band funds. We are not providing a bar but the hall will be laid out with tables for a social night. We welcome singers of all ages and abilities, who are welcome to bring their own drinks (& glasses) and nibbles.

OH, WHAT A NIGHT...



Our amazing community rose to the challenge when Storm Babet arrived overnight on Thursday 19 October 2023.



The torrential rain, which continued until late evening on Friday 20 October, caused widespread flooding across much of Suffolk, the like of which hadn't been seen for many years. The roads out of our village and surrounding areas were deep underwater. Many cars had become stuck in the floodwater.

Following social media posts asking if the Village Hall could be opened as a refuge for people stranded in our village, John, Sara and Leah Durrant immediately responded. Several other villagers came to offer support, including Julie and Chris Saunders, Clare, Richard and Matthew Adams, Philly and Gav Read and Margaret Davis. A big thank you to the Village Hall Committee for letting us use the hall. Initially there were about 10 people stranded, which quickly rose to about 30, as the word got out.

Our incredible villagers rallied round bringing tea, coffee and biscuits, which was very welcome by our visitors. Many had been travelling for hours, from as far afield as Kent and Liverpool. There were several families with young children, who were traveling for the half term holidays. There was also a family who were heading to the 80-year-old lady's' birthday celebration weekend and a few dogs and a cat!

As it began to get dark, the rain was not letting up, so most of our visitors felt it would be safest to stay the night in the village. The rallying cry went out again to our community and we were amazed at the quick response. Within about 30 minutes, we had camp beds, duvets and pillows, soup and bread, board games and a case of very welcome wine! Our Village Shop also kindly donated food to ensure no-one went hungry.

Villagers offered spare rooms for the night, which was gratefully received and a big thank you to them all for their hospitality. About 20 people stayed overnight in the Village Hall.

The following morning, kind villagers did a reconnaissance of the roads and updated our guests, so there were able to safety continue their journeys.

All in all, there were about 60 people whom the community supported. Some just needed a pit stop as they had been travelling for hours, but were able to continue as their vehicles were able to get through the floods.

A huge thank you to the 'Help and Support for those in Gislingham' Facebook page. This enabled effective communication to get the hall open and provide the help needed.

It was so humbling to read all the lovely messages of thanks posted on social media. They all mentioned the amazing community spirit and what a special place Gislingham is. ***CA***

...AND OH WHAT A DAY!

Gislingham primary school pupils managed to get home from school through the floods on Friday 20th October thanks to the Barker family, who own Lodge Farm in Westhorpe, volunteering to transport them away from the village in a tractor and trailer!



Thanks to their generosity, all children got home safely.

Headteacher, Mr Richard Benstock, said "The Barker family have always helped the school with events such as Farm visits, school sustainability projects, Harvest Festivals and ongoing links with LEAF, but today they kindly used their resources in a practical way to support local families in need!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to them!"





LOCAL FLOODING PHOTOS

Photos by Sam Reed, Kris Prescott, Nick Dickson, Tracey Brown, Rachel Buxton, J Clifford and Felix Oliver.

Finningham and Westhorpe



Photo credit: Sam Reed



Photo credit: Felix Oliver

Gislingham and the Mellis Road



Photo credit: J Clifford



Photo credit: J Clifford



Photo credit: Nick Dickson



Photo credit: Nick Dickson

LOCAL FLOODING PHOTOS

The Thornhams


Photo credit: Tracey Brown


Photo credit: Tracey Brown


Photo credit: Tracey Brown


Photo credit: Tracey Brown


Photo credit: Rachel Buxton


Photo credit: Kris Prescott


Photo credit: Kris Prescott


Photo credit: Kris Prescott

NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes!

As we move into winter and the nights get darker earlier in the evening, I find myself marvelling at the night sky and welcoming back some old friends like the constellation of Orion. This has spurred me on to get my astronomy kit out and try to remember how to use it properly! I started off with a simple setup - just my camera with a wide angle lens on a tripod to keep things steady. Obviously at night there's not much light about and so long exposure times are needed. However, not too long or else the stars will appear as streaks due to the rotation of the Earth. The photo shown below was taken at 15 seconds (16mm, f1.8, ISO2000), which has kept the image sharp. I was in two minds whether or not to take this photo because there were clouds in the sky, which are usually to be avoided, but as my main purpose was to check out my gear and technique I went ahead. I'm really glad I did because I think the wispy clouds help create a most pleasing image - I hope you like it! We are fortunate that our locality does not suffer much from light pollution and so the beauty of the night sky can be seen. That said, I'd recommend getting away from houses with their outside lights and away from roads with passing cars - even when they're just driving by they can rob you of your night vision that might take 10 minutes or so to fully establish. Happily, we have lots of footpaths that are remote from artificial lights. Much can be seen with just the naked eye and it can be fun to recognise the constellations and planets. That said, a pair of binoculars will reveal a mind-boggling number of stars. The photo below shows the view looking east from Gislingham. The bright object is the planet Jupiter and the small cluster of stars to its left is the constellation of The Seven Sisters.



This photo shows the Milky Way above my house. Like the other photo it was taken in mid-November. The small bright object in the top left had corner is the Andromeda galaxy. The Milky Way appears as a faint object and so a longer exposure of 30 seconds was used here. To keep things sharp over this amount of time, the camera was mounted on a star tracker. This device keeps the camera accurately pointed at a particular star as it moves across the sky. Here the camera was pointed towards the south-west and the pale orange-ish colouration towards the bottom of the photo is from the sun that had set a couple of hours earlier. The star tracker is a very handy piece of kit and I'm looking forward to using it with my telescope in the winter months ahead.



Last month, I mentioned that this is the time of year that hedgehogs start to think about hibernating for the winter, having topped up their fat store in their bodies.



Marion and Glyn in Gislingham have been lucky enough to have had a hedgehog visiting their garden over recent weeks and they've been helping him (or her?) along by putting out food. Hopefully, this will help ensure that the little hog makes it through the cold winter months!

If you see an active hedgehog during the winter you can put out some food and water for it that it might take. There's no need to try and keep the animal warm as they automatically reduce their temperature to that of their surroundings as part of their hibernation.

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

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

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

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THANK YOU GISLINGHAM!

These are a few of the comments from the 'Help & Support in Gislingham' Facebook page.

"I just wanted to put on record, my heartfelt thanks to the villagers of Gislingham, who went above and beyond, to help us stranded drivers in last night's floods.
Myself, brother and father were heading back to Ipswich from a family funeral in Watton and had cut across country as the A140 was blocked. Coming off at Mellis, we ended up in Gislingham, having gone through some really deep areas of water. Once in Gislingham, all access roads were then impassable due to water levels and therefore we were starting to plan sleeping in the car overnight.
Then we chanced upon the village hall and went to ask for any local knowledge, to then be told the village hall had been opened up as a sanctuary for trapped motorists.
The villagers provided teas coffees biscuits and then hot soup, whilst they rallied the village inhabitants to offer any accommodation they could. People came to the hall to say they could accommodate 2 people, 3, whatever, and we suggested the younger families with children get housed first. Other people came to the hall with sleeping bags, camper beds, pillows etc. for the rest of us to try to get some rest within the hall, where we were at least warm, dry and thankful for toilet facilities.
At around 11pm, the villagers left us to it as they went to get some sleep themselves, so here we were in a hall with around 20 others, with the village entrusting complete strangers to the full use of the hall.
Early this morning, villagers then came to the hall to advise us that various routes out of the village had been attempted and which ones were clear and which ones weren't.
Having shared everyone's phone chargers to keep our phones topped up, we were all checking our phones looking at route options out of the village, whilst awaiting more info from the locals.
Around 7am, the message came back to the hall that the road to Mellis/Yaxley was clear and that the A140 was also clear. Most drivers attempted that route to go their various onward journeys and we arrived home 15 hours since we had first started our homeward journey.
Gislingham people, you are stars for doing what you did for us complete strangers and shows that the world can be a better place with a bit of care, thought and compassion for others.
I won't forget this act of humanity."

Simon Fletcher

"Myself and husband were stuck because of the floods, and stayed overnight in your village. We want to thank you all for your kindness and generosity. As an elderly person with health issues, I believe I would have been in trouble if not for your kindness. So, thank you all so much. "

Angela Allen

"Me & dad would also love to thank all the villagers that looked after us, watered and fed us and let us use the facilities at your village hall bringing bedding and sleeping bags etc... even offering your own bedrooms, you were all absolutely amazing. You even provided games to keep us occupied for the evening and dad had the most fantastic game of monopoly with the other stranded people. Massive thanks to all Gislingham and local residents for your help cannot thank you enough."

Paul Fletcher

"Me and my friend are from Kent and were trying to get through. We were so well looked after in the village hall and then staying with some locals in their spare room. We will always remember everyone's kindness, avoiding what could have been a long dark cold night. Honestly just so moved by everyone's warmth and generosity"

Jude Collins

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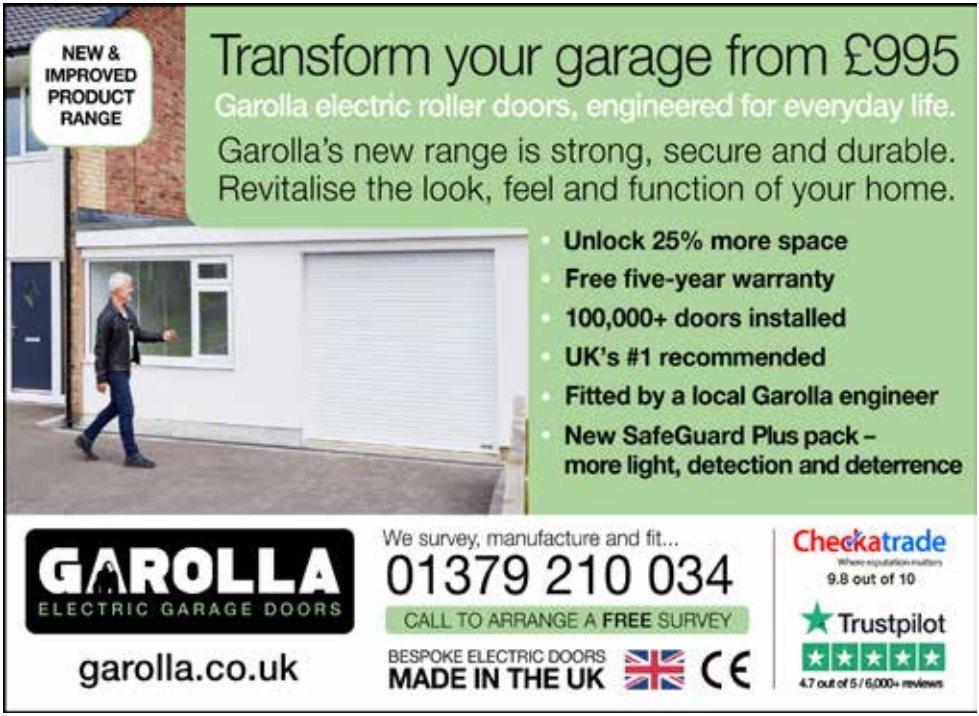
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TRIED & TESTED RECIPES by Debbie



BAILEYS MINCE PIES

These mince pies are all the more festive – made with Baileys Pastry!

Makes: 12 Mince Pies



Ingredients:

Baileys Pastry

- 225g plain flour
- 100g butter
- 25g caster sugar
- 90-100ml Baileys
- 1 x jar of Mincemeat.

Preparation:

- Put the flour in a bowl, then add the butter and rub the mixture until it resembles breadcrumbs.
- Add in the caster sugar and mix.
- Now measure out the Baileys – and as it's Christmas a quick tipple for you wouldn't go amiss!
- Add the Baileys until the pastry comes together. The pastry should be a lovely toffee colour.
- Gather together the pastry and knead lightly into a ball.
- Wrap in clingfilm and chill in the fridge for half an hour.
- Once the pastry has rested preheat the oven to 180c (fan) / 200c/Gas Mark 5.
- Grease the recesses of a shallow bun tin.
- Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface, fairly thinly.
- Using a round cutter cut out enough circles to line the bases of the pies. Set onto the tin and press down gently to shape.
- Fill each pie with mincemeat.
- Re-roll the pastry trimmings if necessary and cut out lids for the mince pies using a slightly smaller round cutter.
- With a wet finger dampen the edge of the base pieces of pastry and place the tops in position.
- Gently seal together the edges using your fingers.
- Make a steam hole in the top of each pie and glaze with egg.
- Bake in the oven for 18-20 minutes until golden and fully cooked.
- Allow to cool in the tray for ten minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
- Dust with icing sugar, and serve with a big dollop of Baileys Extra Thick Cream!



GISLINGHAM UNITED CHARITY

The Gislingham United Charity continues to welcome applications from residents of Gislingham who find themselves in hardship or need.

The Charity will also consider requests for support for residents of all ages for educational purposes, whether at school, in further or higher education, or in vocational training.

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

Gislingham United Charity is a registered charity, No. 208340, and is run by volunteers.

All applications should be made to the Clerk to the Trustees at:

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Alan Harding, Chair of GUC

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TERRAPIN NEWS



These last few weeks, as Chair of Mid Suffolk I have represented the District Council at three events connected with our national remembrance of the sacrifices made by members of our armed forces.

On Sunday 17th September 2023 I attended the annual Battle of Britain Parade and Service at held at St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, followed by a March Past along Angel Hill. On Friday 27th October I was at the Stowmarket Poppy Appeal Launch held in the United Reformed Church in Stowmarket.

Finally on the 11th day of the 11th month I was in the rose Garden in Abbey Gardens Bury St Edmunds for the Remembrance Service there. The sun glinting through gaps in the surrounding buildings, standing like stone sentinels, gave the ceremony a timeless quality as wreaths were laid in turn at the memorials. The Memorial to the 94th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Force, The Dunkirk Memorial, The Victory in Japan Memorial, The Normandy Veterans Memorial, The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial, and finally the Royal Air Force Honington Memorial. The Last Post was sounded followed by silence broken by The Reveille played by a lone bugler from RAF Honington.

Mid Suffolk District Council was represented at the Stowmarket Remembrance Parade and Service on Sunday 12 November by the Deputy Chair Cllr. Dan Pratt, I went to the Remembrance Service at St Mary the Virgin Church, Mellis. A service like hundreds across the country, to remember the local men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country.

I have had more time than usual to reflect on our connections with our armed forces past and present. For every name inscribed on a memorial there was a family and friends.

Two events preceded this, I was at the AGM of Families Together, they have a shop in Eye to raise money to support their work ensuring families have access to the networks, knowledge and skills that provide a strong foundation for their child's future. Almost incidentally they mentioned how much work they did with forces families, often separated by the call of duty.

Later in September I was with Cllr. James Patchett, himself a veteran of 22 years' service, to formally open the Bramford and District Armed Services Breakfast Club.

"The Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Clubs are UK wide and although all run individually, they do follow some core values, with the core aim for any of the breakfast clubs being to provide a safe and relaxed environment for service personnel and veterans to meet, have a butty and banter. The only thing those attending pay for is the breakfast that they have, there are no subs, fees and no-one is profiting from a breakfast club."

They are an opportunity to provide access to other establishments and charities if anyone should require help. From Robin, the organiser's experience, Service personnel are a community less likely to ask for help and are more likely to persevere no matter what.

These were no celebrations of war, yes there were flags and hymns, but the solemn ceremonies serve to remind us of the casualties of war, the broken families and bodies that need to be mended. Alongside our own service personnel, we shelter in our communities' families who are directly affected by the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine. There too there will be remembrance services and memorials.

"When will we ever learn." Pete Seeger 1964

Cllr. Rowland Warboys: Chair, Mid Suffolk District Council 2023/24

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Email: walker473@sky.com
or message via Facebook



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Do you have a wasp nest?

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Woodworm treatment available.

No obligation – free survey/quotes.





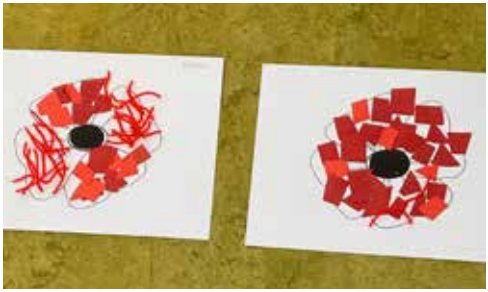
Pest infestation can damage your health and your home. Recent surveys show that numbers of mice/rats and bed bugs found in UK homes are on the rise. As Local Authorities are cutting back on free pest control services. We are here to offer you a service at the right price.

Call us to discuss your pests on 07809226109.

www.safeandsoundhygieneandpestcontrol.co.uk

GISLINGHAM PLAYGROUP NEWS

This half term the children dressed up for Halloween. We played games and made Halloween crafts. We have also made rockets and bonfire pictures for bonfire night as well as making Poppies for remembrance Sunday. We are now getting ready for Christmas, making lots of crafts and practicing our singing ready for our Christmas production.





Our Christmas Production is taking place in the school hall on Tuesday 19th December at 2pm. Tickets will be on sale at the playgroup - £3.00 per ticket.

Fundraiser
We have Hamper squares for sale at £1.00 each and will be on sale at playgroup

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas & a Healthy New Year.



GISLINGHAM PLAYGROUP



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

Breakfast Club 8.00am - 8.45am

Morning 8.45am to 11.45am

Lunch Club 11.45am to 12.45pm

Afternoon 12.45pm to 3.45pm

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

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

JDK ENGINEERING

Garden care servicing & sales

Servicing cost

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

Any repairs or blades will be charged separately

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John - 07887706965

Email - Jdkagriengineering@gmail.com

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Steeple General Services Ltd

Gislingham

Dave Griffin

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Tree work and Hedge Cutting
Stump removal
Chipping and Shredding
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Terry Wallis

Mini Digger Hire for Self Drive

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

Post hole borer available

TIP OFF, RIP OFF!

The 12 scams of Christmas



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE MESSENGER CONNECTION QUIZ

There are 10 questions. Each answer to the first 9 questions form a connection of some kind.

Question 10; What is the connection?

1. American fast food chain specialising in Tex-Mex foods
2. English comedian who co-presents 'The Great British Bake-Off'
3. The State capital of New Mexico
4. The World's highest uninterrupted waterfall
5. The name of the pet cat in "The Simpsons"
6. The video game where Mario made his first appearance
7. Nickname for the home of the US film industry
8. UK food outlet specialising in gourmet snacks and sandwiches
9. Card game that uses wooden pinboard for scoring
10. What is the connection?

Answers appear on page 55.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

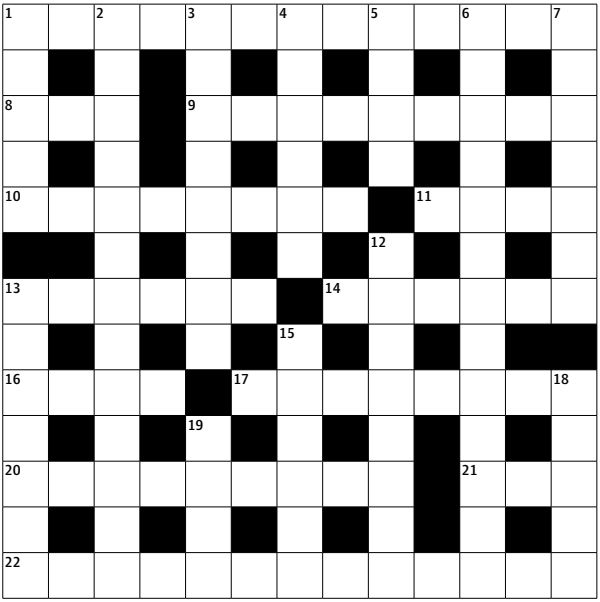
	1				7			2
2		3					5	
5					6	4		
	5			8	3			
9			6		2			4
			4	5			6	
		5	2					7
	8					1		5
4			1				2	

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Gutless? (13)
8 Raincoat (cut short) (3)
9 Mobile home? (6,3)
10 Surveillance (in the context of possible crime (8)
11 Unwanted flesh (4)
13 Legitimate (6)
14 Domesticated European polecat (6)
16 Very light brown (4)
17 I'd like a look (3,2,3)
20 Sausage — oil a patch (anag) (9)
21 Drinks chiller? (3)
22 Old Spanish silver coins that pirates were after (6,2,5)

Down

1 One's not cheerful being down in these (5)
2 Welfare work (6,7)
3 Fish (seen in the sky?) (8)
4 Os, the heaviest known metal (6)
5 Female sheep (4)
6 Where road meets rail (5,8)
7 Silly person — computer symbol (7)
12 One who's on your side (8)
13 Patella (7)
15 Foot-propelled craft (6)
18 Choose — chosen (5)
19 Northerly or southerly extreme (4)

Last issue solution

■	B	L	O	C	K	B	U	S	T	E	R	■
L	■	E	■	U	■	R	■	A	■	X	■	B
O	V	E	R	R	E	A	C	T	■	P	A	R
V	■	■	■	A	■	N	■	A	■	L	■	E
E	C	L	A	T	■	C	O	N	C	E	D	E
I	■	A	■	O	■	H	■	■	■	T	■	Z
N	O	M	O	R	E	■	S	Q	U	I	R	E
A	■	B	■	■	■	J	■	U	■	V	■	B
M	A	R	S	A	L	A	■	I	D	E	A	L
I	■	U	■	T	■	M	■	N	■	■	■	O
S	I	S	■	S	Y	M	B	I	O	T	I	C
T	■	C	■	E	■	E	■	N	■	A	■	K
■	T	O	M	A	N	D	J	E	R	R	Y	■



Street Forge Workshops

The Street, Thornham Magna, IP23 8HB

OPEN DAY

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

10.00 – 15.00

Workshops open, free refreshments, Raffle.

Shop early for Christmas!

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CINEMA at EYE

Friday 26th January, 7.30pm
Eye Community Centre
Tickets £5 in advance from The Handyman or pay on the door. More information at
www.cinema-at-eye.org.uk

NOTICES



CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

10 Chapel Farm Close, Gislingham
From Saturday 26th November to Tuesday 2nd January.
Please come and visit out Light Display - this year we are raising money for Diabetes UK which has affected our family for generations.
Kerryann & Charlie Baxter

1ST MENDLESHAM SCOUTS – CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th December: 10.00 – 12.00 at Mendlesham Community Centre
All proceeds towards Mendlesham Scout Hut project.

AMANDA'S COFFEE MORNING & HALF MARATHON IN AID OF EACH

Amanda will be running the Cambridge Half Marathon for EACH on the 3rd March 2024. She will be holding a Coffee morning (with cake of course) at Gislingham Village Hall on 13th February at 10.30am. If anyone would like to donate any unwanted gifts/ wine etc. for raffle prizes, it would be much appreciated. Amanda Kemp 07985 125140
If you would like to sponsor Amanda, her Just Giving page can be found at:
https://www.justgiving.com/page/amanda-kemp-1699346716083

COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S, GISLINGHAM

Carol Service – Weds 6th December: 7.00 pm
Crib Service - Christmas Eve: 3.00 pm (in church)
Christmas Worship – Christmas Day: 9.30 am
All are welcome, we are a family friendly church, come and celebrate Christmas with us.

CALLING ALL SINGERS - ST MARY'S GISLINGHAM - ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

Following our joyous Christmas concert last year - come and join our choir as we prepare for an Easter concert of Graham Kendrick songs.
No experience or need to read music required and all vocal ranges welcome.
Our aim is to have fun and enjoy making music together.
For more details – email: operaclare@live.co.uk or call 07786 195718

THANK YOU

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped us or sent their best wishes during the floods and to those who shared my request on social media asking for people to drive slowly through the floods in front of our house.

Jo Clifford

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 52.

1. Taco BELL, 2. NOEL Fielding, 3. SANTA Fe, 4. ANGEL Falls, 5. SNOWBALL, 6. DONKEY Kong, 7. TINSEL Town, 8. Pret-a-MANGER, 9. CRIB (Cribbage), 10. They all have some connection with Christmas.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE

'All is strange, all is journey, and at the same time all is well'



These were the words that a recent writer used to describe a 17th century painting of The Flight into Egypt - that moment at the end of the Christmas story when the Holy Family (Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus) escaped the murderous fury of King Herod. The picture, reproduced here, is by Adam Elsheimer (1578-1610): half of it shows the night sky and its reflection in the water below; in the centre is the Holy Family, lit by a single lantern; on the left is the welcoming glow of a shepherds' fire.

The words seem to me particularly appropriate to the whole Christmas story. The elements in that story are certainly strange. We have angels, we have virgin conception, we have shepherds leaving their sheep to look for a baby, and we have wandering magicians following a star. And there is journey: Joseph's journey of acceptance of what has happened to him and his intended bride; the long hike to Bethlehem for them and the Magi; the desperate escape to Egypt. And underlying it all, the sense of the long and difficult road that lies ahead for this child.

It is because the Christmas story has all these elements that it speaks so powerfully to us. We certainly live in strange times: we have wars that we never thought would happen again; we are more than ever aware of our vulnerability to pandemics; we see only too clearly the fragility of our beautiful world. And what a journey we are on, technologically and in so many other ways: assumptions, certainties, expectations, all changing inexorably. The Holy Family were on a journey into the unknown, and so are we

How can we be sure that, at the same time, all will be well? We cannot know how it will work out, but we can trust that we are in safe hands - that the pain and the cruelty in the world will not have the last word. Kindness, compassion, and love are somehow truer: they feel more how things are meant to be. In the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, we catch a glimpse of reality, a sight of the God who made us, and will love us to the end. In his company we can say, in the words of the old hymn: "It is well, it is well with my soul".

All is strange, all is journey … and all is well
Alan

From the Parishes:
Welcome to: Swanley Crisp baptised at Thorndon
In loving memory of: Keith Pawsey (Yaxley); Eileen Philips (Gislingham)

DECEMBER 2023

Saturday 2nd	Wetheringsett	10.30-12.00	Christmas Tree Festival CONNECT with crafts & cake
	Wetheringsett church open daily for viewing until Epiphany		
Sunday 3rd	Gislingham	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
1st Sunday of Advent			***Benefice Advent Rings to be blessed / lit***
	Stoke Ash	11.00-4.00	Christmas Tree Festival
	Thorndon	4.00pm	Christingle Workshop
	Thorndon	5.00pm	Christingle with Carols
Wednesday 6th	Gislingham	7.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday 10th	Mellis	10.30am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of Advent	Stoke Ash	3.00pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 12th	Mellis	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 17th	Thorndon	10.00am	'Together at 10' ***Advent Informal service***
3rd Sunday of Advent	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Yaxley	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thornham Magna	3.00pm	Carols *with the Gislingham Silver Band*
	Wetheringsett	6.00pm	Carol Service
Friday 22nd	Thornham Parva	7.30pm	Carol Service
Sunday 24th	Gislingham	3.00pm	Crib Service
4th Sunday of Advent	Yaxley	4.00pm	Crib Service
Christmas Eve	Thornham Magna	11.30pm	First Holy Communion of Christmas
Monday 25th	Gislingham	9.30am	Morning Praise
Christmas Day	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 31st	Yaxley	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday after Christmas Day			

JANUARY 2024

Saturday 6th	Wetheringsett	10.30am	CONNECT
Sunday 7th	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
Epiphany	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	Mellis	10.30am	Worship for All
2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Worship for All
3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
Sunday 28th	Yaxley	10.30am	Worship for All
4th Sunday of Epiphany	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thornham Magna	10.30am	Holy Communion

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am

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

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

Find us on Facebook:
South Hartismere Churches

LOCAL INFORMATION

Gislingham Bus Timetable

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

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

Leaves Gislingham shop 09:15 / Arrives Stowmarket (Argos) 10:18

Return leaves Stowmarket (Adj Station Road West / Bury St) 12.50 / Arrives Gislingham 13:43

Route 456 to Diss (Fridays only – Market Day

Leaves Gislingham shop 10.06 / Thornham Walks & Church 10.09 / Arrives Diss Bus Station 10.35

Return leaves Diss Bus Station 13.15 / Arrives Gislingham shop 13.46

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

Leaves Gislingham 09:46am / Arrives BSE bus station 10.48

Returns from Bury St. Edmunds leaves 13:25 / Arrives Gislingham 14.32

Mellis Bus Timetable

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

110 – Eye to Diss

Eye – Diss (Monday to Friday) - leaves Mellis, opp. Railway Tavern: 10.46

Diss – Eye (Monday to Friday) – leaves Diss, adj. Bus Station: 13.30

Thornham Bus Timetable

Fairline Bus 320 (Weds only)

Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 09:40am / Arrives BSE bus station 10.48

Returns from Bury St. Edmunds 13:25, arriving back at Thornham Magna 14:36

Post Van: Gislingham

Fridays at Village Hall:

12.15 – 14.15





Mobile Library: Gislingham

Weds 6th Dec., then every 4 weeks.

Broadfields Road: 15.10 – 15.45

Mill Street: 15.50 – 16.05



Winner of the 2-4 years category: ***Archie Allum, Mellis***

Thank you for all your pictures. The standard was very high and it was very hard to choose the winners. **Below are the pictures the judges selected as RUNNERS UP and HIGHLY COMMENDED.**































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