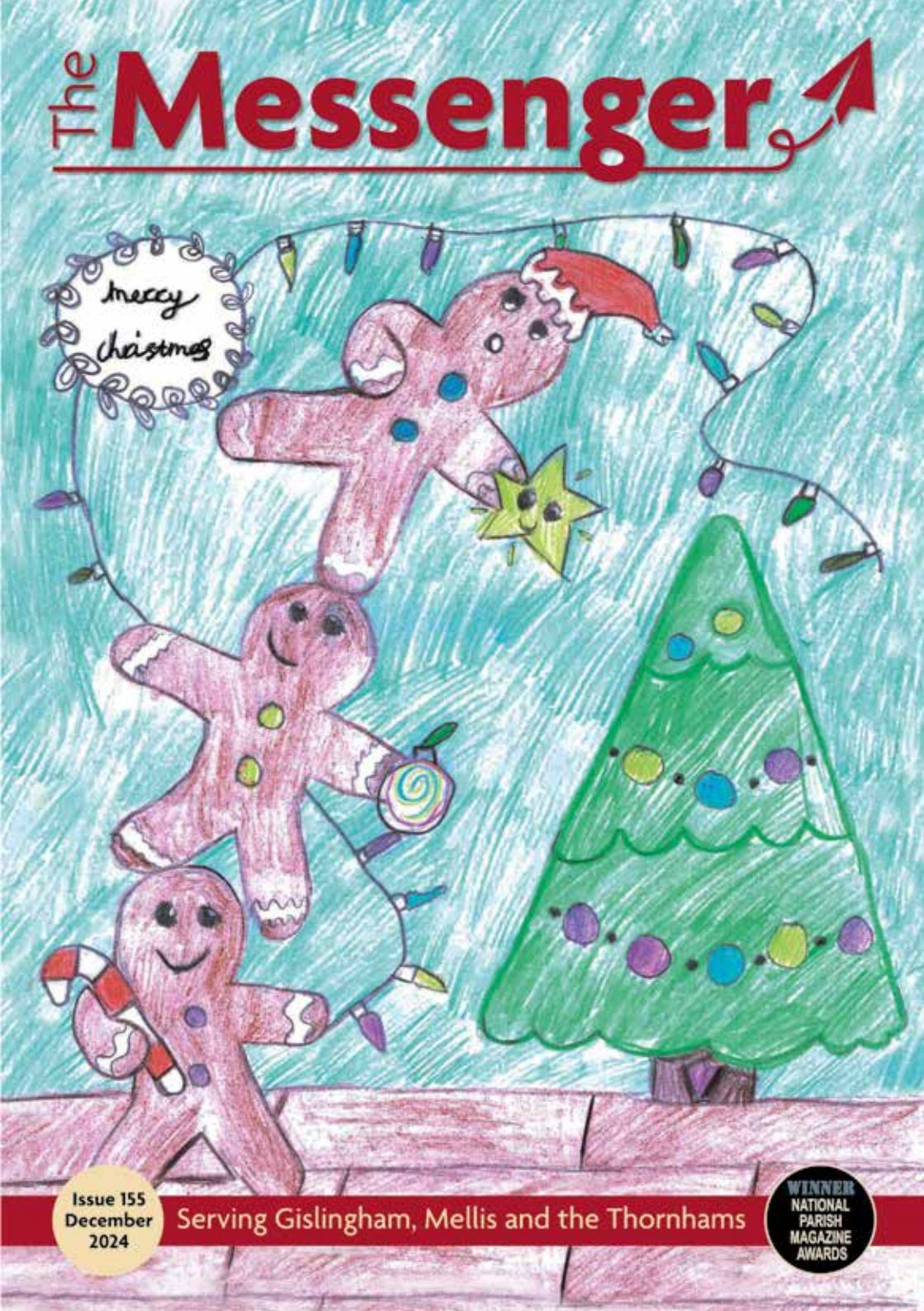
The Messenger



Issue 155
December
2024

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH
MAGAZINE
AWARDS

CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION WINNERS



Winner of the 9-10 years category:
Harper Beards, Gislingham



Winner of the 5-6 years category:
Lucy Chown, Gislingham

More on inside back cover...

WELCOME TO THE MESSENGER



Welcome to the December issue!

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

This year we chose Sophia Whatling's submission from over 25 entries to grace the cover. A full list of winners and runners-up can be found on Page 7. We would like to thank all those children who took the time to submit some excellent pieces of artwork this year, and we hope you will all contribute again next year!

Sadly, I need to draw Gislingham residents to our article on page 9, regarding the discarded needle and syringe which were found on Charity Meadow a few weeks ago. I will make no moral judgement on this, as that tends to get me in trouble!

On a happier note, as another year draws to a close and we look forward to Christmas, there are numerous events to enjoy within our villages to help you get into the festive mood, including Carol Concerts and a Christmas Fayre at the Walled Garden.

But, if you normally tend to discard this publication after reading my Editorial; I urge you to hang on to and turn to page 53…… because I have included the 'Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Schedule'!

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with or contributed to the magazine this past year. We do appreciate the time and effort taken in submitting articles and photographs, so that we can try and cover as many local topics and events as possible. Also, this is the perfect time to thank all my colleagues on the Messenger team, who all give up a great deal of their spare time to fulfil their various roles and to help publish the magazine and update our website and social media. Not forgetting of course our staunch group of 22 distributors who every month deliver in all weathers to over 900 households. Thank You!

Finally, a reminder, that we do not publish in January, but we will be back in February.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 13th but, as always, I would appreciate any contributions and event notices as soon as possible please.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Messenger team, we wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a peaceful, happy and healthy 2025!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover picture by Sophia Whatling, Age 8 from Gislingham.

THE MESSENGER TEAM



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

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

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

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

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

Thornham Correspondent: Kate Fogg
email: k8fogg@gmail.com

Graphic Design: Jo Clifford, email: joclifford@cadecreative.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 and features from the Messenger are added every month to the Messenger website **www.the-messenger-online.com**

Next issue: February 2025
Copy deadline: Monday 13th 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



Sunday 1st December: Christmas Fayre
- The Walled Garden, Thornham Walks: 12.00 – 3.00pm. See page 19.

Tuesday 3rd December: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 mid-day.

Friday 6th December: Pub Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm / Last orders 9.45pm

Saturday 7th December: Book Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon

Tuesday 10th December: Gislingham WI – Christmas Lunch
- 'The Bull at Bacton': 12.00 meet for 12.30.

Thursday 12th December: Christmas Wreath Making
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 6.30pm – 9.00pm. See page 14.

Saturday 14th December: Christmas Carols with Gislingham Silver Band
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm. See page 35.

Tuesday 17th December: Christmas Carols with Gislingham Silver Band
- The Railway Tavern, Mellis: 7.00pm

Friday 3rd January 2025: Pub Night
- Gislingham Village Hall. Doors Open 5.00 pm / Last orders 9.45pm

Friday 17th January 2025: Pub Night
- Gislingham Village Hall. Doors Open 5.00 pm / Last orders 9.45pm

Saturday 18th January: Jumble Sale
- Thornhams Village Hall: 12.30 – 3.00pm. See page 16 for details.

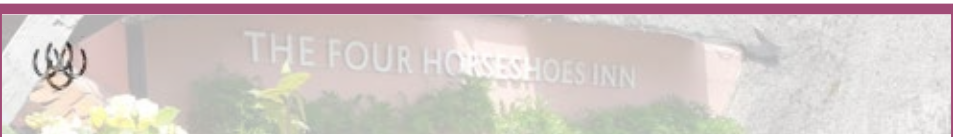
Saturday 18th January: TCT Quiz Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.00pm. – See page 12 for details.

Friday 24th January: Film Night – 'Thelma'
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.30pm. See page 14 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

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

Our next issue is February 2025. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Monday 13th Jan.



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CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION WINNERS 2024

We would like to thank all the children who submitted entries for this year's competition. Once gain we received over twenty entries from Mellis Primary School and Gislingham Primary School combined.

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 5-6:
Winner – Lucy Chown (age 6) – Gislingham
Runner Up – Florence Rossell (age 5) – Gislingham

Age Group 7-8:
Winner – Sophia Whatling (age 8) – Gislingham
Runner Up – Benjamin Gibbs (age 7) - Mellis

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

In addition, the following entries were highly commended: - Darcie Battell, Odette Baybutt, Phoebe Ella Havers, Theia MacLachlan, Zack Havers, Leah Elston, Lily Foulger, George Donham, Holly Hendrick, Amira, Alice Collier, Eva Rossell, Emily Gibbs, Oliver Pearce, and Oscar Bunn.

The winner in each age category will receive a Certificate and some festive goodies before Christmas.

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





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!! USED NEEDLE FOUND ON CHARITY MEADOW !!

In November a resident contacted Gislingham Parish Council about a used needle and syringe that had been discarded near the Memorial Bench on Charity Meadow.

The Police and the District Council were informed and advised that needles and syringes are hazardous materials and must not be collected or disposed of by members of the public.

The syringe was removed and safely disposed of by a professional waste management team hired by Gislingham United Charity, the owner of the land the needle was found on.

It is hoped that this was an isolated incident but users of Charity Meadow are urged to be vigilant. If any more needles are found, do not touch them and report them immediately.

- Hazardous waste found **in the playground area of Charity Meadow** should be reported to the Parish Clerk. 07833 705 905 or clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com
- Hazardous waste found **outside the playground area of Charity Meadow** should be reported to GUC. 01379 783 380 or gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com
- Hazardous waste found **on public land** should be reported to the Street Cleansing Team at Mid-Suffolk District Council on 0300 123 4000 (option 7).



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16th January from £89pp - **Moulin Rouge the Musical**
16th January or 29th May £165pp- **Mamma Mia the Party at the O2**
22nd January or 5th March £92pp - **Lion King the Musical**
24th January £95pp - **Mean Girls The Musical**
30th January £89pp - **Mamma Mia the Musical**
2nd February £79pp - **Magic Mike Live**
6th February or *27th March £87pp* - **Mrs Doubtfire the Comedy Musical**
13th February £89pp - **Back to the Future the Musical**
13th February or 8th May £92pp - **Tina Turner the Musical**
12th March £92pp- **Phantom of the Opera**
21st March from £99pp - **Come Alive the Greatest Showman Spectacular**



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GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



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

The first point of contact for any matters relating to the Parish Council, is the Parish Clerk on: **clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com and on telephone number 07833 705915.**

Councillors would encourage all residents to look on the Gislingham Parish Council website at **http://gislinghamparishcouncil.com** in order 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 may have in the village.

The Chair of the Parish Council has been absent for a few months due to ill health but the Parish Council has continued to carry out the usual tasks and we are looking forward to having him back very soon.

Suffolk Highways have recently published their Winter Service plans for 2024 and this is very interesting. It can be found by searching under Suffolk Highways.

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



The Parish Council would very much like to arrange a get together for our senior residents in the middle of January and would therefore like to hear from any senior resident who would like to come. Please let us know by calling 01379 788795.



The next Parish Council meeting will be on 20th January 2025.

Jo Pitt, Vice Chair. Gislingham Parish Council

JAN
18
2025

TCT QUIZ NIGHT



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

WE ARE HOLDING OUR QUIZ WITH A PRIZE RAFFLE FOR TCT ON SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM FOR A 7:30PM START AT GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

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Kevin on 07542 065807
or
Julie on 07918 611737
to book your tickets

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Trustees would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 6th December: Pub Night
Doors Open 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 7th December 2024: Christmas Quiz Night - Please note, this event has sold out.

Friday 3rd January 2025: Pub Night
Doors Open 5.00 pm. Last Orders 9.45 pm.
Again, we would like to point out that under the terms of our licence, only drinks purchased at the bar can be consumed on the premises

Friday 17th January 2025: Pub Night
Doors Open 5.00 pm. Last Orders 9.45 pm. Again, we would like to point out that under the terms of our licence, only drinks purchased at the bar can be consumed on the premises.

Saturday 18th January 2025: Quiz Night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust
Tickets available from Julie and Kevin Cook. See opposite for more information.



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

The Hall is available for hire at a cost of £10 per hour, which includes tables, chairs, lighting, heating, water etc. There are also village hall assets available for hire at an additional cost. These include, a sound system and a large screen television. Additionally, there are tables and chairs and a marquee which can be used outside of the hall.

Christmas Wreath Evening

Thursday 12th December 6.30-9pm
Thornham Magna Parish Hall

£35 to create your own moss wreath
Also includes bubbles and canapes

To book: email amandachurch562@gmail.com

All proceeds to the village hall



Scammed by a con artist, a 93-year-old grandmother sets out to reclaim what was taken from her

Thornhams Film Night
Friday, 24th January 7:30pm
Thornhams Village Hall

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

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



FUTURE EVENTS:

Thursday 12th December: Wreath Making
6.30pm: £35 to include all materials, canapes and bubbles.
Bring your own additions if you want to along with foliage and own secateurs.
Booking: amandachurch562@gmail.com

Saturday 18th January: Jumble Sale
12.30pm – 3.00pm: 50p admission

Friday 24th January: Film Night – 'Thelma'
7.30pm: £5. Booking: films@thornhams.org

Sunday 2nd February: Breakfast Club – The National Trust with Emma Hay
10.00am: £10 / Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Pilates Classes on Tuesdays 10.00am - Pilates gentle floorwork
and Wednesdays 11.15am – Pilates floor work – all levels



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

Follow us at https://www.facebook.com/ThornhamsParishHall

THORNHAMS PARISH HALL

The Street, Thornham Magna, IP23 8HB

jumble sale

Saturday 18th January 2025: 12 – 3pm

Admission: 50p



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Friday 17th January: 10.30am – 11.30am

Saturday 18th January: 10.30am – 11.30am

VOLUNTEER HELPERS REQUIRED – PLEASE CALL IF YOU CAN ASSIST

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

CONFIDENTIAL

"THE HOUSE OF LIGHT"

On 31st October, at St Mary's Church, Gislingham, pumpkins appeared, costumes were made, treat buckets were gathered, all the lights were switched on and the doors were opened as, for the second year, trick and treaters (and parents/carers) were welcomed.





We wanted to provide a safe and friendly, well-lit up space for all folk to feel welcomed, and maybe just have a much-needed pit stop. This is the first year I have been involved in this event, so I joined our curate Debbie Nicholls and her team.

The interior of the church was decorated, and had different stations with things to do. These included apple bobbing, a selfie spot, spider tattoos, crafts and two lots of lucky dip!

I wasn't sure how many children would attend, but we were inundated with an amazing number of children and their parents, (plus dogs!). They were all dressed in strange and wonderful costumes. We had the usual witches, and spooks, but I was pleased to see a Jedi knight, (with his mum carrying his light sabre!) a Harry Potter, and a Ghostbuster - wonder how many he caught that night?

All were welcomed in and everyone joined in the fun. Lots of sweets and treats dipped for, spider tattoos applied (temporary, of course), apples bobbed and selfies taken. Conversations were enjoyed and parents/carers had a moment to rest. Everyone had a really fun time and the team were warmly thanked by the visitors as they left. Some said they had never been in the church before, but they had felt very welcomed.

In these times, when darkness can prevail, it felt absolutely wonderful to be able to give a simple but powerful demonstration of Jesus's love and light without awkwardness or agenda.

A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by on a cold and misty night. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, see you next year!

Di Herbert

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Saturday 7th December 9pm ***FROMAGE***

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Thursday 12th December 8.00pm CHRISTMAS OPEN MIC

A Festive Edition hosted as ever by Mike & Gem.

Tuesday 17th December 7.30pm ***CHRISTMAS CAROLS***

GISLINGHAM SILVER BAND & The Mellis Singers. Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Thursday 19th December 7.30pm ***CHRISTMAS QUIZ***

Cash Prize & Free Festive Snacks. Booking is Essential.

Christmas Eve 8.30pm CHRISTMAS KARAOKE DISCO

Christmas songs a plenty to get everyone in a fabulous festive mood.

Saturday 28th December 8.30pm COUNTRY NIGHT

REDNECK RODEO with Live music from KENDALL COUNTRY

New Year's Eve 8.30pm CHEESE & CRACKERS PARTY

Cheesy Party Favourites along with Dancefloor Crackers from the 70's, 80's & 90's.

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GISLINGHAM SUMMER FAIR COMMITTEE NEWS

The inaugural meeting for the 2025 Gislingham Summer Fair will be held on Tuesday 28th January, at Gislingham Primary School at 7.30pm







Three Officers have been appointed to help organise and plan the event along with a representative from each of these local groups: -

- **Gislingham Village Hall**
- **Gislingham WI**
- **Friends of St Mary's Church**
- **Friends of Gislingham School**
- **Gislingham Playgroup**
- **1st Mendlesham Scout Group**

Besides raising money for these local organisations, the primary aim of the event is to bring the whole community together for a fun day.

We welcome anyone who would like to come and join us. We are particularly looking for people who can organise dry weather, but all hands will be much appreciated.

Already a number of new ideas have been discussed, so the plan is for a bigger and better Summer Fair in 2025. We received excellent support from so many people earlier this year. However, we will be looking for even more help and support next year.

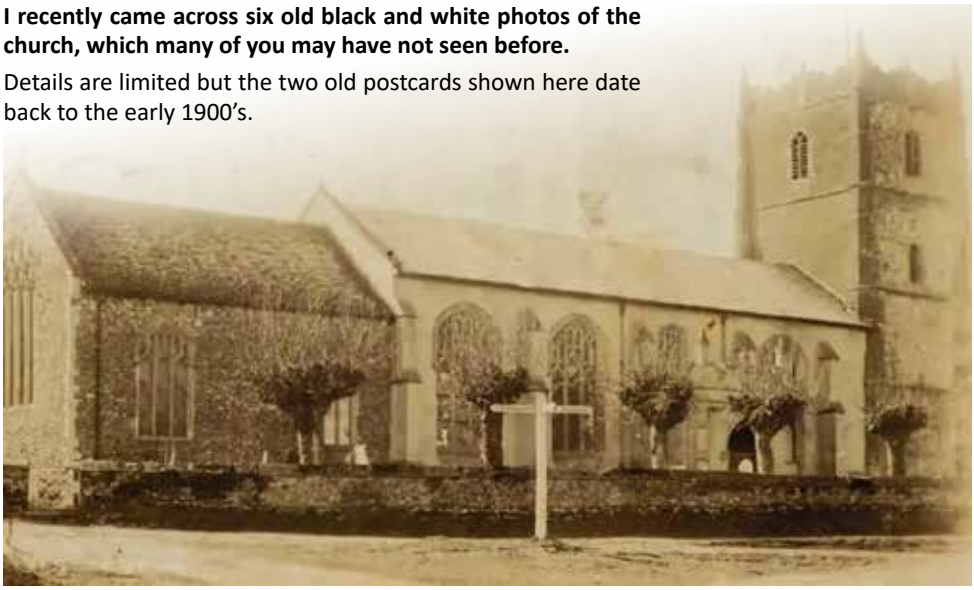
Gislingham Summer Fair Committee
e: gislinghamsummerfair@gmail.com



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, GISLINGHAM

I recently came across six old black and white photos of the church, which many of you may have not seen before.

Details are limited but the two old postcards shown here date back to the early 1900's.



Above and right: The church is seen here in 1911, and contained six bells. (Hence the name of the local pub!). The Rev. Daniel Bennett was rector at the time.





The image on the left shows the south side of the church appears to be slightly more recent.

Source material for historical text: 'St. Mary's Gislingham' booklet. This 24-page A5 booklet is available to purchase in the church.

A brief history

The earliest mention of a church in Gislingham occurs in 1087. The church has been structurally altered several times between 1087 and 1640. The upkeep of the chancel was the responsibility of the clergyman and the patrons of the living, who were the lords of either Gislingham or Swatshall manors. The rest of the building had to be financed and maintained by the parishioners, under the supervision of the churchwardens.

When the style of the doors and windows changed, when neighbouring churches were extended or rebuilt, or when finance was available, parishioners were motivated to undertake new work on their own church. God's house should not only reflect His glory, but also that of the people of Gislingham. So, when we look at the church today, we see surviving parts of a continuing process of change over 500 years.

The chancel was rebuilt and enlarged in the mid C13th. The south door with its narrow-pointed arch, survives from this period and the lower part of the north wall is of the same date, or earlier.

Most of the stained glass and the porch date from the late C15th and the north-east window contain some of the earliest botanical depictions of English wild flowers in the country. Three shields are set within C15th wreaths of twisted stems with tendrils, leaves and flowers. The plant is the blue columbine (aquilegia vulgaris). Nearby Columbine Way commemorates this unique glass.

The church tower was built as a replacement for a medieval tower in the years after the Reformation. The neglect that set in the Church of England in the later part of the 16th Century would cause many Suffolk church towers to collapse during the course of the next 250 years, before the Victorians stepped in to rescue them. Gislingham's was one of the first to fall, hitting the ground in the winter of 1598.

The four medieval bells were recorded here in 1553. By 1640 the four bells had been used to recast five new bells. A sixth bell was added in 1814. Inside the tower are decorative panels with names of the bell ringing team in 1717.







The three photos above are taken from a large bound album of 720 original mounted black & white photographs of Suffolk and Norfolk Parish Churches held by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, taken by Henry Munro Cautley FSA ARIBA, author of 'Suffolk Churches & Their Treasures' [1937 & 1954] .The original negatives are held at Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich.

Jeff Norman

Christmas Carols
Christmas Music

with Gislingham Silver Band

Come and sing your heart out

with your favourite

Christmas Songs and Carols.

Bring your own food and drink (& glasses and plates!).

FREE ENTRY
Donations welcome

Saturday 14th December
7.30pm
Gislingham Village Hall

Raffle **Raffle**



SIX BELLS COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE

In the August edition of the Messenger we reported that the owners of the Six Bells have launched an appeal against the Planning Enforcement Notice (PEN) issued by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) "to cease use of any part of the building except as residential occupation ancillary to the primary use of the building as an active public house".

MSDC has written to the SBCG, at the request of the Planning Inspectorate (PI), to formally advise us of the appeal and the Appeal Start Date of 19th September and to invite us to submit representations concerning the grounds for appeal.

The PI has stated that the appeal will be considered via "Written Representations" of a purely factual nature. This means that, in the view of the PI, the planning issues raised, the PEN, and the grounds for appeal, are clear and not complex.

The Enforcement Notice stated that there has been a breach of Planning Control in that, without planning permission, there has been a Change of Use from a public house to use as a dwelling house. The owners are appealing on the grounds that:

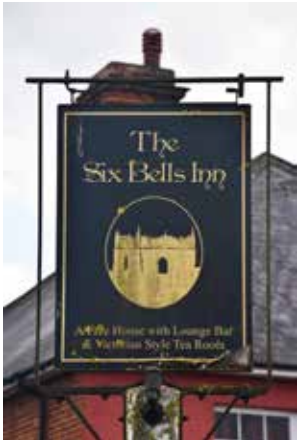
A. There has been no such breach.

B. The requirements set out in the PEN are excessive and

C. The time to comply is too short (they have been given one year!)

MSDC will, no doubt, robustly defend its position and the Parish Council has voiced its support of MSDC's position. The SBCG has submitted a comprehensive document addressing the grounds for appeal which we consider shows them to be without foundation. We included numerous examples of virtually identical scenarios where the PI rejected the appeals. Hopefully the matter will be dealt with expeditiously. We will keep you informed of the outcome.

The Six Bells Community Group





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GISLINGHAM FOOTPATH REPORT – Dec. 2024

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 the Parish Council's contractor this year, which made walking these footpaths very difficult. Hopefully, this will not happen next year. If you know of anyone who would be willing to take on this small contract, please let me know.

Finger Posts

You may be wondering where some of the Finger Posts have gone. There are now 6 posts that require replacing, some of which have been down for over a year. SCC have these in hand, but are waiting for their contractor to do the work. Watch this space.





Ploughed Fields

If any footpaths have been ploughed and sown with the new crop, but the footpaths have not been reinstated please let me know, so that I will report to SCC.

Pylons/Footpaths

With the ongoing issue with the pylon's project that will blight our village, some footpaths may be affected and closed for the possible installations of these pylons. Therefore, please make the most of these footpaths.

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 a peaceful 2025.

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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WANTED: NEW MEMBERS FOR A CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Are you interested in creative writing?



I live in Gislingham and belong to a writing group which meets once a month on Friday afternoons. We take turns choosing a topic for us all to write about although there are times when people choose their own subject matter.

The purpose of the group is writing for fun so we read our stories aloud and offer positive feedback.

We meet in different members' homes if they have room to host and currently, we have aspiring writers from Haughley Green, Stowmarket and Fornham St Martin. We have recently lost several members so are looking for new people to join us.

I would be happy to offer a lift if transport is required and you are very welcome to attend a meeting to observe and see if it is something you would like to be involved with.

If you are interested or would like any further information, please either email me at slmives@sky.com or call me on either 01379788363 or 07870934569.

Sarah Ives



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NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes!

In last month's Nature Notes I mentioned that a comet was about to appear our skies. That comet was Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS), to give it its full name. The visual appearance of comets in the sky is hard to predict, depending upon exactly what they're made of and to what extent they may disintegrate when their path takes them close to the sun and they warm up. If we're lucky, a comet may be bright enough to see by the naked eye and show a splendid tail. Happily, that was the case with this comet, although it took a photograph and some work in PhotoShop to bring out the best of the sight.



Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS)

Here's one of my photos of this latest comet taken just after sunset and looking west from fields between Mill Street and Back Street in Gislingham. Whilst this was taken with my "proper" camera, I had similar results with my phone, which I think is remarkable. The comet has now moved further away from Earth and will be fainter. Whether or not it's now still visible I cannot say as we've had cloudy skies for what seems ages, which is very frustrating. This comet won't return for another 80,000 years so I was pleased to see it.



The Andromeda Galaxy

Before the clouds rolled in, we did have clear skies for several nights in late October when I thought I'd have a go at photographing the Andromeda galaxy. It's well positioned at present, being high above the horizon, which means there's less atmosphere between it and us that could lead to blurry photos. Here's my latest photo of Andromeda, taken from my garden in Gislingham. The photo is the result of several exposures totalling just over 3 hrs and taken over two nights. The galaxy lies some 2.5 million light years from earth, is some 220,000 light years in diameter and is estimated to contain one trillion stars!

Returning to terrestrial matters, I enjoyed a splendid walk with friends in early November alongside the River Alde's estuary. We started out from Snape Maltings and walked alongside the estuary's southern bank towards the church at Iken. The return walk to the church is a distance of some 4.6 miles but we had to cut our walk short so that we wouldn't be late for lunch that we'd booked back at the maltings. We made it to just beyond Iken Cliff, so our return walk was around 3.5 miles. Iken Cliff stands at just 20 ft high and so is unlikely to induce vertigo! Much of the walk is on a boardwalk across marshy ground, which made for very easy going. One noticeable thing about our time there was that shortly after leaving the maltings it became very quiet and peaceful. There was practically no wind and so not even the rustle of the reeds disturbed the sense of tranquility.





Shortly after beginning our walk we came across a conspicuous line of mushrooms stretching out across a meadow. I'm no expert but I believe these bright yellow fungi to be Bolbitius mushrooms, a kind I hadn't seen before. Later, a small vole scampered across the boardwalk just ahead of us. This little fellow was way too fast for me to photograph, but here's a shot of one I spotted in my garden a couple of years ago. We also saw many different kinds of birds and waterfowl rummaging around in the estuary's mud, including Teals (shown here), an Egret and elegant Common Sandpipers.



All in all, an interesting and relaxing walk and one that I look forward to repeating on a cold, bright winter's day.



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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR


'TEAM GISLINGHAM JRSOS'

Welcome to Gislingham School

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing the article about the 'Junior Road Safety Officers' (JRSOs) in the November issue.

As a result of your article, the Diss Express Newspaper contacted us and ran a story about us in their 15th November issue.

Diss Express

This is thanks to your fantastic magazine which puts community information out there to share! Thank you to you and all the hard-working team. It is very much appreciated and valued by us all.

Team Gislingham JRSOS, Gislingham Primary School


8 NEWS

Friday, November 15, 2024

Pupils keep an eye on the road

Kevin Hurst
Kevin.hurst@iffemedia.co.uk

A primary school has welcomed its next set of road safety officers, tasked with spreading the word in and around the community.

Year 6 pupils George, Ruby, Alice and Jacob, along with the scheme's mascot, Officer Snuggles, have been made junior road safety officers (JRSOs) at Gislingham Primary School.

This is the third year that teaching assistant Clare Hall has led the scheme and feels the work that is done by it has been such a help to pupils and adults alike.

"I have been a volunteer for Suffolk Accident Rescue Service for many years and, for me, teaching road safety is so important," she said.

"And with the JRSOs, we can get that message out in so many different ways, which can only be good for our community."

The team has been busy since September, including conducting traffic observations outside the school, putting up posters around the village, taking assemblies and setting up school competitions around road safety issues, with the prize being to take Officer Snuggles home.

"With all of these things, the children and the wider school community have been really engaged with our projects," said Mrs Hall.

"That is great to see and, as they are getting more and more involved, they are learning road safety life lessons for the rest of their lives."

As well as this, the JRSOs also joined up with the village's speed watch group last month.

The teaching assistant said: "The children had a chance to use the speed gun and were able to give the thumbs up to those that were keeping to the speed limit.

"I think if adults see children doing something positive like this, then it is a powerful message for drivers to maybe slow down and be safer on the road.

"I am so proud and blown away by the JRSOs; they have so many skills, are motivated and are really leading the way to make their community a safer place."

Clare Hall with three of the school's young road safety officers.

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TRIED & TESTED RECIPES by Debbie



BAILEYS BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

This is a delicious Baileys bread and butter pudding that's perfect for the festive season. It is rich, creamy and has a bit of a kick with the addition of Baileys liqueur in this recipe. You can also use any of the other Baileys flavours, such as orange or my favourite caramel.

This recipe makes a pudding large enough to serve up to eight people, so it's the best sweet treat to make if you've got a lot of mouths to feed over the Christmas period – and there'll probably be enough for seconds too!

Prep time:
20 mins / Cooking time: 30mins / Serves 8. (430 calories per serving).



Ingredients:

- 100g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 6 thick slices crusty white farmhouse bread, crusts left on
- 85g sultanas or golden raisins
- 3 large eggs
- 250ml whole milk
- 150ml double cream
- 150ml Baileys liqueur
- 25g golden caster sugar
- 25g demerara sugar single cream or custard, to serve.

You will need:
A 2 litre ovenproof dish, buttered.

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 180C, 160C fan, gas 4. Butter the bread and cut each slice into triangles. Arrange the triangles so that they overlap in the dish, and scatter over the sultanas or raisins between the layers.
2. Lightly beat the eggs and mix with the milk, cream, Baileys, and caster sugar, then pour over the bread. Lightly press down with a potato masher, so that the bread absorbs the creamy mixture.
3. Sprinkle over the demerara sugar and bake for 30 minutes until the top is golden and the pudding is just set. Serve warm with single cream or custard for pouring over.

Seasonal greetings to you all!

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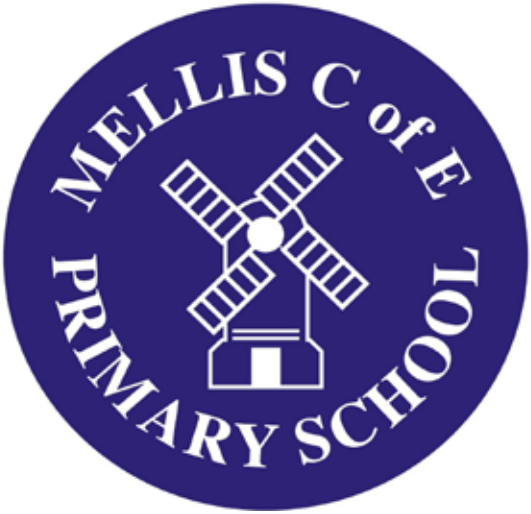




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WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

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TAKE A LOOK AT OUR VACANCIES:

Secretary:

For personal reasons, we now have a vacancy for a Secretary (Group Admin).

The role involves preparing agendas, taking minutes and distributing them to the Trustees Board and the Leadership Team. Attending 4-6 meetings per year.

Treasurer:

Our current Treasurer will be stepping down at the end of March after 5 years due to work commitments. The role involves keeping financial records for all the sections, preparing and monitoring the annual budget, submitting accounts to the Charities Commission, submitting Gift Aid returns to HMRC, plus other financial requirements. Some experience with bookkeeping and Excel spread sheets would be helpful.

Project Coordinator:

We are now in the final stages of receiving a new lease for the HQ site at Mendlesham Green, so will be submitting several grant applications to finance the project to build our new HQ (which we have full planning permission for). Regrettably, for family reasons, our experienced Project Coordinator has had to step down with immediate effect, so we are now looking to replace him asap. Experience in grant applications and building requirements etc. would be very helpful.

Trustees

To assist with the governance of the Scout Group alongside the other Trustees. Meeting 4-6 times per year.

If you would like more information or wish to put your name forward for any of the above vacancies, please contact:- ***Lil Evans (Chair) on 07545 322087 or Martyn Bryant (Group Lead Volunteer) on 07900 147912.***



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WALKING IN FOR HEALTH IN 2024



As 2024 draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone for their feedback and suggestions for new walks. We hope that you have enjoyed our little trips.

As you have probably realised, we do tend to end at a watering hole, well we do work up a thirst.

Since we first starting writing up our walks during Covid, we have accumulated over 35 walks. With this knowledge and records, I am attending a book writers' seminar with the intention of producing a book of our walks. The plan being to sell the book at a reasonable price with the profit going towards 1st Mendlesham Scout Group's new HQ. I will keep you posted on how I get on.

We would both like to say a big thank you to our fellow walkers and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and that 2025 brings us all renewed walking legs and joy.

Below are photos of just some of the amazing local places we have visited on our travels.

Emma & Martyn Bryant













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DI'S BOOK BLOG



"Agatha Christie" by Lucy Worsley ★★★★★ 5/5

Despite her death in 1976, I can't imagine there are many people today who have not heard of Agatha Christie. You may have read her books, enjoyed the films, seen the TV adaptations or watched her plays.

Agatha Christie is famous all around the world. She was a prolific writer and, in her time, wrote over 60 detective novels, plus short story collections, plays and poetry.



Her books have been translated into over 100 languages, and more than two billion copies have been sold.

But what about Mrs Christie herself?

What sort of person do you imagine her to be? A sweet little lady in her 80s sitting quietly in a corner with her knitting and observing the world around her, much like Miss Marple perhaps?

Well, there was far much more to Agatha than that, and Lucy Worsley's biography about her certainly shows this.

From the first introduction to the last page, Ms Worsley manages to keep the reader interested. She has obviously done her research very thoroughly.

We learn that Agatha was an expert swimmer, surfer, pianist. She loved fast cars, archaeology, psychology, and travel. As a younger woman, she worked in a hospital pharmacy and nursed as a red cross volunteer. She was married twice and had a daughter.

There is significant sadness in her life, but also many joyful times.

The script is accompanied by a lot of fascinating photographs from throughout Agatha's life - a sombre looking child, a beautiful Edwardian young woman, an older almost matronly figure that we are probably most familiar with.

Written in a very enjoyable, almost story-telling style, I found this to be an extremely illuminating biography. Plus, we even get some explanation into her mysterious disappearance in 1926.

And as a bonus for huge fans like me, we get plenty of interesting insights into the influences behind her books.

So, if you are off on a cruise down that famous Egyptian river or taking a luxurious train ride through central Europe, then this would be the perfect accompanying read. Enjoy!

(P.S. My favourite Poirot is David Suchet, my favourite Miss Marple is Joan Hickson....

And as for my favourite book .... "4.50 from Paddington", every time!)

Di Herbert

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TERRAPIN NEWS





On the night of Wednesday November 13th led by Brenda Harris the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Supported Lettings Team Manager, two Outreach teams consisting of officers from Housing Solutions set out at midnight to take part in The National Rough Sleeper Count.

This count takes place each November, on the same night, in authorities across England, the purpose is to physically count the number of rough sleepers on that night. A snapshot of what is happening.

Our team scoured places in Babergh and Mid Suffolk where rough sleepers are known to frequent.

Who were they looking for? People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or bedded down in the open air (such as, on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or bushes).

The results nationally have not yet been published, last year there were 3,898 people rough sleeping across the country, a 27% increase on 2022 and 120% increase since 2010 when this "snapshot" was first undertaken. Some statistics from 2023: 82% male, 13% were under 18, 29% in London, the district with the highest number, 277 in Westminster and the East of England second lowest with 9%.

Our Outreach Teams had the following: List of search areas, hand sanitiser, handheld torches x3, spare batteries, fluorescent waistcoats x3, pens, card to give to rough sleeper with BMSDC contact details, card to give to any member of the public who asks about the RS count, note book on which to collect any information, Greggs Vouchers, energy bars and water.

The protocol on finding a rough sleeper is strict: Do not shine bright light directly at the person you find. Place yourself in a safe position with an escape route. Do not crowd around the person you find. Get information only if safe to do so. Record the information-Offer a contact card. Time-Location-Age-Description-Nationality-Name if possible. Offer to contact during office hours. Offer the rough sleeper a meal voucher. And most importantly: call the coordinator to request social services and/or police support if a child (under 18) is sleeping rough and stay with/near them until help arrives.

Other organisations were aware the count was taking place, Suffolk Police, British Transport Police, BMSDC Out of Hours Team, Suffolk CCTV control room.

That night I am happy to report there were no rough sleepers in Mid Suffolk. However, there are 5 previously identified rough sleepers who are no longer rough sleeping but safe in temporary accommodation. Every effort is being made to find them a settled home, a case officer will be assessing their needs and what support they need and are willing to accept.

This level of support is only possible through support from government, on the 6th November an emergency £10 million fund was announced by the Deputy Prime Minister to protect rough sleepers from cold weather this winter. The funding boost will save lives by ensuring rough sleepers have access to a safe and warm bed. The money will go direct to councils in the highest need and support thousands of the most vulnerable people in society. Last year, a devastating 155 people died sleeping rough on our streets.

Please contact any of the following if you suspect a person is rough sleeping: Email: rough.sleeping@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk or Phone: Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council on 0300 123 4000 option 3.

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Gislingham United Charity

Gislingham United Charity continues to welcome applications for short term support from **residents of Gislingham** who find themselves in hardship or need.

We also consider requests for educational purposes, for **Gislingham residents** of all ages, whether at School, in further or higher education, or undertaking vocational training.

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence and in accordance with GDPR Data Protection Regulations.

GUC Trustees meeting dates for 2025 are as follows:

- **Friday 10th January**
- **Friday 14th March**
- **Friday 9th May**
- **Friday 11th July**
- **Friday 12th September**
- **Friday 14th November**

Applications, together with the necessary supporting documentation, **should be received seven working days before the meetings** to allow Trustees time to consider applications and request additional information if required.

In the event of emergency applications, Trustees will consider an application when received and, if necessary, will call a special meeting to review the application.

Application forms can be obtained from:
The Clerk
Lilac Cottage, Mill Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JR
Telephone: 01379 783380
Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com

Or can be downloaded from the "Organisations" page on the Parish Council Website:
https://gislinghamparishcouncil.com/organisations/gislingham-united-charity/

Registered charity: No. 208340 • Trustees are Volunteers

Lamberts Service Station Ltd

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MID SUFFOLK

Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2024-25

Refuse (general rubbish) and recycling collections

Collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Tuesday 24 December 2024.

From Wednesday 25 December 2024 to Saturday 11 January 2025, refuse and recycling collections will be on an amended schedule

	Usual collection date	Amended collection date	Change
Refuse	Monday 23 December 2024	*No Change*	*None*
	Tuesday 24 December 2024	*No Change*	*None*
	Wednesday 25 December 2024	Friday 27 December 2024	2 days later
	Thursday 26 December 2024	Saturday 28 December 2024	2 days later
	Friday 27 December 2024	Monday 30 December 2024	3 days later
Recycling	Monday 30 December 2024	Tuesday 31 December 2024	1 day later
	Tuesday 31 December 2024	Thursday 2 January 2025	2 days later
	Wednesday 1 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025	2 days later
	Thursday 2 January 2025	Saturday 4 January 2025	2 days later
	Friday 3 January 2025	Monday 6 January 2025	3 days later
Refuse	Monday 6 January 2025	Tuesday 7 January 2025	1 day later
	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Wednesday 8 January 2025	1 day later
	Wednesday 8 January 2025	Thursday 9 January 2025	1 day later
	Thursday 9 January 2025	Friday 10 January 2025	1 day later
	Friday 10 January 2025	Saturday 11 January 2025	1 day later

From Monday 13 January 2025, refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

Garden waste (brown bin) collections

Collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Friday 20 December 2024.

From Monday 23 December 2024 to Sunday 5 January 2025, there will be **no** garden waste collections.

From Monday 6 January 2025, garden waste collections return to the normal schedule.

Please put your bin out by 6.30am

Check for delays and report a missed collection
Online: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)

Scan for more information



Becky Cruickshank

Personal Training, Fitness Classes & Pilates

PILATES (1 hour):

Yaxley Village Hall	Mondays	9:30 a.m.
Cotton Village Hall	Mondays	7:20 p.m.
Gislingham Village Hall	Wednesdays	9:15 a.m.
Gislingham Village Hall	Wednesdays	10:15 a.m.
Westhorpe Village Hall	Wednesdays	12:15 p.m.
Gislingham Village Hall	Thursdays	7:10 p.m.

TOTAL FITNESS (45 mins):

Gislingham Village Hall	Thursdays	6:15 p.m.

GENTLE FITNESS (45 mins)

Westhorpe Village Hall	Fridays	10:00 a.m.

Come and give them a try!

For more information contact Becky on
07734 414151/beckycruickshank@btinternet.com

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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!

BEWARE THE FIVE SCAMS OF CHRISTMAS, WARN TRADING STANDARDS



Don't get caught out - fake websites, scam texts and bogus competitions are just some of the tactics fraudsters use to rip people off. With the countdown to Christmas well and truly underway, Suffolk Trading Standards is warning people to be on their guard against festive season scams. While shoppers look to snap up a bargain Trading Standards are urging us to take a few simple steps to avoid being ripped off.

The five scams to look out for over Christmas are:

1. **Scam delivery texts and emails** – You may get an email or text message saying your package has been delayed and it asks you to click on a link to track its status. This link could lead you to a phishing site that steals your personal information. Malicious texts are where someone clicks on a link and provides information, they may then get a phone call from someone claiming to be from their bank who offers to help safeguard funds by trying to convince someone to transfer money into a bogus 'safe account'. Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 and send scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk
2. **Fake and copy-cat websites** - The holiday season brings endless emails offering deals, sales, and bargains. Some lead to look-alike websites that trick people into downloading malware, making non-existent purchases, and sharing private information. Authenticate a website by checking the address is spelled correctly. Ideally, type it in rather than clicking on a link, or go to getsafeonline.org/checkawebsite
3. **Bogus charities** - Only donate to trusted, well-known charities. Before giving, check the charity's name and registration number. You can verify this at the Charity Commission's website at charitycommission.gov.uk
4. **Gift Card scams** - Fraudsters impersonate one of your email contacts to ask you to buy a gift card for them as a favour. They will typically say they need help buying it as a present as they are too ill, too busy or have an issue with their payment card. The scammer then asks you to share the serial numbers of gift cards to steal the value purchased. If you receive an email asking for personal information or any form of financial help, call that friend or family member on a trusted number and let them know their account may have been hacked.
5. **Fake social media contests, giveaways and bogus sellers** - Social media platforms are full of bargains but are also where scammers lie in wait with too-good-to-be true offers. Fraudsters set up fake pages with offers to catch your eye and encourage you to share. Search for the official page to see if an offer or giveaway is legitimate.

Suffolk Trading Standards can be contacted via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

THE MESSENGER CONNECTION QUIZ

There are 10 questions. The answers to the first 9 questions form a connection of some kind.

1. 100,000 People lined the streets of New York for this silent movie star's funeral in 1926.
2. The first Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical to be performed publicly.
3. The State capital of New Mexico.
4. Singer/Songwriter of such hits as "The Locomotion" and "It might as well rain until September."
5. Lead guitarist of the band Oasis, who was married to Meg Matthews.
6. Sci-Fi film series created by George Lucas in 1977.
7. Nickname for the home of the US film industry.
8. Actress who played Maddie Hayes in the 1980's TV Show "Moonlighting."
9. Michael Caine played this character in the 1992 Muppet Movie.
10. What is the connection?

Answers appear on page 59.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

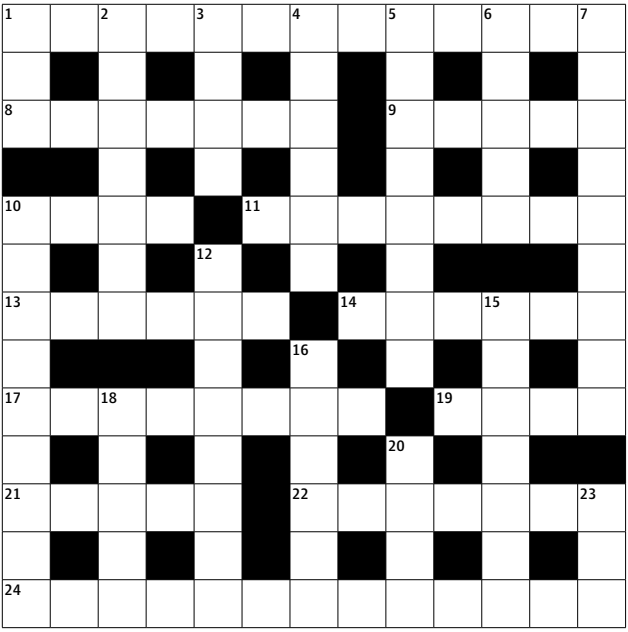
4		5				9	6	
		8	5					1
			3		9			
		7		1	3			
	2						9	
			8	5		3		
			2		5			
6					4	2		
	5	9				8		7

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Light with enclosed flame (9,4)
8 Asinine – unfunny? (7)
9 Clique (5)
10 Artists Gwen and Augustus ____ or artist ____ Constable (4)
11 Obscure (8)
13 Data table (6)
14 West Ham or Manchester? (6)
17 Setting (8)
19 Male deer (4)
21 Place to stay (5)
22 Sour sticks (7)
24 Tease – remove Disney character? (4,3,6)

Down

1 ____ come? ('Why?') (3)
2 Toothed rack (7)
3 Goat type (4)
4 Check (6)
5 Action-packed (8)
6 Red to green shade? (5)
7 German shepherd? (6,3)
10 Get broken-down car going? (4-5)
12 Fine fibre (8)
15 Meadow pipit (7)
16 Make a hole in (6)
18 Net novel? (1-4)
20 Japanese peak at 3,776m (4)
23 Believe (3)

Last issue solution

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

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Tiptoplawncare1 Tiptoplawncare

NOTICES

MELLIS CHURCH CAROL CONCERT

We look forward to welcoming you to our

'Carols By Candlelight'

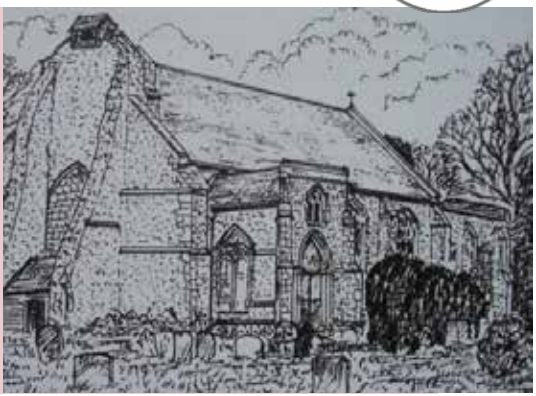
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at **Mellis Church**

on

Tuesday 10th December

6.00pm



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THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER AT 7.00PM
WITH GISLINGHAM SCHOOL CHOIR
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EVERYBODY WELCOME

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE UPDATE



The Right Revd Martin Seeley, the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, is delighted to announce that The Revd. Deborah Nicholls has been appointed as Rector of the South Hartismere Benefice.

Deborah is presently Assistant Curate in the South Hartismere Benefice. A date for Deborah's Institution and Induction service will be confirmed in due course.

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 56.

1. RUDOLF Valentino, 2. JOSEPH and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat, 3. SANTA Fe, 4. CAROLE King, 5. NOEL Gallagher, 6. STAR Wars, 7. TINSEL Town, 8. Cybil SHEPHERD, 9. Ebenezer SCROOGE, 10. They all have a connection with Christmas.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024 is ***Follow the Star: Calm and Bright***, draws on the carol, Silent Night. Throughout Advent, there will be a focus on how to find Calm during this increasingly busy and often stressful period.

It is very easy for people to say 'Calm down', it is another thing to actually do it. December can feel like chaos – full of social events, presents to buy, a large to do list; the house to decorate and clean, extra- beds to make, the food to buy and prepare, Christmas parties and events and the pressure to produce the 'perfect Christmas'. If you are on your own, or have lost someone, it can be an extremely lonely and difficult time. In the midst of this chaos, our churches offer an opportunity to find peace, calm and a warm welcome.

"Silent Night" is about a calm and bright silent night, and the wonder of a tender and mild newborn child. The words were written in 1816 by a young priest in Austria and first performed on Christmas Eve 1819. It is believed to have first been translated into English in 1858. By 1914, 'Silent Night' was so familiar that, when German soldiers sang it in the World War I trenches, their British counterparts were able to respond in kind with the English version. It's nice to think that, maybe, for that one night, all was calm.

One of the reasons that this carol is so universally loved is the way it invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World. The angelic messages we hear in the story of Jesus' birth express the need for calm in the present ("Do not be afraid" … "Fear not") with the hope of a bright future ("for you have found favour with God" … "for behold I bring you tidings of great joy").

As we sing this Carol over the Christmas period, we can reflect on the words:

1) Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2) Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!

3) Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

4) Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born.

From all in the South Hartismere Benefice we wish you a calm and peaceful Christmas as well as bright joy through the season. We look forward to welcoming you at one of our many services during Advent and Christmas.

Emma Morris, Schools and Families Minister

From the Parishes: Baptism of Ivy Watson, Thornham Magna
In loving memory of Gillian Beeson, Stoke Ash

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st December *1st Sunday of Advent*	Gislingham	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion Benefice Advent Rings blessed & lit
	Thorndon	3.30pm	Christingle Workshop
	Thorndon	4.30pm	Christingle with Carols
Thursday 5th December	Gislingham	7.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday 8th December *2nd Sunday of Advent*	Mellis	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Stoke Ash	3.00pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 10th December	Mellis	6.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday 15th December *3rd Sunday of Advent*	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Yaxley	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thornham Magna	3.00pm	Carols with the GS Band
	Wetheringsett	6.00pm	Community Carol Service
Sunday 22nd December *4th Sunday of Advent*	Thornham Magna	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thornham Parva	6.00pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th December *Christmas Eve*	Gislingham	3.00pm	Crib Service
	Yaxley	4.00pm	Crib Service
	Stoke Ash	11.30pm	First Holy Communion of Christmas
Wednesday 25th December *Christmas Day*	Gislingham	9.30am	Morning Praise
	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 29th December *1st Sunday of Christmas*	Thorndon	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 5th January *2nd Sunday of Christmas* *Epiphany*	Thorndon	10.00am	Together @ 10
	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th January *The Baptism of Christ*	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Worship for All
	Mellis	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th January *2nd Sunday of Epiphany*	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Mattins
	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
Sunday 26th January *3rd Sunday of Epiphany*	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All
	Yaxley	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

BUS TIMETABLES

Gislingham Bus timetable

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

Fareline Bus (Wednesdays only – Market Day) to Bury St. Edmunds:
Leaves Gislingham 09:46am / Arrives BSE bus station 10.48
Returns from Bury St. Edmunds leaves 13:25 / Arrives Gislingham 14.32

Mellis Bus Timetable
https://www.simonds.co.uk/local-bus-times)
110 – Eye to Diss
Eye – Diss (Monday to Friday) - leaves Mellis, opp. Railway Tavern: 10.46
Diss – Eye (Monday to Friday) – leaves Diss, adj. Bus Station: 13.30

Thornham Bus Timetable
Fairline Bus 320 (Wednesdays only)
Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 09:40am / Arrives BSE bus station 10.48
Returns from Bury St. Edmunds 13:25, arriving back at Thornham Magna 14:36



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



Mobile Library: Gislingham
29 Jan, 26 Feb, 26 Mar, 23 April,
21 May, 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sep,
8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec, 31 Dec.
Times:
Broadfields Road: 15.10 = 15.45
Mill St.: 15.50 – 16.05

Thank you to everryone who entered a picture. The standard was very high and it was very hard to choose the winners. **The pictures below were selected as RUNNERS UP and HIGHLY COMMENDED.**





































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