The Messenger



Issue 150
July
2024

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH
MAGAZINE
AWARDS

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: August 2024
Copy deadline: Monday 15th July

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

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

WELCOME TO THE MESSENGER



EDITOR'S NOTES – July 2024

WELCOME TO THE 150TH ISSUE!

Firstly, you may be impressed or dismayed by my cover photo taken in Thornham. Admittedly, it doesn't exactly depict our lovely villages in the best light, but hopefully it will act as a reminder that residents can submit objections to the National Grid proposal to build pylons near our villages – the deadline is 26th July. (Details of how you can do this are on page 9).

New residents to the villages often ask me about the history of this magazine. This being our 150th issue, I have told the story of our history on pages 10 & 11 and I've also included our most famous ever cover photo (albeit in black & white) from 7 years ago! (Thanks to Colin Davis).

Here's to the next 150 issues!

Saturday 6th July will see the return of the Gislingham Summer Fair after a 5-year absence! Thanks to sponsorship by MA Heating, we have been able to produce a Summer Fair programme in a four-page pull-out in the centre of this issue.

There is no denying that a great deal of time and effort goes in to planning and organising an event like this, and most of the work is often done by just by a handful of individuals who give up their spare time for the enjoyment of others. They do this because they want the community, and their families, to be able to come together for an afternoon of fun! (And, better still, it is not exclusive to Gislingham residents!) Historically, this has always been a great social event so please come along and join in the fun.

That said, the Summer Fair organisers do need some "extra hands" on the day, to help out. In particular, helping hands are needed to assist with the packing up and tidying up at the end of the day. If a handful of people could stay behind at 4.30pm for 30 to 60 minutes, it would be a great help! On page 63, we give some pointers as to how you can help, before and after the event.

Finally, congratulations should go to all the staff and pupils at Gislingham Primary School for their latest Ofsted rating. (Page 19).

Until next month!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: Taken in Major Lane, Thornham

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS

Tuesday 2nd July: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 mid-day

Saturday 6th July: Gislingham Summer Fair
- Gislingham School Playground: 12.00 – 4.30pm
- Pull-out programme detailing events in centre-pages of this issue



Friday 12th July: Pub Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm – 10.00pm

Sunday 14th July: Afternoon tea with live tennis.
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 2.00pm - See page 14 for details.

Wednesday 17th July: Gislingham WI – Strawberry Tea
- Gislingham Village Hall: 2.30pm

Sunday 21st July: Summer Fair
- Beyond The Wall, Thornham Estate: 12.00 – 3.00pm – See page 22 for details

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Saturday 24th to Monday 26th August:** Gislingham Flower Festival
- **Saturday 14th September:** Gislingham Gardening, Arts & Produce Show

Please note, any event changes after the magazine goes to print are updated on our website at:

http://www.the-messenger-online.com/diary

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

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

CLUBS, CLASSES & REGULAR EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gislingham WI: Gislingham Village Hall.
Meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm.
New members welcome.
For more details contact Margaret: 01379 783903 or Terrie: 01379 788521.

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

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

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

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 / Tel: 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 .

As a Parish council we bid farewell to our previous Chair Julie Bell who will be relocating outside the area. We wish her and family well, and thank Julie for her unwavering commitment to the Parish Council during her years as chair, in addition we say goodbye to former councillors Jerry Mew and Colin Urwin both have decided to step down, and we thank them both for his past support, Ian Urwin will remain as a volunteer championing our local bus service.

I have served as Vice chair on the Parish Council since 2016 (through choice) to both previous chairs Chris Pitt and Julie Bell, but due to a limited number of members on the council currently, I have now agreed to take on the post of chair.

At my first meeting as chair in May the subject of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Project dominated ,and at the request of residents an EGM was to be held to discuss / debate and inform , We arranged this for 5th June ,with an good turnout , and various well informed speakers including those from Mid Suffolk District Council who gave exceptional presentations that I believe have kept residents as informed as is currently possible based on the facts now available to us .

We are working closely with both District and County Councils on this matter and welcome dialogue from residents either via email to our clerk or to me directly to discuss even it is only over a coffee at the village hall.

We are here to listen, although as pointed out, it is your valuable opinions sent to NG in volume that enhance the level of feeling against this project, not only in our village, but also most of the surrounding area.

Two new, but former councillors were duly elected at our Annual Parish Council Meeting, Councillor Jo Pitt and Councillor Felix Oliver, we welcome their addition and am pleased to confirm that Jo Pitt has kindly agreed to take on the post as Parish Council Vice Chair.

We do anticipate further additions at our July and possibly August meetings, but may still have further vacancies available, so if you feel that becoming a Parish Councillor is something that you would like to do, please contact our clerk and we can discuss options and give you a greater insight as to what is involved.

Christopher Tranter, Chair, Gislingham Parish council

At the Gislingham Annual village meeting in May, the following awards were presented.

The Volunteer of the Year trophy was awarded to David and June Goring for ensuring the village looks so neat and tidy with their regular litter picks.

The Watson Bowl was awarded to Ann Cottee who gracefully accepted but also accepted on behalf of Jackie Campbell for her great work - a great joint effort!





UPDATE - EXTRAORDINARY GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE NORWICH TO TILBURY PYLONS PROJECT

Over 100 Gislingham residents attended the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting in Gislingham Village Hall on 5 June to discuss the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon plan.

Bron Curtis, Principal Planning Officer with responsibility for Strategic Projects and Delivery - Development Management at Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils delivered a very informative presentation.

Andrew Stringer, County Councillor for the Upper Gipping Division and Richard Rout, former Deputy Leader at Suffolk County Council, and Rowland Warboys, District Councillor for Gislingham Ward, all spoke about their concerns about the impact of the pylons on Gislingham and the surrounding area and explained what Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council are doing to object to the plans.

Based on the information provided at the meeting, and the views expressed by attending residents, Gislingham Parish Council is preparing an objection to the pylons.

It is vitally important, however, that INDIVIDUAL GISLINGHAM RESIDENTS ALSO SUBMIT INDIVIDUAL OBJECTIONS SO THAT NATIONAL GRID ARE INUNDATED WITH OBJECTIONS. Guidance on formulating a response has been prepared by Gislingham campaigners. See PAGE 9 to find out where you can access this.

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Gislingham: Call to Action!!!





National Grid know that Gislingham is a problem area for their pylon plan. They are counting on our apathy to get it through. We all need to stand together to fight the plan to run these pylons through our community.

WE ALL NEED TO OBJECT

BUT WHAT DO YOU SAY IN YOUR OBJECTION?

We have produced a template to help.

Please call if you would like one:

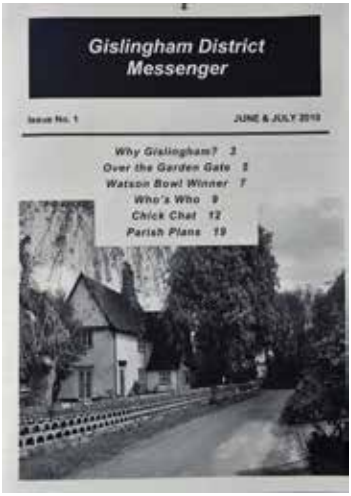
Sue: 07796 868 631 or **Leigh: 07932 305 399**

SUBMISSIONS MUST ARRIVE BEFORE 26 JULY 2024

Email to: **contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com**

Post to: **FREEPOST N to T** (yes, that is the whole address)

150 ISSUES AND STILL GOING STRONG!



When we launched this community magazine in 2010, comments from residents ranged from "it won't last" to "I give it 6 months", and here we are 14 years later with our 150th issue!

Many of you reading this issue will be familiar with our history but, for those newer residents to our villages, I'll tell you the story of how "Would anyone be interested in launching a community magazine?" reached 150 issues. And how the then Duke of Cambridge, and now heir to the throne, appeared on the cover of August 2017 issue; after landing his East Anglian Air Ambulance in Gislingham.

Once upon a time (2010 to be precise), in a small village in Mid-Suffolk… David Cameron and Nick Clegg joined forces after an inconclusive general election and the country was about to enter the age of austerity. The pop group One Direction was formed during the X-Factor show, Apple released the new iPhone 4 and the iPad, with its revolutionary touch screen technology, took computing to new levels. A thing called Instagram was also launched, as was the very first e-book.

Meanwhile, Gislingham's 'big launch' was not cutting-edge technology, but a community magazine, which has gone on to be an important communication tool for residents and local organisations.

Gislingham resident, Chris Pitt had joined Gislingham's Parish Council in 2007 and realised, as Facebook was not widely used back then, that there was no easy way of communicating with villagers. There was the long-established GNUS monthly sheet, but that was only for announcing events. So Chris put a notice in the GNUS asking if anyone would be interested in publishing a free local magazine for residents. There were 6 responses and that was the editorial team established! Three people have been involved since the start, Chris Pitt, as, initially, Chairman, Tracey Askew, who has handled the advertising since the beginning, and myself, because I had a camera and offered to contribute a photo to feature on the cover of each issue. (My commitment was certainly going to be no more than a monthly photo!!).

In the months that followed, local people offered their knowledge and expertise on certain topics and slowly, but surely, local businesses offered their support by advertising.

The magazine started out as 24 pages every other month and was published in black and white. It was only going to serve Gislingham so was titled **"Gislingham District Messenger"**. However, it wasn't long before Mellis and the Thornhams were added to the distribution list so "Gislingham" was dropped from the magazine title and it became, as it is now; **'The Messenger" – serving Gislingham, Mellis and The Thornhams**.

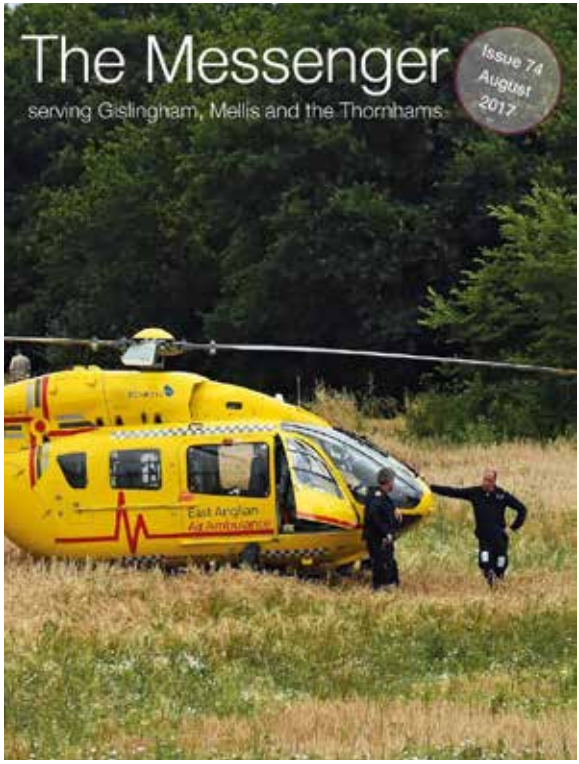
Over the years, we increased the number of issues to 11 per year and started printing the cover in colour. Now we generate enough advertising revenue to increase the page count to between 52 and 64 pages and have the centre pages in colour.

Gipping Press have been our printer from the beginning, and they have been 100% reliable throughout the 14 years. Circulation has grown over the years and now stands at 950 copies.

There are currently 10 of us on the Committee, but the Messenger has always been much more than just the Committee. It is a genuine "community effort". I have calculated that, in an average year,

50-60 residents contribute in some way to the magazine. Contributors include our regular article writers, who submit articles, month in, month out. We also draw on a dedicated team of 20 distributors who deliver the magazine.

As Editor, I pride myself on the fact that, unlike other community magazines, we never "buy in" generic articles or photos to publish. All of the articles published are written/ researched by residents and all our cover photos and feature article photos are taken by local residents.



The 27th July 2017 was a good example of this. An East Anglian Air Ambulance landed in the fields behind Coldham Lane in Gislingham to bring medical help to a resident. I saw the helicopter fly over my house and ignored it, because who wants a photo of a yellow helicopter? Later that day, local resident Colin Davis knocked on my door, and said, "I thought you might like to see my photograph of a helicopter!" Out of respect for Colin I tried to look interested as he showed me the photo. I looked as he pointed to the pilot, who was nonchalantly leaning on the front of the helicopter, and was unmistakably Prince William! I'm not sure exactly what I said, but it was almost certainly not printable! Colin very kindly emailed me a digital version of the photo so that I could surprise everyone by secretly publishing it on the cover of the August issue. However, by that evening, rumours that Prince William had been in the village had surfaced on Facebook. Some believed the rumours, others dismissed them as rubbish! Someone had, allegedly, spoken to Prince William in the Village Shop, others had seen him in the Six Bells or queuing at the Fish & Chip van! So, to put an end to further speculation, I published Colin's photo on The Messenger Facebook page and unexpectedly started a national media frenzy!

You see, it was later revealed to the media that 27th July 2017 was the Duke's final day working for the EAAA, and his final flying mission was the one to Gislingham. And Colin Davis was the only person to have a photo of this. The Messenger Facebook post was shared, within minutes, around the world! There were 9,000 views within a couple of hours, 16,000 by the end of evening, and even a phone call from a well-respected, BBC Look East reporter, asking if they could use the photo on the TV the next day. A week later, Facebook views had exceeded 40,000! Thanks to Colin, The Messenger became a "media giant" – albeit for only a week!

In 2021, we won "Best Overall Magazine" at the National Parish Magazine Awards and, in 2022, we beat over 450 other entries to come 1st in the "Best Content" category.

Therefore, in closing, I want to take this perfect opportunity to say '**Thank You**' to everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the years and to all the local businesses who have funded the magazine by advertising with us. It is now our turn to support all of them! ***Jeff Norman***

Scouts 1st Eye Scout Group



Our active Group of over 150 young people is looking to expand its Trustee Board to include members from within the local community who perhaps don't have a direct link to the Group.

Our Trustees are responsible for the governance and safe running of our Group. If you'd be interested in this role please do get in touch.

Give us a call for a chat if you would like to find out more prior to our AGM on 11th July - Juliet Grimes
07721 010136
juliet@eyescouts.org.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY BOWLS?
THORNHAM MAGNA BOWLS CLUB WILL MAKE YOU WELCOME

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

If you are interested come and give it try, we will be there every Saturday morning from 10-00am, May to September.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The effect of the pylon build process on farmland birds

As a volunteer conservationist, I have dedicated 12 years of my non-working life alongside two other volunteers to aid the recovery of the grey partridge in the local area. This equates to thousands of hours of habitat work, supplementary feeding and legal predation control in the spring months.

The grey partridge has declined by 95% since 1980 and is a red listed ground nesting bird. They are a barometer species for the wider health of farmland and where grey partridges thrive, other farmland species do well.

I speak as an individual and not on behalf of the owners of the land I operate which falls all the way along the pylon route through Wickham abbey, Finningham and into Gislingham. We have had huge success with the bird's population winning the East Anglian Grey Partridge Award by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. We have taken them from two pairs of birds in this area to over 170 last autumn.



There are few sites in Suffolk where this bird thrives as it does along this proposed corridor. Grey Partridges are birds of open ground and low disturbance. Skylarks, yellow hammers, oyster catchers, lapwings, turtle doves and brown hares are all species that have done well as a consequence of our work and all breeding successfully along this proposed pylon route.

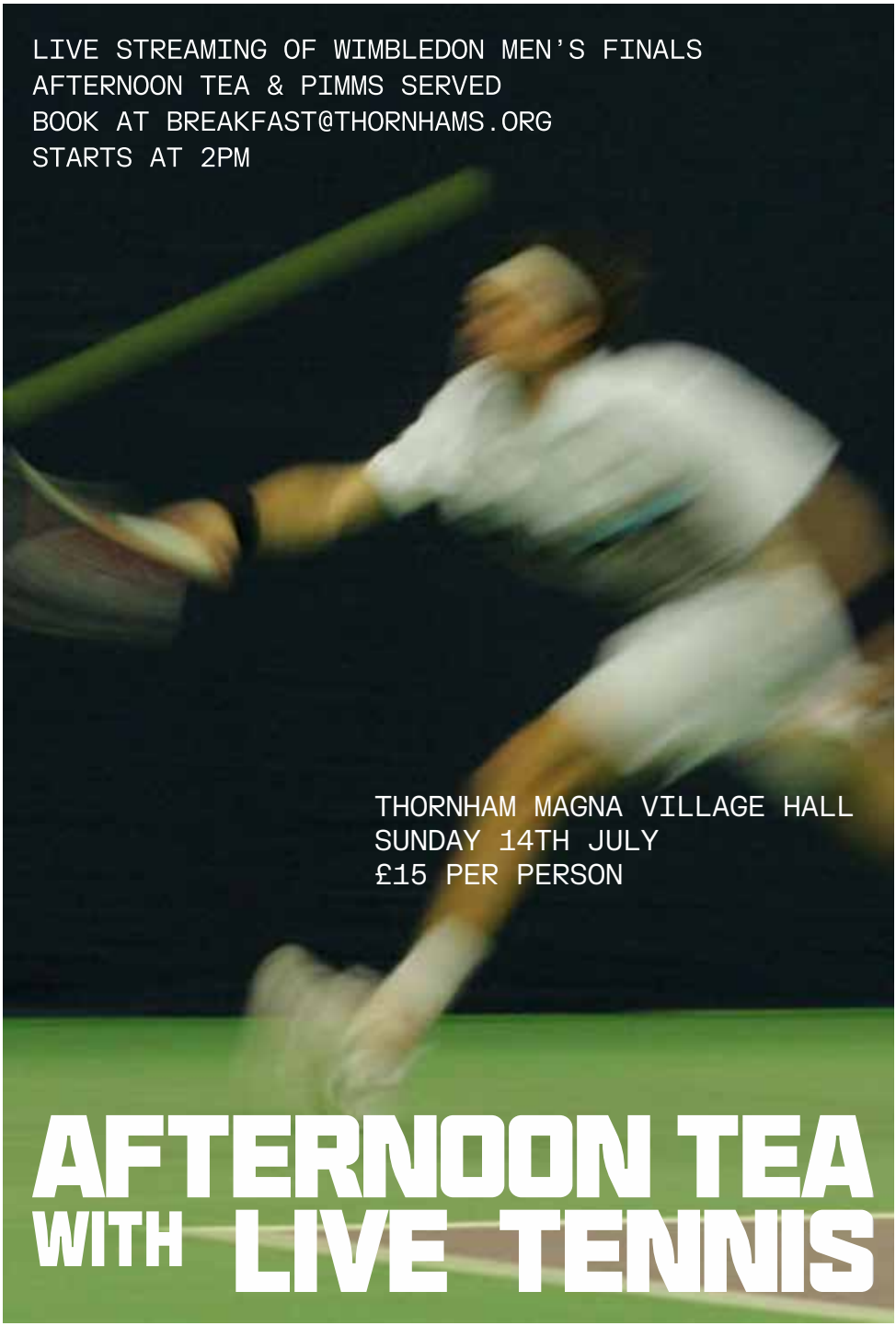
I am greatly concerned by the effect the pylon build process will have on the dispersal of these iconic farmland birds. Disturbance will undoubtedly move them out onto land where habitat is unsuitable/non-existent and where there is no management. They will certainly then not survive through to the following spring to sustain the local population.

When they are gone from the landscape they are gone. This would be devastating for me and my team and those that walk the area and enjoy seeing a bird that maybe only their grandparents remember seeing abundantly on this local landscape. I am on the land along the pylon corridor in all hours, dawn, dusk, using my eyes and ears, I am there in the depth of night spring, summer autumn and winter with my thermal and night vision technology and frequently see bats, otters and have sat next to nightingale singing their hearts out. I know the wildlife there like the back of my hand. I have seen and spoken to the pylon surveyors in daylight hours and have been aware of their movements on the land but never at the hours where those species would be out!

I am very interested to learn of their ecological findings. I am a firm believer in the need to urgently tackle climate change and the progression of our country's infrastructure with renewable energy but this area of land is some of the most productive arable land in the country and the fact that excellent crops are coming off this ground and biodiversity is increasing makes it a very special place. We must take our national food security very seriously and therefore the looming solar farm that may come as a result of the pylons also greatly concerns me.

I believe this would be hugely shortsighted of officials to sanction such a project on this area of outstanding productivity.

Adam Steed


LIVE STREAMING OF WIMBLEDON MEN'S FINALS
AFTERNOON TEA & PIMMS SERVED
BOOK AT BREAKFAST@THORNHAMS.ORG
STARTS AT 2PM
THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY 14TH JULY
£15 PER PERSON
AFTERNOON TEA
WITH LIVE TENNIS

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



FUTURE EVENTS:

Sunday 14th July: Wimbledon afternoon tea
2.00pm - an amazing array of sandwiches, savouries, cakes and scones with Pimm's and tea, with live match screening. £15 per head / Bookings: events@thornhams.org

Saturday 10th August: Musical evening with Tyger and BBQ.
7.00pm - a very popular musician in the area, this will prove to be a most enjoyable evening with a super BBQ alongside. £15 per head / Bookings: events@thornhams.org

Saturday 17th August: Flowers with Jennifer at Frog Farm
2.00pm at Frogs Farm - Learn how to create your own natural bouquet to take home with you.

Saturday 23rd August: Grease sing-a-long with a hot-dog – bar available
7.00pm: £10 per head

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

Friday 20th September: Film Night
7.30pm – details to follow

Sunday 6th October: Breakfast Club
10.00am: £9 / Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org

Sunday 13th October: Autumn Fair
11.00am – 3.00pm – Raffle, tombola, craft stalls, refreshments, and more…

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

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



THE POST BUS

A postbus was a public bus service that was operated as part of local mail delivery as a means of providing public transport in rural areas with lower levels of patronage, where a normal bus service would be uneconomic or inefficient. Postbus services were generally run by the Royal Mail and combined the functions of public transport and mail delivery and collection.

If you grew up in a big town or city, you might never have come across this mode of public transport because it thrived for a while in what we might affectionately refer to as the "back of beyond". Places where few people lived, and few people visited.

When an area was so sparsely populated, it couldn't sustain even a minimal country bus route, the only organisation travelling to and fro each day was the Royal Mail. They were leaving sorting offices of a morning to take letters and parcels to small hamlets and remote farms. They'd then return to empty the post boxes later in the day. They were doing this with their small red vans but by adapting vehicles and adding a few seats, a vital lifeline could be offered to the remotest communities. It was a logical conclusion to 'deliver' people too.

They filled minor routes where the small rural bus operators had either left a gap or pulled out. Post Buses thrived in the 1970s and '80s, and there were 220 postbus routes in the UK carrying about 125,000 passengers each year and the buses ranged from estate cars and Land Rovers to mini-buses seating up to 15 people.

In our local area, a Post Bus ran between Diss, Eye, Occold, Wickham Skeith, Thornham Magna and Gislingham for a decade until it ceased in 1985.





The timetable is shown on the left, but sadly only Diss Post Office still remains open.

The buses could be hailed anywhere along their routes. Services followed the pattern of mail deliveries and collections, and most vehicles provided a twice-daily service from Monday to Friday. Travel was inexpensive and was subsidised by local councils, fares rarely costing more than £4 for a single trip, even on the longest routes.

This photo, taken at Bedingfield in 1988, shows Bob Ward with a 20-year-old, Wendy Jenness. Wendy has been a post lady ever since, and for the past 15 years been delivering mail to Gislingham.



The withdrawal of the subsidies which made the remote routes viable seems to have led to the demise of Post Buses. There was also a lot of 'red tape' needed to license an ordinary car to carry passengers. For example, they needed a clearly signed emergency exit and a fire extinguisher and the postmen and women had to undergo special driver training. These things added complications and expense to a "simple" concept, when the core business was delivering mail.

On the right is a photo of the Post Bus outside Gislingham Village Shop.



The postcard on the left-hand page shows the Diss-Gislingham Post Bus
Top Left: Wickham Skeith
Top Right: Eye
Centre: Occold
Bottom left: Thornham Magna
Bottom Right: Gislingham

Source material: Thanks to Wendy Jenness for some of the photos and information.

TILIAN PARTNERSHIP
Inspiring to Achieve and Aspiring to Excel

SCAN ME



Join us!
We currently have spaces in several year groups. Contact us to arrange a visit

Gislingham CE Primary School
Belong, Believe, Together Achieve

Ofsted Outstanding for Behaviour and Attitudes 2024

Ofsted rated the school as GOOD overall in April 2024 stating that: Pupils at this school thrive and achieve well; it is a happy and inclusive school; behaviour is excellent; pupils are very polite.

We can offer:
- Breakfast and After School Club
- Outdoor learning in a rural setting
- High academic achievement
- Small, single age classes

Child Centred:
"Everyone is accepted for who they are..." Ofsted 2024

Website
www.gislingham.suffolk.gov.uk

Contact Us Broadfields Road, IP23 8HX 01379 783283 gislingham@tilian.org.uk

GISLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES OFSTED REPORT

Gislingham CE Primary School, part of the Tilian Partnership, is celebrating an extremely positive Ofsted report following an inspection on the 16th and 17th April. The inspection highlighted the school's strengths, with particular emphasis on the behaviour and attitudes of pupils.

Inspectors were impressed by the achievement of pupils at Gislingham, noting that they make strong progress during their time at the school. The report described the school as a very happy and inclusive environment with high expectations for academic achievement. Pupils were praised for their involvement in various activities such as learning the guitar and acting in Shakespeare's plays at a local theatre.



Smiles all round as Gislingham Primary celebrate a GOOD Ofsted report.

One of the key findings of the inspection was how well the school prepares children for their future education and wider life. Confidence, adaptability, oracy, and resilience were highlighted as vital skills for good mental health and fundamental life skills. Pupils were commended for their motivation, hard work, and understanding of fundamental British values.

Andrew Berry, CEO of Tilian Partnership, commented on the report saying, "This is an excellent result for the school, demonstrating the tremendous strengths in teaching and learning. Well done to the staff, pupils, and governors."

While the school narrowly missed an outstanding rating, the inspectors acknowledged the excellent work being done at Gislingham and the strong belief parents have in the quality of teaching and support their children receive. The school leaders have already identified areas for improvement and are actively working on them to ensure continued success.

Congratulations to Gislingham Primary School on this excellent result!

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NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 12th July: Pub Night
Doors open at 5.00 pm. Last Orders 9.45 pm.
Again, we would like to point out that under the terms of our licence, only drinks purchased at the bar can be consumed on the premises.

Saturday 10th August: Quiz Night
Doors open at 7.00pm. £5 per ticket – available from Terry Williams on 01379 783903 or gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com
Bring your own nibbles and drinks please.

Saturday 28th September: Jumble Sale
Please note, the date change. Details to follow

Saturday 19th October: Quiz Night
Details to follow

Saturday 7th December: Christmas Quiz Night
Details to follow



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IN THE GARDEN



June arrived and with the new month the double border at the walled garden is looking splendid, the main path flanked by Nepeta (Walkers Low) and this year with self-seeded Lupins everywhere which happen to be in a similar colour, sometimes leaving the garden to do what it does can have unexpected and pleasant surprises and results, so it's always worth leaving the odd self-seeded plant when weeding in spring to fill a gap or two in a border.

With the new month we have started the summer pruning that we do in the garden. Starting with the espalier pears to retain shape by removing the best part of water growth, while being cautious to not nip of or knock any fruit that has set. This year there is little fruit despite lots of blossom in the spring, sadly frosts had their wicked way this year.

As we progress through summer we will continue with summer fruit tree pruning, concentrating on stone fruit, plumbs and cherry trees will get attention to get them into shape, with any long growth that is helpful in maintaining tree shape tied in, dead and crossing branches will also be pruned out.

No mow May is over; however, we like to keep parts of the lawn long as they continue to provide a nectar source for insects, we do this in a rotation, with small sections being left and cut every other cut, allowing buttercups and daisies to flower, but avoiding lots of thick grass growth that can be hard work to cut through in autumn.

Of course, with all of the wet weather we have been having weeding has been a priority, however with everything being so lush the plants we want in the garden are growing vigorously and out competing some of the annual weeds we are familiar with.

Phil Williams, Lead Project Worker, Beyond the Wall





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Thursday 18th July 7.30pm ***PUB QUIZ***

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Sandringham Flower Show
31st July - £53pp

Shrek the Musical
1st August - £85pp

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2nd August - £75pp

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2nd August - £65pp

Festival of Quilts at the NEC
3rd August - £58pp

Wells and Hunstanton
6th August - £33pp

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7th August - £45pp

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8th August - £72pp

Great Yarmouth
9th August - £25pp

Primark Megastore, Birmingham
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Magna Carta Vintage Cruise
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Canterbury Day Out
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Legoland Windsor
14th August - £75pp

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SUFFOLK'S HIDDEN GEM: **PRIMADONNA FESTIVAL**





Last summer on a weekend of sunshine and showers my daughter and I took a day out from our busy schedules and immersed ourselves in literature, performance and joy. We had been talking about going to the Primadonna Festival for years because of our love of books and how close it is to us (only in Stowmarket) but every summer something would come up. Not so in 2023 and despite the weather demanding we pack both suncream and raincoats we happily waved goodbye to other commitments and hopped in the car for the speedy journey to Suffolk's Food Museum (previously the Museum of East Anglian Life).

We weren't disappointed. We only had a day but it was so much more than we had expected and we vowed to do the whole weekend the following year, which we are!

So, what was so good about it? There are many lovely things to say about our experience. I have been to many music festivals so I was unsure how a literary festival in a field would feel but I can say it was the perfect environment for one – like when you find a small tent of friendly people with amazing acoustic music at a big festival and feel like you've come across a hidden gem. That is Primadonna. Friendly people, lively music, a great vibe. We did things that appealed to us both – we had a go at graffiti – my daughter a natural, whilst I was a bit more reserved although we both had a real giggle at us dressed in protective suits and goggles. We listened to an engaging children's author and all about her passions for Lord of the Rings and how she wrote her book whilst finishing her law degree. It was particularly lovely to see the children in the audience have the confidence to ask questions, they were really engaged - which I put down to the festival's welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. We both took part in a writer's workshop with Norfolk author Polly Crosby and again I marvelled at how the relaxed feel of the day gave my then 15-year-old the confidence to stand up and read out what she had written. Then we split up and whilst I had the chance to talk to a publisher about my writing aspirations Amelia went and listened to a young adult author. Afterwards we enjoyed local food whilst listening to open mic comedy and impromptu poetry.



We had only been there a day but we spoke to so many people who were having a fabulous time. In the evenings there is music and a lively party atmosphere which fit alongside the literary aspirations of some of the attendees. This year we have booked weekend tickets and because it's so easy to get to and parking a breeze Amelia and I intend to dip in and out of the different activities and talks that are on. There is music, well-being, activities for children and young people and so much about books and writing – aimed at all of us; those who write for joy and mindfulness and those of us with a book trying to get out!

So, pop the last weekend of July in your diary for a relaxed, stimulating, family experience in the heart of Suffolk. See you at: Primadonna Festival 26-28 July at Stowmarket's Food Museum.

Angeline Braidwood

NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes!







This month we have some super photos that readers have kindly sent in - many thanks!

First up is this beautiful photo of wild foxglove flowers taken by Chris Pitt whilst walking in Knettishall Heath Nature Reserve. These flowers may often be found in gardens but I think they're seen at their best in a natural woodland setting such as this. Foxgloves are an important source for nectar for bees. The shape of the flower provides a handy landing pad for the bees before they crawl up inside the "trumpet" to reach the nectar within. The latin name for the foxglove is digitalis and this is often associated with its potential as a poison, as fans of Agatha Christie stories will know!

Our next two photos have been sent in by Tracy Shackleton whose garden in Thornham Parva is a big draw for all kinds of wildlife! Here we have a brace of Red Legged Partridges, seemingly checking out Tracy's patio. Although now widespread across the UK, these birds are not an indigenous species but were introduced to the UK in the 18th century from France and Spain as a nice plump game bird. I believe I have seen these birds in fields alongside Thornham Road although they may perhaps have been their slightly smaller cousin the Grey Partridge.

Tracy's second photo shows a handsome cock pheasant and a number of ducks scratching about beneath her bird table - what a nice scene! Muntac deer are also regular visitors here as are Red Kites. Tracy tells me that these birds appear over her garden in big numbers and sent me a video illustrating her point. Amazing!

Continued on page 37



Gislingham SUMMER FAIR

FREE ENTRY

Programme of Events

Saturday 6th July 2024

Gislingham Primary School Playing Field

Children's fancy dress competition, dog show, bouncy castle, petting zoo, tea & cake, BBQ, licensed bar, live music + lots of children's games and entertainment, classic cars, trade stalls and more...

GUIDE TO **GISLINGHAM SUMMER FAIR**



Welcome to the Gislingham Summer Fair and thank you for supporting!

Due to covid restrictions the annual Summer Fair stopped in 2019. After a 5-year absence, a new committee was formed to organise the summer fair once again in 2024.

As a committee, the aim is to organise an entertaining and fun family afternoon for all the community and at the same time raising money for the benefit of local organisations and charities.

We have worked hard to transform the school playing field into an environment where families can enjoy the entertainment, the food and drink and of course the stalls. We hope you enjoy all the fun and games we have lined up for you!

As always, all money raised is divided equally between the village organisations who have helped "plan and man" the event: Gislingham Village Hall committee, Friends of St. Mary's Church, Gislingham WI, Gislingham Playgroup and FOGS, plus 1st Mendlesham Scouts.

On the final page of this pull-out programme, we thank the people who have helped make it possible.

We hope you all have a great, fun filled day and enjoy our Summer Fair!

The Gislingham Summer Fair Committee

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SUMMER FAIR PROGRAMME



12.00: **Opening ceremony**
With special guest Pauline Argyles

12.05 – 12.15: **Fancy dress parade and judging**

12.15 – 12.30: **Gislingham School Choir**



12.30 – 1.00: **Tribe ALL Fitness**

1.00 – 1.45: **Dog Show** (part 1)



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1.45 – 2.15: **Live music by 'The Dukes of Ukes'**

2.15 – 3.00: **Dog Show** (part 2)



3.00 – 3.30: **Live music by 'Natural colour'**

3.30 – 4.00: **Children's Fun Races**

4.15 – 4.30: **Prize draws**

4.30: **Fair closes**













**Timings are approximate and may change slightly on the day*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this event and made it possible, including:

Gislingham Parish Council for the funding that has helped towards organisational costs.

Gislingham Primary School for allowing us to use their grounds and facilities etc.

Mark & Tracey Askew at MA Heating for sponsoring this programme

The following businesses who have **donated raffle prizes:**

The White Horse at Stoke Ash, Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, The Bull at Bacton, Emzo Gift Shop at Cotton, The Four Horseshoes at Thornham Magna and DCUK – the original wooden duck company.

Clarkes of Walsham for donating the wheel barrow for the barrow of beer

Chris Saunders for the PA system

'Gislingham School Choir', 'The Dukes of Ukes' and 'Natural Colour' for providing the live music on the day.

David Pettitt of West Hall Farm for the hay bales in the arena

Gipping Press for sponsoring our raffle tickets

The following groups for **helping to organise and "man" the various stalls and entertainment**:

Gislingham Village Hall Committee, Gislingham WI, Friends of St. Mary's Church, Gislingham Playgroup, Friends of Gislingham School (FOGS), Martyn Bryant and the 1st Mendlesham Scout Group.

Also, special mentions for:

Pauline Argyles: for agreeing to Open this year's Summer Fair (in her 100th year!) and **Mrs Jo Pitt** and **Mrs Nislev-Pitt** for kindly agreeing to be our Dog Show judges. Also, **Linda Pettit** and **Jamie Hudson** for helping to organise the children's races!

Jo Clifford at Cade Creative for all the artwork produced for this event, including this programme.

Finally, **The Messenger** for the promotion of this event, both in-print and online and hopefully capturing some photos to be published in centre-pages of August issue! So, if you want to be in the next issue of the magazine, look happy, have fun and you never know you might just appear in the next issue!

Gislingham Summer Fair Committee
e: gislinghamsummerfair@gmail.com

My neighbour, Melanie Jones, was happy to find a family of chattering Wrens nesting in her garden and carefully took this photo of one of the youngsters after it had left the nest and begun to explore the wide world.



In and around my own garden the birds continue to be very busy feeding their young that have started to fledge over the past few weeks. I decided that my garage needed a bit of a tidy up when I came across a Blackbird's nest with young inside! It's been fun watching Mr and Mrs Blackbird taking food to the babies who have undoubtedly benefited from being sheltered from the wind and rain we've been having recently.



In early June I had an away day to the coast at Covehithe. Happily, it was a beautiful day and there was much to see and enjoy, including at the nature reserve at Benacre. The coastal area around Covehithe has the distinction of suffering the greatest rate of erosion in the UK. This has been happening over many years and the effects are plain to see. Caution needs to be taken in this area when walking anywhere near the cliffs. Perhaps unlike most people's idea of what a cliff is made of, eg: limestone or hard chalk, these cliffs are made of quite soft sandy material. The softness of the Covehithe cliffs make them an ideal place for Sand Martins that nest there. The birds are summer migrants to the UK and they build their nests in burrows they make in the sandy cliffs. The burrows can be up to a meter long and each nest may contain 4 or 5 eggs. The birds head off in the Autumn to Africa to over winter.



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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GISFEST 2024 – ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER SUCCESS!

Well; I usually start these things with thanking the organisers (VHC) and the "bands/acts", and I will be doing so further down … but this year, I want to say an even bigger thank you to all the people who still came out to support the event despite the weather!

Unbelievably, it cleared by around 4.30 and then people started turning up in droves… I guess the lure of good beer and well-cooked burgers and hot dogs helped; but even so… thank you.

So, I will now say a big thank you to the members of the Village Hall Committee for organising everything and working shifts on the bar and barbecue, and to Scott Faulkner from The Walnut Tree, Worlington (and a resident of Gislingham) for yet again donating beer, and helping with the extra barrels which our village seems to require … how does that need reflect upon us all; favourably, I hope?

Opening act was brothers Dan and Matt Rowland who played and sang some great songs, and not the usual stuff you hear. They have promised to come again and also to get involved in the open-mic sessions which are expected to pick-up at the Friday pub-nights in the village hall some time in the future.

Next was Norman Herbert who played some solo acoustic guitar … he's a very talented player, and I know people especially like his slide playing.

Following on we had Mike Laycock and Richard Adams on ukuleles and banjo singing some classic songs from the past … both guys always support music (and drama) events in the village and are a welcome addition to any evening.

Then came Alex Mackenzie, I still question how one guy with a guitar can sound so good? And when he nailed the solo to Jump (Van Halen) I got quite a few nods of approval from fellow musicians.

Another long-time supporter of anything musical (and again dramatic) in the village is Reg Siger. He has in the past contributed massively to the success of GisFest and other events, backing various musicians and joining in with bands on his keyboard … like Alex, I sometimes feel he doesn't need the rest of us as he sounds like a complete band/orchestra on his own. This time he played some harmonica to his self-created backing tracks.

Then we had the welcome return of The Gislettes, along with members of the Gislingham Variety Club, singing wartime songs from their recent production. Great performance and always a stand-out moment during the evening due to their lovely singing and donning costumes in keeping with the material. Thank you all.

Finally, my colleagues in "The Zillionaires" … thank you again for supporting the event, and playing a great set which kept people dancing; and special thanks to our new drummer Ian (who had only returned from a cycling holiday in the French Alps a couple of days before), and stand-in bassist Rowan who had learned the set in only a couple of weeks.

I did wonder how the day/evening would turn out with the weather conspiring against us, but I needn't have worried… Gislingham (and the weather) pulled together and another great event took place; funds from which will help ensure the village hall is still there for next year!

Thank you to everyone!

Chris Saunders

See the following 2 pages for *photos taken at Gisfest.*

GISFEST 2024 IN PHOTOS







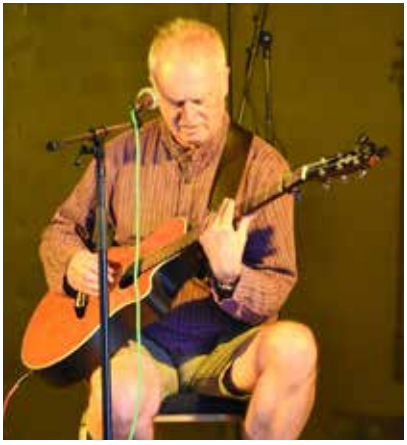




























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- 280 grams Slow Cooked Beef
- ½ Red Onion
- 15 ml Rice Vinegar
- 50 grams Rogan Josh Curry Paste
- 150 grams Greek Style Natural Yoghurt
- 1 bunch Mint
- 2 Plain Naans
- 50 grams Baby Leaf Mix
- 40 grams Mango Chutney
- 1 tsp Sugar

1. Preheat your oven to 180°/200°C fan. Chop the potatoes into 2cm chunks (no need to peel) and pop them onto a large baking tray. Drizzle with oil, sprinkle over the mustard seeds, season with salt and pepper, then toss to coat. Spread out in a single layer. When the oven is hot, roast on the top shelf until golden, 25-35 mins. Turn halfway through.



2. Meanwhile, place the beef in an ovenproof dish along with the juices and cover loosely with foil. Roast on the middle shelf of your oven for 25-30 mins. Ensure it is piping hot throughout.

3. Meanwhile, halve, peel and slice the red onion as thinly as you can. In a medium bowl, combine the onion, rice vinegar, sugar and a pinch of salt. Set aside to pickle. Pick the mint leaves from their stalks and roughly chop (discard the stalks). In another medium bowl, combine the mint and Greek style yoghurt. Season with salt and pepper, then set aside.

4. When the beef has 5 mins remaining, remove from the oven, reserve 1 tbsp of cooking juices per person, then discard the foil and any remaining cooking juices. Drizzle over the curry paste and return to the oven for the remaining time, 5 mins. Meanwhile, sprinkle the naans with a little water and pop them into the oven to warm through, 2-3 mins.

5. Once cooked, remove the beef from the oven. Stir through the reserved cooking juices, then use two forks to shred the beef as finely as you can. Season with salt and pepper.

6. Share the naans between your plates. Spread the mint yoghurt over the bases, then top with the pulled beef and a few slices of pickled onion. Add the baby leaves to the bowl of the remaining pickled onion, add a drizzle of oil and toss to combine. Serve your loaded naans with the mustard seed potatoes and the salad alongside. Drizzle the mango chutney over the beef to finish.

Recipe: Hello Fresh

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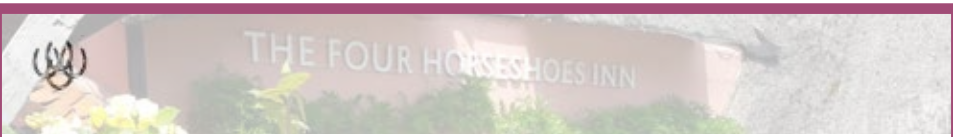
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DI'S BOOK BLOG





If you are looking for some entertaining reading, you wouldn't go far wrong in picking up one of the 5 books written by Ruth Leigh. The first of which was published in 2021.

Ruth is Suffolk based, living near Woodbridge. She is a freelance writer, a very experienced speaker and runs very successful and popular writing workshops.

Her degree is on 18th/19th century literature, and she has had a deep interest in writing since a small child. Her writing is very entertaining, readable and relatable to all ages. In fact, one of her readers is in her 90s!

She has a captivating, sparkly and very witty writing style, with an ability to draw you in. You suddenly realise you've been reading all through the night - which happened to me each time!



So, onto her books.....

- The diary of Isabella M. Smugge.
- The trials of Isabella M. Smugge
- The continued times of Isabella M. Smugge.
- A Great Deal of Ingenuity.
- The Little Book of Unexpected Poetry.

The first 3 are a trilogy about a fictional woman called Isabella M. Smugge, who is an incredibly successful Instagram influencer. She apparently has it all - 3 children, gorgeous husband and an au pair. She has just moved to a Suffolk village and thinks she will be as successful and popular here as she was down South. How wrong she is, and here is where the story starts.....

Ruth's descriptions of Suffolk village life will certainly ring true amongst her readers. Right from the word go, Isabella's (mis)adventures in the village are truly hilarious, especially her thoughts about the other village parents on her first day at school drop off. There

is also a laugh out loud encounter with "value" sausage rolls!!

However, as well as the numerous funny moments, there is also heart in Isabella's story. You start to wonder why is she like this, what has happened to her? Ruth's clever writing starts to reveal Isabella's background and real personality behind the mask. Slowly, like an onion with many layers, the reader starts to understand her more.



Each book covers a year in our Isabella's life. The first book ends on a cliff hanger and Ruth was tempted to end it there, but due to extreme pressure from her fans (me included!), she decided to continue and wrote book 2, and then book 3.

If, like me you are a huge Jane Austen fan and are especially fond of good old Pride and Prejudice, then I urge you to take a look at this book. "A Great Deal of Ingenuity" is in a totally different writing style to the Isabella series. But still written in an extremely witty and very entertaining way.

Ruth has dipped into her knowledge of all things P and P, by writing this very clever book which tells the background stories of some of the more minor characters. She has imaginatively brought them each to the front for the attention they deserve. Written in a style similar to Miss Austen, it is an absolutely delightful accompaniment to Pride and Prejudice.

To be honest, I have never been a fan of poetry. I really struggle to understand what the poet is trying to say! However, this all changed when I (reluctantly), picked up and thumbed through "The little book of Unexpected Poetry". I absolutely loved it!

Right from the first poem - "Stars", which is beautiful, but has a clever thoughtful twist.

To the last - "Hashtags", which in a bizarre way totally works. Some of the poems are laugh out loud, some more sombre, and some very personal, but all clever and readable.

Ruth includes foot notes about each poem which in themselves are fascinating reading. Enjoy!

Ruth will have a stall at our Gislingham Summer Fair on July 6th. She will be selling signed copies of all her books and she will love it if you stop and have a chat.

Alternatively, her books can be purchased via her website at: https://www.ruthleighwrites.co.uk

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GISLINGHAM GARDENING, ART & PRODUCE SHOW ("GISGAPS")
SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER @ 2.00PM- 4.00PM
GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

After 5 years the annual Gislingham Gardening, Art & Produce Show is returning this September for Gislingham residents. Although this reincarnation has been formed under a new committee, we are trying to maintain its original format albeit with a few small tweaks. Many of the original cups and trophies are being polished in readiness!

Awards for sections and classes will include:

Gardening
4 varieties of tomatoes, heaviest marrow, longest carrot, vase of 3 different perennials, arrangement of flowers and foliage from the exhibitor's own garden or allotment, and flower heads/petals floating on water.

Baking & Preserves
Produce, such as a light fruit cake, a selection of 3 different cookies, or a variety of jams and chutneys.

Arts & Crafts
Photo of a floral scene or interesting building, a painting, drawing or sketch of any subject, handmade greetings cards, small crocheted items and handmade craft items.

Children's Categories (trophy for 5–8-year-olds & another for 9–12-year-olds)

3 decorated cupcakes, a Lego model, painting of a flower, home grown plants in a pot or an animal/monster made of vegetables.

These are just a few examples of some of the categories that can be entered and, at just 50p per entry, residents of Gislingham can enter as many classes as they wish. Any profits will be donated to local charities.

For more information and an entry form please contact GISGAPS@gmail.com. Entry forms can also be picked up at the monthly book sale at Gislingham Village Hall (first Saturday of every month 10am-12pm). Entry forms and fees should be submitted by 12pm on Saturday 7th September.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The GISGAPS Committee





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GISLINGHAM UNITED CHARITY

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

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

All applications should be made to:
The Clerk at:
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Gislingham, IP23 8JR.
Telephone: 01379 783380
Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com

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SUNDAY 28 JULY 3PM
MELIORA COLLECTIVE *septet*
Sibelius, Coleman, Montgomery,
Koechlin, Mozart, Ligeti

SUNDAY 11 AUGUST 3PM
TIM POSNER *cello*
MISHKA RUSHDIE MOMEN *piano*
Beethoven, Fauré, Saint-Saëns

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 3PM
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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!



HMRC have identified a new scam on social media involving some accounts impersonating HMRC or their customer service advisers.

Remember, HMRC will never ask for personal or bank information via social media.

This is their only account on Facebook - www.facebook.com/HMRC

On X they have three genuine accounts - @HMRCgovuk, @HMRCcustomers, and @HMRCpressoffice

If you receive contact from an account pretending to be HMRC, do not engage, and report it here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmrc-phishing-and-scams-detailed-information

Pensioners are being urged to be vigilant after data revealed that more than £28.7 million was lost to courier fraud in the last year.

People in their 80s are most likely to be targeted by criminals carrying out courier fraud, with this age range accounting for 43 per cent of all victims, data from Action Fraud shows.

Courier fraud occurs when people are contacted by persons purporting to be police officers, or bank officials and duped into handing over money, valuables or bank cards, which are collected from their home address, often by couriers. The criminals use a variety of different tactics, often claiming that there is a problem with your account and they need your help to catch the real criminals.

The victim may also be encouraged into handing over their bank cards and PINs, as well as high value items such as jewellery, watches and gold (coins or bullion). Victims can also be coerced into going out and buying items such as gold and jewellery from legitimate retailers on behalf of criminals.

Of reports made, 63 per cent of victims were female and 37 per cent were male, with an average loss per victim of £20,032.

Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect: If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at https://reporting.actionfraud.police.uk/ or by calling 0300 123 2040.

THE MESSENGER CONNECTION QUIZ

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

1) In Disney's 'Alladin', who provided the voice of the Genie?
2) Which trilogy of novels did Flora Thompson write?
3) A Top 10 hit in 1966 for Manfred Man about a girl described as 'pretty……'
4) In Star Wars, what was the name of Hans Solo's spaceship
5) Name the character played by Jodie Foster in 'Silence of the Lambs'
6) Who had hits with 'Splish Splosh' and 'My boomerang won't come back'?
7) Jack Nicholson starred in which movie set in a Mental Institution?
8) This John Grisham novel was made into a film starring Julia Roberts in 1993.
9) This 34-year-old female singer- songwriter from USA, toured the UK in June.
10) What connects all of the answers above?

Answers appear on page 59.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

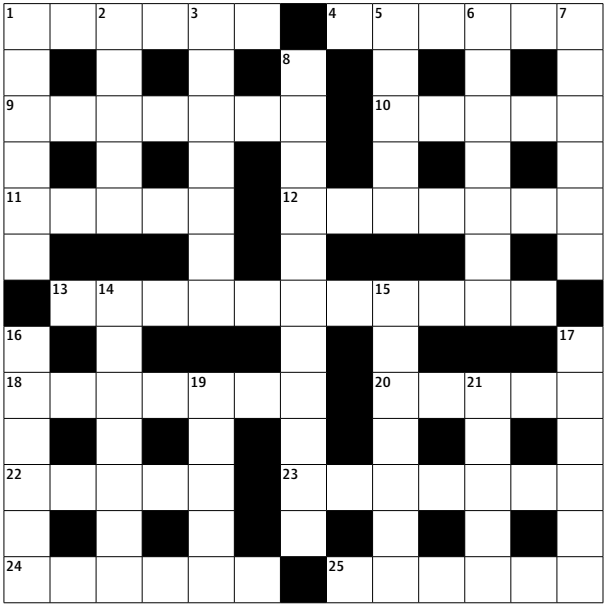
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3							7	5
		4				8		
			9	1				
9	4						1	8
				8	2			
		3				6		
2	8							4
				6	5	3	8	2

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Leave (a job) voluntarily (6)
4 Cheerful and light-hearted (6)
9 Fanciful musing (7)
10 Problem — children (5)
11 Constant (5)
12 Mundane (7)
13 Completely settled — simple and easy to understand (3,3,5)
18 Producing a reasonable amount of money (7)
20 Main impact of, say, an attack (5)
22 Off-white colour (5)
23 Greedy guts (7)
24 Expensive fur once used to decorate robes worn by royalty, peers and judges on state occasions (6)
25 Document proving who you are (2,4)

Down

1 Very seldom (6)
2 Hotel — cabbage (5)
3 Largest of the great apes (7)
5 Addictive narcotic derived from a poppy (5)
6 Sudden increase (7)
7 Prone to 9? (6)
8 System followed in a particular discipline (11)
14 Unvarying (7)
15 Spring back (7)
16 Catch fire (6)
17 High (informal) (6)
19 Swashbuckling Hollywood star Errol ___ , d. 1959 (5)
21 Far beyond the average (5)

Last issue solution

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

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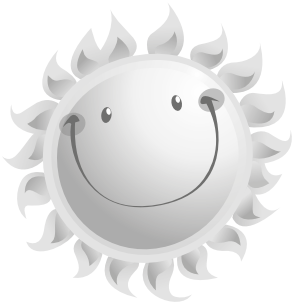
THE THORNHAM MAGNA PARISH MEETING

The Thornham Magna Parish Meeting was set up and sustained to represent the views and interests of the villagers in Thornham Magna. Attendance at the parish meeting has significantly declined over the last few years. Having only one person as Chair, Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer is neither right nor sustainable and so, the only option has been to close the meeting and the precept has been repaid to Mid Suffolk District Council.

Officers at the District Council have confirmed that, should there be sufficient interest in the village in the future, the Parish Meeting can be restarted.

Malcolm Goodwin - Chair (outgoing) of the Thornham Magna Parish Meeting

GISLINGHAM SUMMER FAIR NOTES



Let's all celebrate the Summer Fair!

It would be great if as many residents as possible in the village could put bunting up outside their houses, to mark the Summer Fair on 6th July.

Fun Dog Show

One of the categories is: "Best dressed/matched pair" – dog and owner!

Therefore, if you want to enter this category, please come suitably dressed to the fair with your dog!

Help wanted! Can you spare 30 minutes to 60 minutes on Saturday 6th July at 4.30pm?

As you can imagine, this event takes a lot of organising as well as setting-up and packing away.

If you can spare 30 minutes in the morning, to help us set-up and/or at the end of the day to help us clear up and pack away, it would be very much appreciated. So, if you can spare us the odd 30 minutes, we would very much appreciate your help!

If you have any questions or queries, or can offer to help in some way, please contact us via: gislinghamsummerfair@gmail.com

The Summer Fair Committee

1) ROBIN Williams, 2) LARK rise to Candleford, 3) FLAMINGO, 4) The Millenium FALCON, 5) Clarice STARLING, 6) Charlie DRAKE, 7) One flew over the CUCKOO'S nest, 8) The PELICAN Brief, 9) Taylor SWIFT, 10) They are all kinds of BIRDS.

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 56.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



July is high Summer; it can be a relaxing month for some and very busy for others.

Our gardens are in full bloom (or full of weeds), butterflies, bees and wasps are dancing around the flowers and fruits, we celebrate weddings, hold fetes, pack for holidays and the farmers 'make hay while the sun shines'. As the schools break up, it is a strange thought that originally the school holidays were for children to help bring in the harvest and help with the hay making. A hugely labour-intensive job which involved the whole community.

During July I am sure many of us will be heading to our beautiful Suffolk beaches. The 14th of July is Sea Sunday, the day which many Christian Churches set aside to remember and pray for seafarers and their families and give thanks for their lives and work. It is officially held on the second Sunday in July. We will think and pray for all those that work at Sea, bringing us food, working on the offshore wind farms, in defence and those who rescue those in danger on the sea.

On the 15th of July we will celebrate St. Swithin's Day, according to traditional folklore, whatever the weather is like on St Swithin's Day - whether rain or sunshine - it will continue for the next 40 days and 40 nights. Swithin was born in or around the year 800. He became Bishop of Winchester. Unlike other religious figures, he asked not to be buried in a prominent place within Winchester Cathedral, but outside in a simple tomb "where the sweet rain of heaven may fall upon my grave". According to legend he was originally buried outside, it was then decided to move his body to a tomb inside Winchester cathedral and as they moved his body the rains came down in torrents. As the poem goes:

"St Swithin's Day, if it does rain
Full forty days, it will remain
St Swithin's Day, if it be fair
For forty days, t'will rain no more"

With all the flooding the villages in the benefice have suffered this year, and in the October floods, we will be praying for a fair day. Our thoughts are with those individuals, schools and businesses that have not recovered from flooding. It has been devastating for so many, but the things that all those who have been impacted have said, is how wonderful and supportive the community has been to them with immediate offers of help and ongoing support.

I hope this Summer you can 'Make hay while the sun shines'. *Proverb 10 v5*

Emma, Lightwave Schools and Families Worker

From the Parishes:

Congratulations to: Chris Leggett & Nicola Windell on their wedding at Wetheringsett

In loving memory of: Jean Mayes (Stoke Ash); Neville Barker (Thornham Magna); Michael Mills (Thorndon); Hazel Tupper (Thornham Parva), & Christine Kitson (Wetheringsett)

Sunday 7th July	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
6th Sunday after Trinity	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th July	Mellis	10.30am	Worship for All
7th Sunday after Trinity	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st July	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Worship for All
8th Sunday after Trinity	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
	Thornham Magna	7.00pm	Sung Evensong for the St Mary Magdalene Festival
Sunday 28th July	Thornham Magna	10.30am	Holy Communion
9th Sunday after Trinity	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All
	Yaxley	10.30am	Worship for All

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

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LOCAL INFORMATION

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Dan's Coaches will be stopping the following routes:
457 Gislingham to Stowmarket last bus will be on Thursday 29th Aug.
456 Gislingham to Diss last bus will be on Friday 19th July. Gislingham Bus

Mellis Bus Timetable

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

110 – Eye to Diss

Eye – Diss (Monday to Friday) - leaves Mellis, opp. Railway Tavern: 10.46
Diss – Eye (Monday to Friday) – leaves Diss, adj. Bus Station: 13.30

Thornham Bus Timetable

Fairline Bus 320 (Weds only)

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



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



Mobile Library: Gislingham
The 2024 dates for the Mobile Library are:- 17 July, 14 Aug, 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec. Times: Broadfields Road: 15.10 = 15.45 / Mill St.: 15.50 – 16.05

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Anglian Water Emergency	0800 145145
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Church Wardens:	
Gislingham - Ann Cottee	01379 788633
Mellis - Betty Wells	01379 788155
Thornham Magna and Thornham Parva - James Fawcett	01379 788130
Citizens Advice Bureau Diss	01379 640530
Clerk (Parish) (Gislingham) clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com	07833 705915
Clerk (Parish) (Christine Moore - Thornham Parva)	01379 783226
Connecting Communities = Suffolk Passenger Transport	01449 614271
Crime Stoppers	0800 555111
District Council - Cllr Rowland Warboys rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk	01379 783412
Electricity Emergency	08007 838838
Essex & Suffolk Water Emergency	08457 820999
Eye Health Centre	01379 870689
Hall Bookings (Gislingham - Terry Williams -) email gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com (Mellis - Helen Timmons - Mellis) email: bookmellishall@gmail.com (Thornham) email: hallhire@thornhams.org	01379 783903 01379 783449
Mellis Parish Council Chairperson (Lawrie Read) mellisparishcouncil@gmail.com	01379 788248
Mendlesham Health Centre	01449 767722
Member of Parliament - Jo Churchill jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk - www.jochurchill.org.uk	01284 752311 020 7219 8487
NHS Direct	111
Suffolk Doctors On Call	03001 303066
Suffolk Fire Service & Community Fire Safety	01473 260586
Suffolk County Council -Cllr Jessica Fleming jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk	01449 711065
Suffolk Police (non urgent)	101

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