# The Messenger




Issue 149
June
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: July 2024**
**Copy deadline: Monday 17th June**

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 – June 2024**

**Welcome to the June issue!**

Last month, I mentioned that "Pylons" is the hot topic locally, and the National Grid Consultation on April 30th at the Village Hall, even came to the attention of ITV Anglia News. Local residents Tricia Jones and Ron Bramble were interviewed and appeared on the 6.00pm and 10.30pm news. Fame at last!

This year marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and we pay tribute to the Suffolk's regiment's key role in the decisive operations on 6th June 1944. (Pages 6 & 7). Mellis is commemorating this anniversary by organising a beacon lighting ceremony, alongside those organised nationwide. (Page 9).

Last month, I suggested that readers recommend and write about a "Day Out" they had enjoyed. I am delighted to say, 7-year-old, George from Gislingham emailed me, about a rather unique day out he experienced in April, which he described as "The Best day of my life" (pages 18 & 19). Then, just two weeks later, Ipswich Town gained promotion to the Premiership, for the first time in 22 years.

Whatever football team you support, this promotion is fantastic for Suffolk! It is estimated that promotion to the Premier League will bring in around £600 million a year to the town, with more people enjoying Suffolk's hotels, bars and restaurants on match days and visitors exploring all the county has to offer. This will, in-turn, deliver more opportunities to raise the profile of businesses in all sectors, not just tourism. We could see Ipswich attracting new business names and big retailers, while inspiring growth for our homegrown brands too. Needless to say, this will also increase job opportunities in the county. If (and it is a big "IF"), ITFC can to stay in the Premiership for a sustained period of time, the long-term impact this will all have for Ipswich and Suffolk is almost impossible to quantify.

Next month will see the return of the Gislingham Summer Fair after a 5 years absence! It will be great to have this event back on the annual calendar, but the organisers do need "extra hands" on the day, to help out. We have produced a "Guide to Gislingham Summer Fair" (on pages 46 & 47) so you'll know a bit more about the event and how you can help.

Similarly, the Gislingham Speed Watch Team are looking for volunteers. (See page 51).

Finally, I would like to thank some additional contributors to the magazine this month, Di, who has provided a book review, Graham, who has contributed two articles this month and George, for being a star!

Until next month!



***Jeff Norman, Editor*** e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

*Cover photo: Gislingham School pupil, George, with Omari Hutchinson, one of the stars of the Ipswich Town promotion-winning team. Photo courtesy of ITFC.*

# DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS




**Saturday 1st June: Book Sale**
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon

**Tuesday 4th June: Rural Coffee Caravan**
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 mid-day

**Thursday 6th June: Mellis D-Day 80th Anniversary**
- Railway Tavern from 7.00pm. See page 9 for details.

**Friday 7th June: The Village Social Pop-Up Bar**
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm – 10.00pm.

**Saturday 8th June: Mellis Garden official opening and other activities**
- Newsteads Land: 10.30am. See page 9 for details.

**Sunday 9th June: Thornham Sunday Breakfast Club**
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 10.00am. See page 16 for details.

**Saturday 15th June: Booze and Brushes**
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.00pm. See page 17.

**Saturday 15th June: Gisfest**
- Gislingham Village Hall: from 4.00pm. See pages 12 & 13.

**Friday 21st June: Charity Prize Bingo**
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.00pm. See page 14.

**Friday 21st June: Thornham Film Night – 'Dream Horse'**
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.30pm. See page 52 for details

**Saturday 22nd June: Music at Thornham**
- St. Mary's Church, Thornham Magna: 4.00pm. See page 41 for details

**Wednesday 26 June: Gislingham WI**
- afternoon trip to Peter Beales Roses: 2.30pm

**SAVE THE DATES:**
- **Saturday 6th July:** Gislingham Summer Fair
- **Sunday 14th July:** Afternoon tea with live tennis. See page 53.
- **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 July 2024. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Monday 17th June**

# 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

# D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**This year marks the eightieth anniversary of D-Day, the opening battle in the campaign that would lead to the eventual liberation of Europe in the Second World War. The bravery shown in those beach landings - and in the ensuing Battle of Normandy over the months which followed - played a pivotal role in the outcome of the war. Here in Suffolk, we can commemorate the role of our county's own regiment (which is now part of the Royal Anglian Regiment) and its key role in those decisive operations on D-Day.**



The 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment made landfall at Sword Beach at 8.30am on that fateful day of 6th June 1944. Its specific objectives were to capture two German strongholds which were a short distance inland. From the beach, the battalion moved forward to attack the first, a gun emplacement which was identified as 'Morris' (such objectives being codenamed by the British after car manufacturers).

The Morris battery, whose guns had suffered heavy bombing, was quickly captured with 67 prisoners taken. By one o'clock that afternoon, The Suffolks had also liberated the nearby village of Colleville and moved on to their second objective, a bunker system codenamed 'Hillman' (known to the Germans as Widerstandsnest 17 – or Strongpoint 17).



The Hillman defensive fortification is located on a hill just over two miles inland from Sword Beach. It was considered by military intelligence to be a battalion headquarters with machine-gun posts and anti-tank guns. It was in fact the more heavily fortified regimental HQ, controlling all the infantry and artillery in the area. It was mainly subterranean, protected by minefields and barbed wire, with 3.5-metre-thick bunkers of concrete and steel above, accommodating machine gun nests. The whole site covered 24 hectares (600 x 400 metres) and housed a garrison of 150 troops.

It was far bigger and more heavily fortified than had been expected. The challenge for the attacking Suffolks was compounded by the fact that the naval shelling and Royal Artillery bombardment had not caused damage to the bunkers. Nevertheless, a platoon

did manage to crawl through the vegetation and blow a hole in the perimeter fence, enabling a mine-clearance team to create a path to the fortress.




A second barbed wire fence, 50 yards from a steel machine-gun turret, was eventually taken out with an explosive Bangalore torpedo - the bravery of Lt Mike Russell in doing so winning him the French Croix de Guerre military medal. Private Tich Hunter was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery, having advanced on the main machine-gun turret, Bren gun firing from his hip.

The onslaught on Hillman continued with the Suffolks facing stiff resistance. After a six-hour battle, the following morning the commander of Hillman, Oberst Krug surrendered. Twenty of the Suffolks had lost their lives by then, with over seventy German defenders taken prisoner.

Hillman is considered to have been the most formidable obstacle in that area and was a key objective following the D-Day landings, its capture helping lead to the successful liberation of Normandy and beyond.

The bravery and sacrifice of the Suffolks in taking the stronghold is indeed commemorated in the renaming of the road between Colleville and Hillman to Rue Suffolk Régiment.

Hillman is now a recognised memorial and battlefield site. It can be freely visited in the outside areas and the signage of the key points is reasonably good. The local 'Friends of the Suffolk Regiment' organisation does provide occasional guided tours, which include some of the bunker areas. More information is available at: https://amis-du-suffolk-rgt.com/index.php/en/ .

***"Lest we forget"***

***GC*** *Photo credits: ITV NEWS Anglia, Mechtraveller, The Scotsman*



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# D-DAY 80 & THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK




## MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL, MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL AND THE RAILWAY TAVERN ARE CELEBRATING D-DAY 80 AND THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

**D-DAY 80 THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024**




Come and join us at the Railway Tavern, 7:00pm on Thursday 6th June, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. A Marquee will be set up outside the Railway Tavern if the weather is inclement for Gislingham Silver Band, who will be playing music from the era.

At 9:15pm the beacon will be lit, alongside beacons nationwide, in celebration of the 'light of peace' that emerged out of the darkness of war.

A food van will be available.




**MELLIS GARDEN OFFICIAL OPENING SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2024**

The official opening of Mellis Garden at Newsteads Land will take place at 10:30am on Saturday the 8th June, to coincide with the national 'Great Big Green Week' (8th to 16th June 2024).

Come and see the amazing work that has been done by parish councillors, members of our village, and even a guest 'villager' from Gislingham, to create a community garden for all to enjoy. Newsteads Land is next to the telecoms building by the school; come along to celebrate and bring a glass of something.

Afterwards there will be a showcase of historical photo archives (courtesy of Bill Spence) back at the Memorial Hall, showing Mellis through the years. There will also be artwork on display from Mellis Primary school.

If your house is full of books, you've already read or won't read, then why not bring them along to the book swap stall which will also be set up in the Memorial Hall, and exchange them for another great read.

We will also have plant sales and classic cars on display, all set to music by Mellis's own Acker Bilk, Peter Scott.

A free BBQ and music will be held at the Railway Tavern from 1:00pm, and then a film will be shown at the Memorial Hall to showcase the new AV (audiovisual) system.

In the evening it is all back to the Tavern to join in with the Karaoke night.

**Mellis Parish Council now has a new website: https://www.mellisparishcouncil.gov.uk/ and email address: clerk@mellisparishcouncil.gov.uk**

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# NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

As reported last month various items of bedding, are still being held at the Hall following the floods of last year. If you would like to retrieve any item you left, please contact Terry Williams on 01379 783903 or gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com. The Trustees have taken the decision that any uncollected items will be sold at the Jumble Sale to be held on 28th September 2024.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Friday 7th June: The Village Social - 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 15th June 2024: Gisfest**
4.00pm till late.

**Saturday 10th August: Quiz Night**
Details to follow

**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




**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.

# GISFEST 2024 T-Shirts available to order online

**Proudly wear your Gisfest T-shirt at this year's festival which takes place on Saturday 15th June.**

**10% of all profit goes to the Gislingham Village Hall fund.**

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## Charity Prize Bingo Night
## Friday 21st June
## at Gislingham Village Hall




**Doors Open 7.00pm - Eyes down 7:30pm**

**Refreshments available + Raffle.**
**Any raffle donations welcome.**

In aid of

DementiaUK

Money raised is for Dementia UK, which is the charity I'm supporting for my 100km walk along the Thames path in September.

**Sara Durrant: 07741 301485**

## 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)**

# DOORSTEPS, DOODLEBUGS AND D-DAY – A WW2 VARIETY SHOW



**Spring 2024 at Gislingham Village Hall saw GVC perform a beautifully poignant, self-penned WW2 show packed with sketches and music of the era. From the evocative opening scene – a solemn family gathering to hear the announcement of war – through tales of local heroism and true stories of what local folk got up to during the war, to shades of 'It Ain't 'Alf Hot Mum' – it really put the 'variety' into Gislingham Variety Club!**

We saw how wartime nurses were trained and the antiquated advice they were given about hairwashing and riding on omnibuses. Housewives, in headscarves and pinnies, outdid each other with rationing recipes and tap dancing! Winston Churchill's War Cabinet pompously took credit for a cleaning lady's excellent plans for the Normandy Beaches! The audience braved the sirens and a bombing raid in the London underground and we were even submerged deep beneath the sea to witness the 'seeing-off' of a couple of Germans in a submarine!

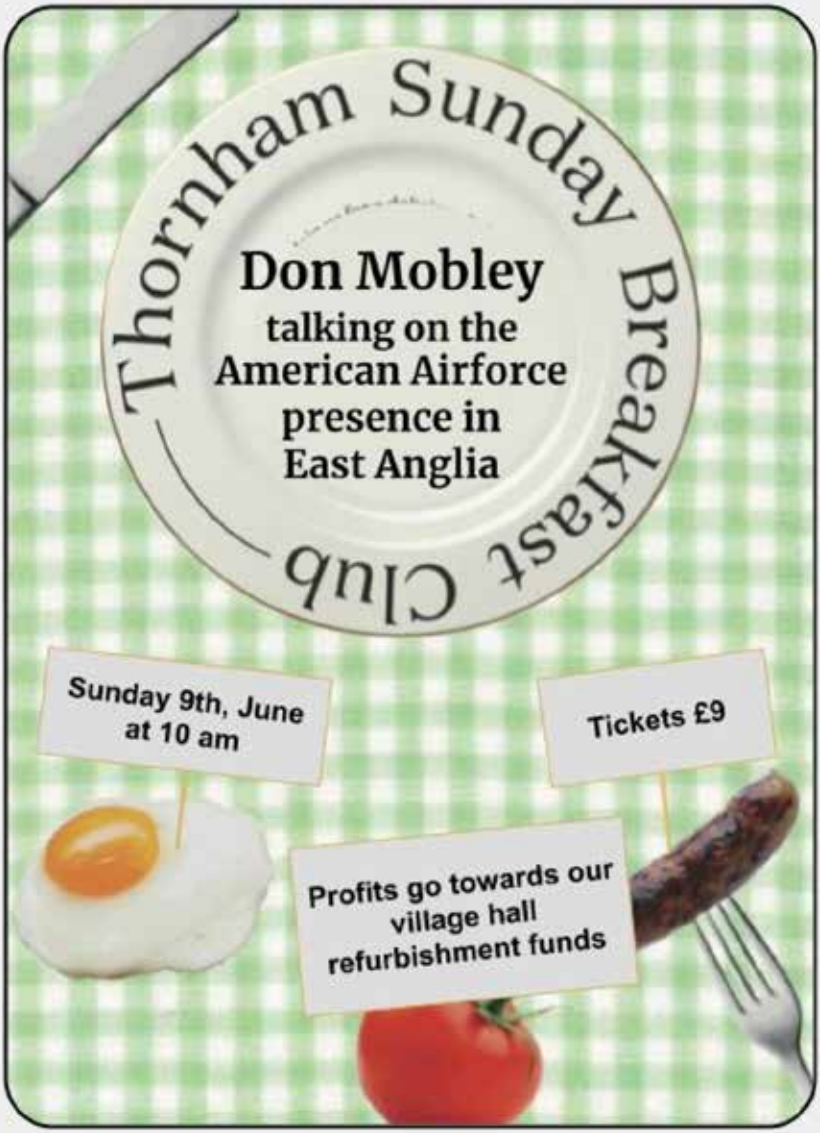
In the year of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the show really was a case of 'all pulling together', as the cast all pitched in to provide the staging, costumes, music and props to bring the 1940s to life – a collaborative effort from start to finish.

The local Women's Land Army Group, 'The Soil Cinderellas' lent beautiful original and reproduction costumes, Diss Museum provided letters from the front, and the cast joined their parade of historical characters through Diss as part of the promotion for the show.

A projector was used for the backdrops and to show recordings of the wonderful Kay Hall of Mellis – 89 year old raconteur of her wartime experiences as an evacuee, which brought tears to many eyes. (The projector can also be used by other groups in the village as it was funded from District Councillor Roland Warboy's Locality Budget which enabled it to be purchased.) Gislingham Parish Council also made a contribution which was greatly appreciated.

The musical talents of the cast were put to good use with guitars, banjo and even some 'a cappella' singing! Songs included – 'We'll Meet Again', 'Whispering Grass', and audience participation for 'It's A Long Way to Tipperary' and 'Pack Up Your Troubles'.

GVC's next production is being decided and will take place in the Autumn. New members are always welcome – both onstage and off – so please do get in touch with them if you would like to join in … Email: gislinghamvariety@gmail.com ***GC***




Join us for a fabulous breakfast
followed by a fascinating talk by Don Mobley, author of a
"History of U.S. Military Aviation in East Anglia"

Email **breakfast@thornhams.org** to book tickets.

# NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



## FUTURE EVENTS:

**Sat. 1st/Sun. 2nd June: Volunteer week – jobs at Thornham Magna Church**
Times tbc: Contact Kate Fogg for details: k8fogg@gmail.com

**Thursday 6th June: D-Day 80th picnic and Beacon lighting.**
7.00pm: Starhouse Farm, Clay Street, Thornham Magna. IP23 8HE.
Bring you own picnic/drink/chair. Beacon lighting at 9.15pm. No charge.

**Sunday 9th June: Breakfast Club – Don Mobley (Airbases WW2)**
10.00am: Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org £8.00

**Saturday 15th June: Booze and Brushes**
7.00pm: £27.50 – book direct at: www.paintingpassions.co.uk

**Friday 21st June: Film Night – 'Dream Horse'**
7.30pm: £5.00 - Bookings: events@thornhams.org

**Sunday 14th July: Wimbledon afternoon tea - with live match screening**
2.00pm: Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org £15.

**Saturday 10th August: Musical evening with Tyger and BBQ.**
7.00pm: £15 per head. Bookings: events@thornhams.org

**Saturday 17th August:** Flowers with Jennifer at Frog Farm (2.00pm)

**Saturday 23rd August:** Grease sing-a-long with food. (7.00pm)

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

**Saturday 14th September:** Last night of the proms with canapes and cocktails (7.00pm)

**Sunday 13th October:** Autumn Fair – 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 BEST DAY OF MY LIFE




**Saturday 13th April turned out to be the best day of my life so far. It was the day I got to be a mascot for Ipswich Town Football Club. My Mum and Dad had organised an early 8th birthday present and it was such a big surprise.**

We had to arrive a long time before kick-off to fit all the exciting activities in. First, we got a mini tour of the stadium. My favourite part was going into the home team changing room. I also enjoyed the VIP room; I would love to watch a match from their box one day! Then it was time to take penalties against Crazee the club mascot, which I did in front of my family (my cousins had travelled from Bedfordshire to support me and ITFC – another brilliant surprise!).

After that we had sweets and a fist pump from Mark Ashton, the Ipswich Town CEO. Our big screen moment came next, it was fun being interviewed in the dugouts by Mark Murphy from BBC Radio Suffolk. We watched the team warm up and then went into the tunnel to get high fives from all the players - it was almost time for kick off.

We waited for our chosen player to be called to meet us and I could hear the roaring crowd from the tunnel. I was buzzing with excitement to walk out in front of nearly 30,000 fans!

*Photos credit: ITFC Photos credit: ITFC*



My adrenaline was pumping and the noise was unbelievable! It made me feel so special walking out beside Omari Hutchinson, (my favourite player); he put his arm around my shoulder and I just couldn't believe how lucky I was. After a quick shake of hands with all the players and a photograph with the captains and officials it was time to run off the pitch and take my seat for the game.

The game ended a 1-1 draw for Ipswich and it was a day I will never ever forget.

***By George, age 7***



**Footnote:** ***Just three weeks later, on Saturday 4th May, Ipswich Town secured promotion to the Premiership (after a 22-year absence), with a 2-0 home win against Huddersfield Town. They accumulated a staggering 96 points during the season, scoring a total of 92 goals. (The League's highest goal scorers).***



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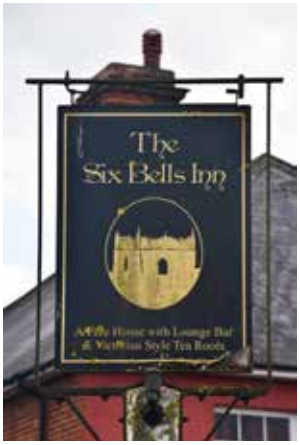


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# THE SIX BELLS COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE









**Further to our update in the May Messenger we have been informed by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) that they have issued a Planning Enforcement Notice to Whatling Building Ltd, the owners of the Six Bells.**

This Notice states that the Council considers 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 and this has resulted in "unacceptable harm to the community of Gislingham because of the unjustifiable loss of a community facility". The owners are therefore required 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. The owners have been given a fixed period to comply with this Notice. They do have a right to appeal to the Secretary of State (at the Planning Inspectorate (PI)). Any appeal must be launched by 7th June 2024.

By the time this article is published the SBCG will have met to consider further options. We may try again to engage with the owners to come to an accommodation which is acceptable to all.

***The Six Bells Community Group***

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.

Martin Roper
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Afternoon 12.45pm to 3.45pm

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

# ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

## OPEN DAY JUNE 9th WORTHAM TENNIS CLUB




As we move from Winter into Spring and the weather improves, I thought it an appropriate moment to write about Wortham Tennis Club. However, that it is not to imply that the four courts are not used during the winter months. Members enjoy tennis so much that they play throughout all weather conditions!

The club originated in 1932 with one grass court and now, as many of you will know, consists of four tarmac courts with floodlights. In 2001 and 2009 Wortham was recognised as Suffolk LTA Tennis Club of the Year and Highly Commended for the same in 2011.

All ages play at Wortham and we have Kris as our coach who not only brings on the skills of the younger members but also the older players too, by way of individual and group sessions and the fun cardio sessions. Social tennis is of great importance as are Club tournaments and League matches. There is something for everyone.

Several events are already planned for the coming season, beginning with a BBQ, tennis and draw for the Club tournaments on 14th April. An Open Day will be taking place on June 9th when all of you who are interested can come to play for free. It is a friendly occasion when all ages are encouraged to try their skills with some expert help and refreshments throughout the day from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Coincidentally the occasion coincides with Wortham Open Gardens!

As an older member of the club who joined having had a gap from the constant tennis of my youth I can only say that the tennis brings total fun, not only for the sport itself but the friendships forged.

**For any readers who would like further information here is the link:**
https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WorthamTennisClub
Wortham Lawn Tennis Club, Long Green, Wortham, Suffolk. IP22 1PP

***Frances Beasley***

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# IN THE GARDEN



**The weather seems to have gone from winter to summer in the space of a week, and then back again, but that's spring for you! Having made our way to mid-May, the risk of frosts has pretty much passed, the garden is being planted up with tender plants that have enjoyed the protection of the glasshouse and the garden is starting to take shape for the summer ahead. Going by the Ash and Oak tress it may be a dry one, Oak before Ash, in for a splash, being the saying that is supposed to predict the weather by the order of leaves appearing in the canopy above.**

Weeding has been non-stop, but as ever getting on top of weeds early on means that it is easier to keep on top of weeding, with ephemeral weeds being removed and reducing the number of seed that is produced through the year.

We are starting to stock our shop with fresh produce from the garden, Kale and Rhubarb are some of our first crops to be harvested, giving a hint of the flavours that will follow in the coming months.

Looking ahead we are already starting to plan our garden openings through the summer, our Summer Fayre will be our first event (21st July), but we also plan to open through the summer on Sundays in addition to our usual weekday opening hours.

Currently the garden is starting to bloom, the Flag Irises are the current stars of the show, large fleshy flowers that add a punch of colour to the double border, which starts off with a cool blue and white colour pallet, in great contrast to the fire and warmth of its autumn show of yellows and oranges.

This time of year, is also looking very lush, the wet winter as well as regular rain is keeping things growing well as we head towards June. The apple trees have lots of fruit set, but June is the time when we see 'June Drop', so we can never count our apples before they have grown!

***Phill Williams, Lead Project Worker (Horticulture)***
***Beyond The Wall, The Walled Garden, Thornham Magna.***





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**Thursday 6th June 7.15pm** — **D-DAY CELEBRATIONS**

With Gislingham Silver Band & The Lighting of The Mellis Beacon Plus a Food Truck

**Saturday 8th June 1pm** — **ACOUSTIC AURA**

The D-Day Celebrations Continue with a FREE BBQ & Live Music on The Common

**Saturday 8th June 8.30pm** — **KARAOKE DISCO**

**Thursday 13th June 8.30pm** — **OPEN MIC NIGHT**

Calling all musicians and singers. Come along and have a go on stage.

**Sunday 16th June 8pm** — **ENGLAND v SERBIA**

England's Opening Game of The Euro's 2024 Live on THREE BIG Screens

**Thursday 20th June 5pm** — **DENMARK v ENGLAND**

The Pub will be open from 4.30pm for England's Second Game of The Tournament

**Thursday 20th 7.30pm** — **PUB QUIZ**

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

**Saturday 22nd June 8.30pm** — **KARAOKE DISCO**

**Sunday 23rd June 5pm** — **THE ANYONES**

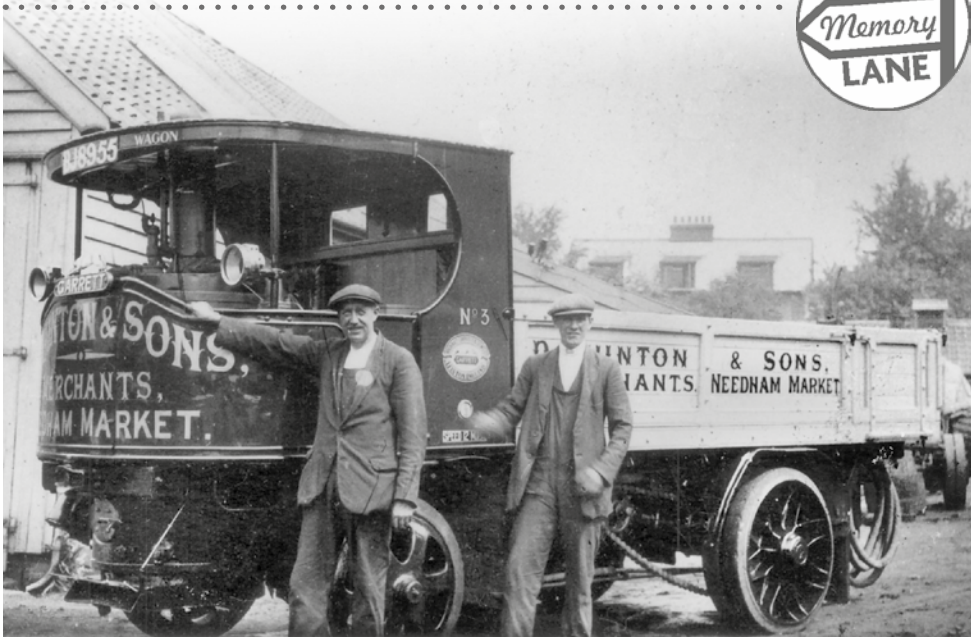
A Terrific Young Band Playing Mainly 1960's Hits

**Tuesday 25th June 8pm** — **ENGLAND v SLOVENIA**

*Join Us for England's Third Game. Pub Open From 6pm*

# STEAM LORRIES IN SUFFOLK

DOWN Memory LANE




**For some reason, these old monsters of the road have caught the affection of many. When they were introduced, from the early 1900s to the early 1930s, it was by no means certain that petrol, and then diesel would come to dominate haulage, and these steam wagons did good reliable service. The Sentinels, in particular, were doing useful work unto the 1940s. As you'll see from these old photos, they found all sorts of uses such as removals, haulage, and delivery in Suffolk.**

A steam wagon (or steam lorry, or steam truck) is a steam-powered truck for carrying freight. It was the earliest form of lorry and came in two basic forms: *overtype* and undertype, the distinction being the position of the engine relative to the boiler. Manufacturers tended to concentrate on one form or the other.

Steam wagons were a widespread form of powered road traction for commercial haulage in the early part of the twentieth century, although they were a largely British phenomenon, with few manufacturers outside Great Britain. Competition from internal-combustion-powered vehicles and adverse legislation meant that few remained in commercial use beyond the Second World War.

Although the majority of steam wagons have been scrapped, a significant number have been preserved in working order and may be seen in operation at steam fairs.

## Early years

Following a relaxation in the legislation covering the use of steam-powered vehicles on common roads, manufacturers started to investigate the possibility of using steam power for a self-contained goods vehicle. Prior to this point, goods were carried in a trailer towed behind a traction engine, or more frequently a horse. The first steam wagon was produced in 1870 and occasional experiments continued over the next two decades.












Despite legislation that severely restricted the unladen weight of wagons, steam wagon production began to flourish in the UK in the last decade of the 19th century.

## The last stand

By the beginning of the 1930s, the landscape was becoming difficult for steam wagon production. Many manufacturers had gone out of business, and many others had turned to internal combustion. The only major manufacturers who produced new designs in this period were Foden and Sentinel. In 1930, Foden launched their revolutionary "O-Type", better known as the "Speed-Six" and "Speed-Twelve" wagons. They were a valiant attempt at producing a modern steam wagon, but suffered from reliability problems, primarily due to issues with the boiler design. At the end of 1932, Foden turned to diesel wagons.

The only remaining player in the market was Sentinel. In 1933, they launched their "S" type wagons. A fast, well thought out and reliable design, it was a valiant attempt to maintain the steam wagon market. Despite this, in 1938, production ceased, except for 100 wagons produced in the early 1950s for the Argentine government, and a solitary wagon produced for the home market.

## Disappearance

Road steam disappeared through becoming uneconomical to operate, and unpopular with British governments. (Throughout the 1920s and 1930s successive governments placed tighter restrictions on road steam haulage, including smoke and vapour limits.)

By 1921, steam tractors had demonstrated clear economic advantages over horse power for heavy hauling and short journeys. However, petrol lorries were starting to show better efficiency and could be purchased cheaply as war surplus; on a busy route a 3-ton petrol lorry could save about £100 per month compared to its steam equivalent, in spite of restrictive speed limits, and relatively high fuel prices and maintenance costs.

***Source material:*** *The Foxearth & District Local History Society & Wikipedia*

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# NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



**Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes!**

The night of 10th May 2024 was remarkable for the stunning display of the Northern Nights across nearly all of the UK, including Suffolk. The other-worldly appearance of the night sky was captured by many photographers - but not me, as I'd decided to have an early night and was tucked up in bed oblivious to the photo opportunity outside! This fabulous photo was taken by Gary Avis at his new home in Burstall, some 20 miles south from where he used to live on Mill Street in Gislingham. Gary has included in his photo a silhouette of the church across the road from his home and I think that really "makes" the picture.



*Photo straight from iPhone with no enhancements.*

The Northern Nights, or Aurora Borealis as they are also known, are an atmospheric phenomenon caused by the interaction between atomic particles from the sun and the earth's atmosphere. The earth's magnetic field directs the particles towards its poles and so displays like this are normally only seen by us in the northern hemisphere at northern latitudes, eg: within the arctic circle. In this case, though, the intensity of the electromagnetic storms on the sun have made the displays visible much further south than usual. Gary's photo can be seen to include purple and green colours and these are each caused at different altitudes between 100 and 240 km above the earth according to the amounts of oxygen and nitrogen at those altitudes.

I think that this is one of those times when the scientific explanation can be fascinating but cannot compete with the sheer beauty of the spectacle that Gary's photo has captured perfectly! The prospect of seeing more of the Northern Lights is forecast to be good over the next few nights and so I have placed myself on red-alert - no more early nights for a while!

Back on earth and Glyn Simpson in Gislingham sent me a photo of an unusual spider that he spotted in his garden on his broad bean plants. It turns out that this was a Cucumber Spider. Whilst possibly not the most handsome creature, as Glyn was watching it devoured three black flies, so a welcome garden visitor. More power to its (eight) elbows although it'll have to wait a little while until Glyn's cucumbers are ready!

In my own garden, I've enjoyed many sightings of Holly Blue and Orange Tip butterflies as they take nectar from Forget-Me-Not, Honesty and Green Alkanet flowers. On a walk down Water Lane at Thornham Magna I spied a splendid Red Admiral fluttering about.

At this time of year I find the garden can be very demanding as all the plants (including weeds) shoot up, seemingly overnight. A friend of mine reminded me to take some time just to sit in the garden, relax and enjoy it - good advice! Sitting out in the garden has been a real pleasure over recent days thanks not only to the lovely weather but also the sound of birdsong, notable contributors being Blackbirds, Robins, Chaffinches, Blue and Great Tits and a Wren. On one occasion I was treated to the sight of a majestic Red Kite patrolling overhead. Happily, these predators are most interested in carrion and not live song birds!







**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.*

# CIRCULAR WALK - GISLINGHAM VIA COTTON

*O/S Map: 210/211 Distance: approx. 10 kms /6 miles*



Although we have walked to Cotton before, we have chosen a slightly different route this time.

Starting at the Village Hall, make your way up the High Street, pass the shop and pub and when you get to the sharp right-hand bend, turn left down Morleys Lane. Continue along the road and pass Redhouse Farm which is on your right onto the bridleway, which is not very clearly marked. Continue straight across the field, aiming towards the railway line in the far corner. Cross over using the crossing and keeping a look out for any trains. Bear right and pass the old house on the right. Check out the fallen tree which has landed on the outside loo, hopefully it was not being used at the time!



Continue down the road until you reach the road and cross over. Go through the gate and continue along the bridleway and meadow. See the fallen trees from a storm. Further along is another tree, that looks like it was hit by lightning.





Continue along the bridleway until it reaches the road. Then continue straight and, after a short distance, turn left over the wooden bridge and walk through a small copse.



Continue walking along this footpath and, at the 2nd footpath sign, turn right and cross another wooden bridge and walk up to the road which will bring you to the now refurbished Trowel & Hammer pub. They have done a great job inside and they are still sorting out the rear

garden, however, there are plenty of benches outside. If you visited the pub in the past, where the pool table was is now new toilets. Another feature you will notice is that it used to be thatched, but is now fully tiled.

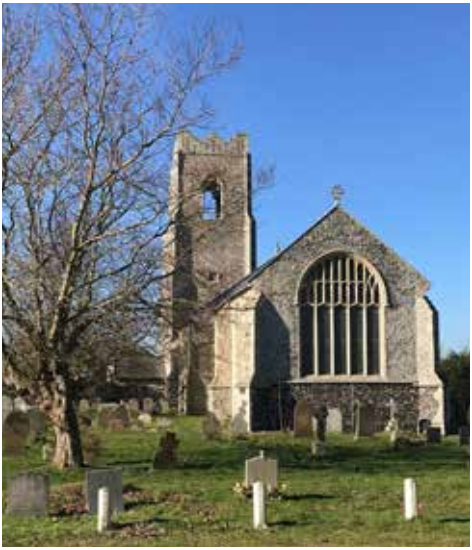
Leave the pub and turn left. Bear right at Cotton Village Hall and then take the track on the left. You will pass a very vivid yellow house and continue past the stables. When you get to a paddock with a sign saying "Do Not Feed Horses", turn right keeping the paddock fence to your left. When you reach the house 'Silver End' bear left and then right onto track like road. Go over the railway bridge and see the sign dedicated to 'Lennie Girling' on his retirement. Bear right and continue until you reach the main road which exits between some houses. Cross the road and turn left at the Information Board which has several local walks displayed.




Leave the churchyard and follow the footpath opposite which will bring you to a small bridge and the river.



Continue along the track and go through St Bartholomew's church yard. The original church was built in 1086, however the current building was rebuilt in the 14th & 15th c. For a full history go to https://shct.org.uk/churches/st-bartholomews-church-finningham/ and click on the 'Click here for Church Guide'.



Turn right and follow the road back to Gislingham. Just before you reach the first house on the edge of Gislingham, go through the gap on your right sign posted footpath and cross the field until you reach Morleys Lane. Again, there is no clear footpath marked. Turn left and return to home.

***Emma & Martyn Bryant***




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# Games on Finningham Green

## Rounders Tournament

Please come and join us for an afternoon of games on the green, Sunday 23rd June starting at 2.30. There will be some music, but no bar so bring your own drinks and maybe a picnic and something to sit on.

The main event will be a knock-out rounders tournament with teams of 8(ish). We hope to see teams from neighbouring villages, there will be a trophy for the winners. If you can't make up a team of 8 just come along, teams can be formed on the day – or if you would just prefer to watch we look forward to seeing you.

To round off the afternoon there will be a tug of war.

There is no entry fee (but a donation to Friends of Finningham on the day would be much appreciated).

**If you would like to take part please contact Ian Armstrong, phone 01449 780215 or email ianbacton@aol.com.**

You've forgotten how to play rounders? Don't worry, you are in good company. "Bash and run" is about all you need to know – but if you would like a reminder, try "The Basic Rules of Rounders" by Darren Wilks, it's on You Tube.



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# MELLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL JRSOs

**We are the Mellis Primary School Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) and we have been working extremely hard this year to promote road safety throughout our school, to parents and the wider community.**



We have a mascot called Be Seen Barry who goes home with a child from Key Stage 1 once a week, along with a scrapbook. Whilst with them, they show Barry how to keep safe around cars and on a bike, as well as walking near roads. They add photos to the scrapbook to show what Barry has learnt. Barry and the scrapbook then comes back to school so we can share what he has been up to. A certificate thanking them for keeping Barry safe is given at the end of each week during our celebration assembly. Over the last couple of years Barry has also learnt how to keep safe on a tractor, at the swimming pool, whilst barbecuing and has helped repair a road. He has even been on holiday to Tenerife!

During the winter we promoted Be Bright Be Seen throughout the school. We wrote letters to the Mellis Parents Association and asked if they would be able to buy reflective key rings for every pupil. They very kindly agreed to do so. We took part in an assembly explaining how we can all keep safe when out and about when it is dark. Everyone in the school were given a keyring so they could wear it on their coat or bag. We also designed posters explaining how we can all keep safe during the dark winter months and these were displayed on the JRSO notice board.

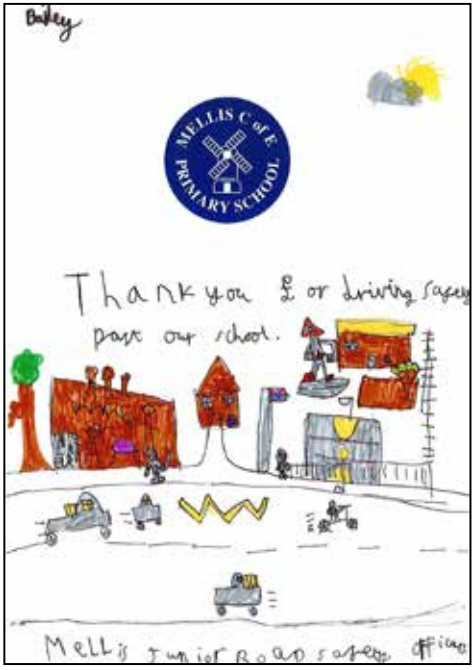



Finally we wanted to show our appreciation to everyone – parents and the wider community – who drives past our school carefully. We have designed posters to say thank you and we would like to share these with you.

***Mellis Primary School Junior Road Safety Officers***


Florence
MELLIS C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
Thank you for driving safley past our School.


MELLIS C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
thank you for driving safely past our School!


Bailey
MELLIS C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
Thank you for driving safely past our school.
Mellis Junior Road safety officer


Fox
MELLIS C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mellis Junior Road Safety officer

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# TRIED & TESTED RECIPES by Debbie



## PENNE RAGU ALFORNO WITH MOZZARELLA AND CHEESE

This Penne Ragu Alforno is bursting full of flavours.

**Preparation Time:** 40 minutes / Cooking time: 25 minutes

**Ingredients (**for 2 people):

- 240 grams Beef Mince
- 1 Carrot
- 180 grams Penne Pasta
- 1 carton(s) Finely Chopped Tomatoes
- 28 grams Red Wine Stock Paste
- 1 ball(s) Mozzarella
- 20 grams Grated Hard Italian Style Cheese
- ½ tsp Sugar for the Sauce
- 50 ml Water for the Sauce



**Instructions:**

1. Preheat your oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas mark 7. Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil with ½ tsp salt for the pasta. Heat a large frying pan on medium-high heat (no oil). Once hot, add the beef mince and fry until browned, 4-5 mins. Season with salt and pepper. Use a spoon to break it up as it cooks.
2. Meanwhile, trim and coarsely grate the carrot (no need to peel). When your pan of water is boiling, add the penne and bring back to the boil. Cook until tender, 12 mins. Once cooked, drain in a colander and pop back into the pan. Drizzle with oil and stir through to stop it sticking together.
3. Once the mince is browned, drain and discard any excess fat. Stir in the carrot and cook, stirring frequently, for 1 min. Stir in the chopped tomatoes, red wine stock paste, sugar and water. Bring to the boil, stirring to combine, then lower the heat. Simmer until thickened, 10-12 mins.

Season to taste with salt and pepper if needed. Add a splash of water if it's a little too thick. **IMPORTANT:** *The mince is cooked when no longer pink in the middle.*

4. While the ragu sauce simmers, drain the mozzarella and tear into pieces.
5. Once thickened, stir the ragu sauce and cooked pasta together. Transfer to a large, deep ovenproof dish. Scatter the mozzarella over the top of the pasta, then sprinkle over the hard Italian style cheese. Bake on the top shelf of your oven until the cheese is melted and bubbly, 8-10 mins, and serve.

***Recipe: Hello Fresh***

# GUIDE TO **GISLINGHAM SUMMER FAIR**



**The annual Summer Fair stopped in 2019 due to covid restrictions. After a 5-year absence, the summer fair is back once again – on Saturday 6th July, from 12.00 mid-day until approx. 4.30pm.**

As organisers, the Gislingham Summer Fair is all about the community coming together and making a fun family afternoon for the village. (And better still, you don't even have to be a Gislingham resident to join in the fun!)

We are conscious that during the last 5 years, there are many new residents to the local villages, who have no knowledge of what to expect, so we thought the following information will hopefully answer any questions you might have.

### What can you expect?

Firstly, the fair is free to get in! And it will be a fun-filled day for all the family, even your dog!

### Entrance & Car Parking

Entrance to the Summer Fair will be via the school car park entrance. There is no car parking, as the school playground and car park will be in use on the day as well as the village hall. So, there will be no parking in the village hall car park. Please be mindful of local residents if bringing a vehicle.

### Toilet Facilities

Although the school will be shut, there will be toilet facilities on site.



### Food and Refreshments

There will be a Bar-b-q serving Burgers, Sausages (+ veggie burgers), WI will be serving teas, coffees and cake and there will be a licensed bar and soft drinks.

### Children's Fancy Dress

There will be a fancy dress competition for children at 12.05 and the theme this year is 'Disney'.



There will be some prizes for the winners. So hopefully lots of boys and girls will come in fancy dress.

### Dog Show

There will be a fun dog show ("Waggiest tail", "Best dressed / matched pair – owner/handler", "Basic handling" etc. Remember this is Gislingham, not Crufts! We have even found our judges in the village!

You can bring your dog and enter in as few or as many categories as you like. (50p entry per category). The winner in each category will receive a certificate and a prize.

### Entertainment

As well as the dog show in the main arena, there will also be some live music during the day.



There will be a bouncy castle, a football target shooting competition, kids games stall and more!

### Stalls

We have some trade stands booked, selling sweets, candy floss, arts & crafts and homemade produce. We even have a local author selling and signing her books! (More about this in next month's issue!). There will also be some classic cars on show in the school playground.

### Kids Races

Towards the end of the day, we promise to wear the children out! Our 'Games Team' will be organising Sac races, Egg and Spoon races etc (and traditionally there is always a race involving 'water' – guaranteed to cool them down on a hot day!) And if we can find a long enough rope, there may even be a tug of war for all ages!!

### Money Raised

The profit made from this event is split equally between the village organisations involved in helping to organise the event: Gislingham Primary School, Gislingham Playgroup, Gislingham Village Hall, 1st Mendlesham Scouts and Friends of St. Mary's Church.



### Programme of Events

The official programme will be published in next month's issue of The Messenger.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### Bunting Around the Village

It would be lovely if as many people as possible in the village could display some bunting on their walls, hedges, houses etc. all around the village. Let's celebrate!

### Prizes Wanted

The Summer Fair Committee would be grateful of any donations of Tombola items, alcohol for the barrow of beer and we also need prizes for the GRAND DRAW! So if there are any local businesses that would like to donate a prize – you will get a mention in the official programme.

### Help on the Day

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 much appreciated. We also have equipment to transport to/from the village hall to the school playing field. We may even need help on the day, so if you can spare us the odd 30 minutes, we may need help!

***If you have any questions or queries, or can offer to help in some way, please contact us via: gislinghamsummerfair2024@gmail.com***

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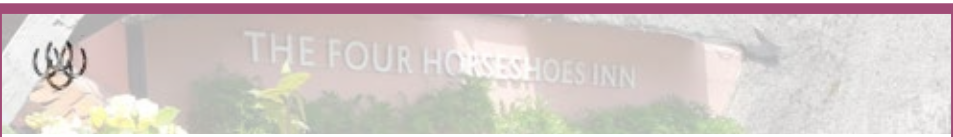
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**Chiswick House & Gardens**
*17th June - £65pp*
**Suffolk Waterways & Horses**
*22nd July - £79pp*
**Kew Gardens**
*24th July or 6th September- £65pp*
**Norfolk Historic Houses**
*25th July - £65pp*
**Bletchley Park**
*26th July or 25th September - £65pp*
**Lakeside or Bluewater Shopping**
*27th July - £40pp*
**London Zoo**
*31st July - £65pp*
**Sandringham Flower Show**
*31st July - £53pp*
**Shrek the Musical**
*1st August - £85pp*
**Chatsworth House and Gardens**
*2nd August - £75pp*
**London Guided Walk & Southwark**
*2nd August - £65pp*
**Festival of Quilts at the NEC**
*3rd August - £58pp*
**Wells and Hunstanton**
*6th August - £33pp*

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# GISLINGHAM SPEED WATCH QUARTERLY REPORT (FEB - APRIL 2024)

The Gislingham Speed watch team resumed monitoring the speed of vehicles through the village on Mill Street and on Thornham Road back in February after our short winter break but we have been limited by the bad weather and availability of our volunteers in carrying out more sessions.

The results for the first quarter of 2024 are as follows: -

- February: 14 vehicles recorded (Thornham Rd 3; Mill Street 11) - highest recorded speed 40mph.
- March: 4 vehicles recorded* (Thornham Rd 2; Mill Street 2) - highest recorded speed 39mph.
- April: 11 vehicles recorded (Thornham Rd 6; Mill Street 5) – highest recorded speed 41mph.

**3 Sessions only due to adverse weather*

All recorded vehicles travelling at 35mph or more will have received first or final warning letters from Suffolk Constabulary.

If anyone can spare a couple of hours a month it would enable us carry out more sessions and help protect our young people on their way to and from school. If you feel you can help, please give me a call on 783825 or email me on s.j.critchley@btinternet.com and I can give you more information.

On another welcome matter, the Gislingham School Junior Road Safety Officers have asked to carry out a Speed watch session with the team in June and we will be delighted to work with them again!

Finally, once again, I would like to express my thanks to all the Speed watch volunteers and for the support of the village community.

***Steve Critchley – Gislingham Speed watch Co-ordinator***



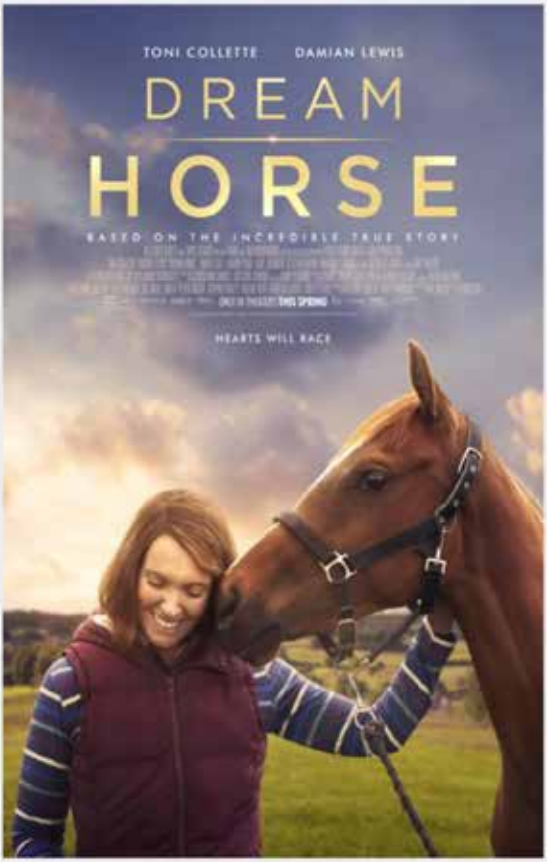




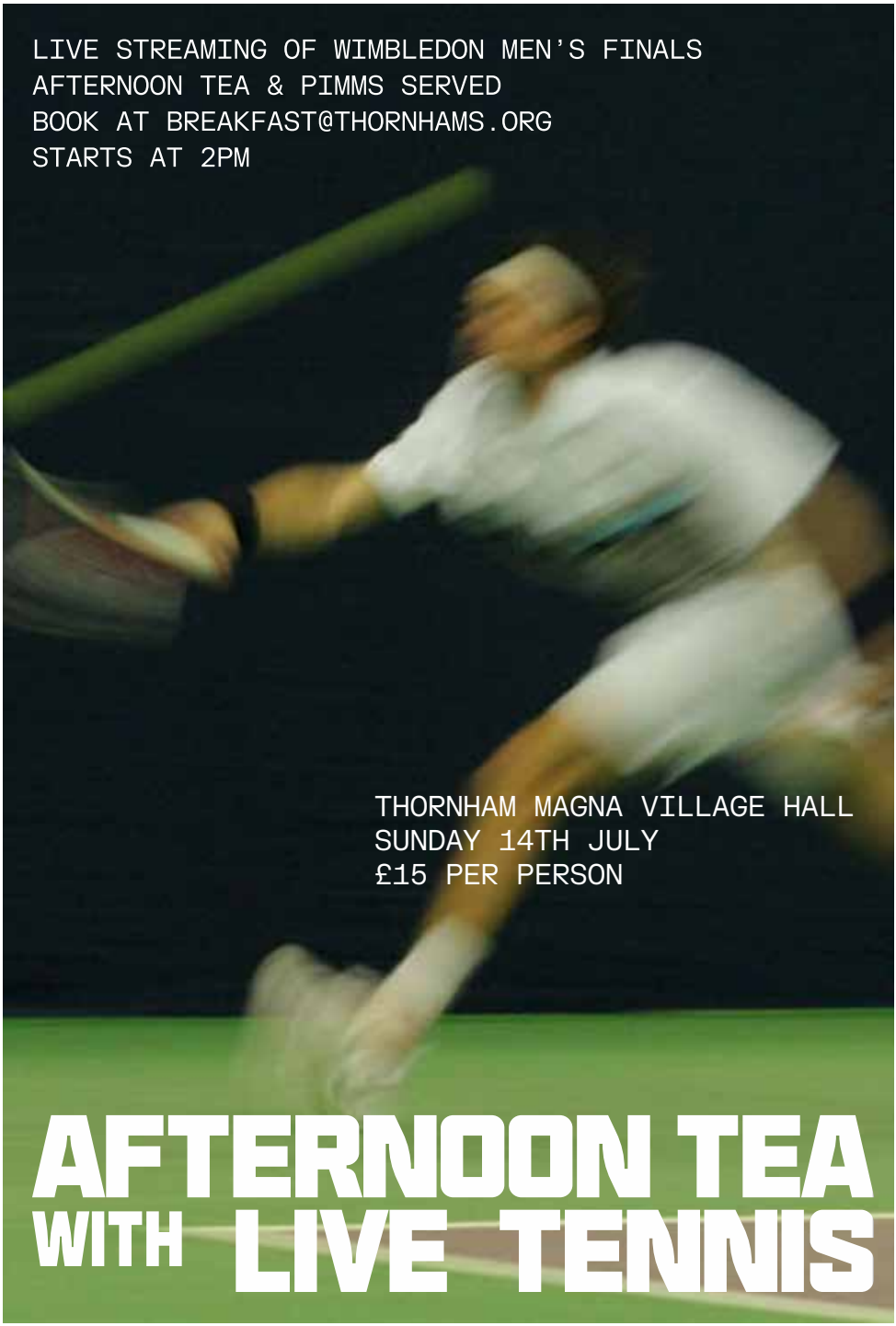


**Thornhams Film Night**
**Friday, 21st June, 7.30pm**

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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:
Lilac Cottage,
Mill Street,
Gislingham, IP23 8JR.
Telephone: 01379 783380
Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com

Gislingham United Charity is a registered charity, No. 208340.

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# DI'S BOOK BLOG



## "THE KEEPER OF LOST THINGS" BY RUTH HOGAN




**I picked this book up from one of our monthly village book sales, so at least one of you will have read it already!**

The front and back covers, and inner sleeves are full of quotes and comments about how wonderful, beautiful, amazing etc etc, that this book is. They are not wrong - I absolutely loved it!

Right from the word go, you are led into an intriguing, witty story set across different decades that lead you along well-thought-out plot lines. The heart-warming writing manages to touch on all of the reader's emotions.

The main story is about an elderly gentleman - Anthony, and his young assistant, Laura.

Anthony, when finding a lost item, takes it home and keeps it safe. This is with the intention of returning it to its original owner. Laura eventually inherits this collection of lost things and decides to continue with Anthony's mission.

Anthony and Laura have both suffered deep heartache in different ways, and these are sensitively explored.




We follow a second storyline involving Eunice and Bomber, and their platonic relationship. Bomber has a publishing business, and an adorable dog called Douglas. Bomber's sister is a nasty piece of work, but she gives the story laugh out loud humour.

Each lost item comes with its own story. We meet their original owners in imaginative stories included within the main plot.

The book also introduces us to other characters, such as Sunshine, whose quirky take on life adds humour. And Freddy, who could be the man to mend Laura's heart. Plus, Carrot, an abandoned dog who has had a really tough time, but his heart is also eventually mended.

The absolute cleverness of this story is that the two plot lines seem random, but along with the lost items' stories, they eventually weave together, and make for a very satisfying conclusion.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

***Di Herbert***



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# TIP OFF, RIP OFF!




**Festival and concert goers looking to get last minute tickets to this summer's top events are urged to be on their guard against fraudulent sellers, as new data reveals almost £6.7 million was lost to ticket fraud last year.**




Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events.

Last year more than 8,700 people reported they had been a victim ticket fraud nationally, with a total of £6.7 million lost. This works out to an average loss of £772 per victim.

In 2023, 53 people in Suffolk reported they had been a victim ticket fraud, with a total of £39,443 lost. This works out at an average loss of £744 per report.

The warning comes ahead of the Glastonbury Festival ticket resale and before top summer events, such as Taylor Swift's sell out Eras tour.

**How to protect yourself from ticket fraud:**

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, the promoter, an official agent or a well-known and reputable ticket exchange site.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.
- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password, and enable 2-step verification (2SV).
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.

**Is the vendor a member of Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR)?**

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**For more information visit star.org.uk/buy_safe.**

# THE MESSENGER CONNECTION QUIZ

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

1. This symbol of quality originates from a prize awarded for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by passenger liners.
2. What is the name of the Major League Baseball team based in the largest city in California?
3. It is used to hit a golf ball.
4. Which character did Danny DeVito play in the 1992 film Batman Returns?
5. Jim Beam and Jack Daniels are all producers of what type of alcoholic drink?
6. This Italian general is perhaps best known for contributing to the unification of Italy and the creation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861.
7. The Elite, Elise and Exige are all models of car produced by which car manufacturer?
8. Where on the body would you find a phalange?
9. A powder made from a mixture of malted barley, wheat flour, and evaporated whole milk powder. It is also used in baking to help dough cook properly.
10. What connects all of the answers above?

*Answers appear on page 63.*

# SUDOKU CHALLENGE

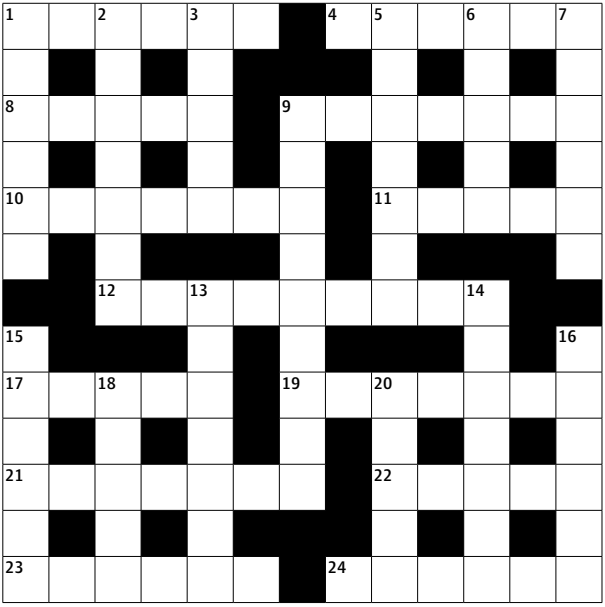
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Each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9

Last issue solution

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# CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



**Across**

1 Soothe (6)
4 Blanket — coat — dog (6)
8 Monastery head (5)
9 Bubbly bath (7)
10 Yellowish-brown colour (7)
11 Soothe (5)
12 Child's money box (5,4)
17 It's good to be full of them! (5)
19 Paintings etc (7)
21 Socially exclusive (7)
22 Go around (5)
23 Transfix (6)
24 Sportsperson (6)

**Down**

1 Government of the Roman Catholic Church (6)
2 Twitter (7)
3 Meeting (5)
5 Plant with purple, red or white dangling flowers (7)
6 Nut — colour (5)
7 Hit hard (6)
9 Little sweet thing (5,4)
13 Indication of one's intention (7)
14 Gnarled (7)
15 Pre-digital computer (6)
16 Performer on ice (6)
18 Stay (5)
20 Online menace (5)

Last issue solution

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# NOTICES



## PYLON AWARENESS WALK

I am organising a Pylon Awareness Walk for Gislingham on Sunday the 2nd June 2024 at 4pm. Starting/meet at Morley's Lane and ending at the Village Hall carpark. It will follow the route that the pylons will take around Gislingham.

We also hope to have a drone in the sky to mark the 50m height of a Pylon at one point. The circuit takes approximately an hour and please be aware that part of the route will be across uneven field footpaths.

Further details will be published on social media and posters nearer the time or from me at champdogs@btinternet.com

***Leigh Smith***

## GISLINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



I have been advised that some residents have received emails from either friends or colleagues advising that either their car has broken down so they can't get out or phone/ computer not working so they cannot order goods online. Could you possibly help by purchasing some Amazon gift cards for them and they will pay you later. IT IS A SCAM THE MAIL IS NOT FROM A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE AND YOU WILL NOT GET PAID.

Beware of a' feral' black cat operating in Back Street, Gislingham, it has been seen killing rabbits and birds. If you own a small pet, be mindful if its unattended in your garden, and if you own this black cat be aware that some residents may have large dogs etc.

I have been made aware of a series of thefts of tools from builder's vans in this are over the past few weeks. Please do not leave your vans unlocked with tools and /or personal effects inside.

***Christopher Tranter***
***Gislingham Parish Council Neighbourhood Watch***

**Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 60.**

*1. Blue Ribbon, 2. Los Angeles Dodgers (Jammie Dodgers), 3. Club, 4. Penguin, 5. Bourbon Whiskey, 6. Garibaldi, 7. Lotus, 8. Finger, 9. Malted Milk, 10. The connection is: they are all types of biscuits.*

# SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE




*https://www.caringbridge.org/lp*

**I'm writing the June newsletter at the beginning of May.**

**Today the sun is shining and offers a hope of a warm summer ahead.**

Over the last month's, in the church, we have had several special days, Palm Sunday, and Easter, then Ascension Day, when we remember Jesus returning to his heavenly home and then Pentecost, the birth of the church when the Holy Spirit came and rested upon the followers of Jesus.

In June the church remembers several of the early followers of Jesus. Barnabus, the encourager, Peter the bold fisherman, who led the early church; and Paul the bold follower who travelled far, sharing the good news wherever he went. For me June is a busy month. Out of a family of 6, 4 of us have birthdays in June, so by the end of June I'm all birthday-ed out. And when the children were small, that was a lot of cakes and a lot of parties to cram in to one month!

As with most months, there are international and national days throughout June. Some are fun days: such as 'Worldwide knit in public day!' 'World Doll Day!' And, if you are up for a challenge 'World juggling day!'

There are also some profound days, that made me pause and pray. Pray for countries I know are struggling with the impact of global warming and conflict. 'Day to combat desertification and drought day', 'World refugee day'.

One day stood out to me, June 7th 'World caring day'. A day to remember to care for one another. It reminded me of the story Jesus told of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells of a man, a Samaritan who finds a beaten, half dead man on the road. This man was not of his culture or religion, and his people didn't get on with one another. Yet this Samaritan showed compassion and cared for the man. Jesus was also once asked, 'which is the greatest commandment?'; and he said, 'the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind and soul; and to love your neighbour as yourself.'

World caring day: When I look at the life of Jesus and the stories he tells, it made me think, if we followed his ways of loving others, every day would be a world caring day. He calls us to care for the people around us, those we love and those we don't love. He calls us to care for the beautiful world that God has given us. He calls us to love and care for ourselves and reminds us to love God first because when we follow him, he will help us to show the love of God to all those around us.

As you turn the calendar or see your diary on your phone say - June 7th- Remember 'World Caring Day' and consider how you can show love by caring for someone that day- and then, every day.

***Rev Debbie***

**From the Parishes:**
**In loving memory of:** Nigel Hammond (Thorndon)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sunday 2nd June**<br>*1st Sunday after Trinity* | Gislingham<br>Thorndon<br>Wetheringsett | 10.30am<br>10.30am<br>10am-12noon | Holy Communion<br>Worship for All<br>CONNECT |
| **Sunday 9th June**<br>*2nd Sunday after Trinity* | Mellis<br>Stoke Ash<br>Thorndon | 10.30am<br>10.30am<br>4.00pm | Holy Communion<br>Worship for All<br>CONNECT |
| **Sunday 16th June**<br>*3rd Sunday after Trinity* | Thornham Parva<br>Gislingham<br>Thorndon | 8.30am<br>10.30am<br>10.30am | Holy Communion BCP<br>Worship for All<br>Holy Communion |
| **Sunday 23rd June**<br>*4th Sunday after Trinity* | Thornham Magna<br>Wetheringsett<br>Yaxley | 10.30am<br>10.30am<br>10.30am | Worship for All<br>Holy Communion<br>Holy Communion |
| **Sunday 30th June**<br>*5th Sunday after Trinity* | Mellis | 10.30am | Benefice Holy Communion |

**Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am**



*Image credit: Le Bon Samaritain by Maximilien Luce*

**Reverend Canon Susan Loxton**
*Rural Dean of the Hartismere & Hoxne Deanery*
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**Reverend Debbie Nicholls**
*Curate*
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**South Hartismere Churches**

# LOCAL INFORMATION

**Gislingham Bus Timetable**

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

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

Leaves Gislingham shop 09:15 / Arrives Stowmarket (Argos) 10:18
Return leaves Stowmarket (Adj Station Road West / Bury St) 12.50 / Arrives Gislingham 13:43

***Route 456 to Diss (Fridays only – Market Day***

Leaves Gislingham shop 10.06 / Thornham Walks & Church 10.09 / Arrives Diss Bus Station 10.35
Return leaves Diss Bus Station 13.15 / Arrives Gislingham shop 13.46

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

Leaves Gislingham 09:46am / Arrives BSE bus station 10.48
Returns from Bury St. Edmunds leaves 13:25 / Arrives Gislingham 14.32

**Mellis Bus Timetable**

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

***110 – Eye to Diss***

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

**Thornham Bus Timetable**

***Fairline Bus 320 (Weds only)***

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




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




**Mobile Library: Gislingham**
The 2024 dates for the Mobile Library are as follows:- 19 June, 17 July, 14 Aug, 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec.
Broadfields Road: 15.10 = 15.45
Mill Street: 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)<br>clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com | 07900 963471 |
| Clerk (Parish) (Christine Moore - Thornham Parva) | 01379 783226 |
| Connecting Communities = Suffolk Passenger Transport | 01449 614271 |
| Crime Stoppers | 0800 555111 |
| District Council - Cllr Rowland Warboys<br>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 - )<br>email gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com<br>(Mellis - Helen Timmons - Mellis)<br>email: bookmellishall@gmail.com<br>(Thornham) email: hallhire@thornhams.org | 01379 783903<br><br><br><br>01379 783449 |
| Mellis Parish Council Chairperson (Lawrie Read)<br>mellisparishcouncil@gmail.com | 01379 788248 |
| Mendlesham Health Centre | 01449 767722 |
| Member of Parliament - Jo Churchill<br>jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk - www.jochurchill.org.uk | 01284 752311<br>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<br>jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk | 01449 711065 |
| Suffolk Police (non urgent) | 101 |

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