The Messenger



Issue 146
March
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: April 2024
Copy deadline: Friday 15th March

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

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

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

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

WELCOME TO THE MESSENGER



EDITOR'S NOTES – March 2024

Welcome to the March issue!

It has been well documented on village social media over the past weeks, details of some disturbing criminal activity that has been taking place in Gislingham. Without wishing to be alarmist, I urge all residents to be extra vigilant by ensuring cars, garden sheds, and house windows and doors are securely locked at all times.

Suffolk Police and Suffolk Trading Standards have both been informed and more details and some advice can be seen on our "Tip Off, Rip Off" article on page 55.

On a more positive note, this issue includes details of a variety of events taking place throughout our villages. There should be something of interest to everyone and, if not, why not support your village by sparing an hour on Sunday 17th March to help the litter-pick activities in both Gislingham and Thornham?

'Down Memory Lane' this month features some old photos of Mellis and The Railway Hotel aka The Railway Tavern. Talking of which, on Page 31, landlord Frank Hill details all his events for March – live music, live sport and food nights! – The Railway Tavern is still very much alive and kicking!

The Covid lock-down may be a distant memory now, but we all need to support our local businesses if we want to keep them! The Gislingham village shop is now selling newspapers again, and we must help support our local assets, if we want to keep them. There are also a whole host of loyal advertisers in this magazine, who support the local community by funding this publication, and some also sponsor local events and donate prizes etc. They all deserve our support.

Do you have a recipe or book you'd like to recommend to our readers? If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please email me and you could be our "Guest Chef" for a month! Charlotte, who writes our Book Reviews, is looking for your recommendations/reviews. Please see page 25 for details.

Finally, our April issue is due out on the last weekend in March which, this year, falls on the Easter weekend. Therefore, due to the Easter holidays, the issue needs to be with our printer a little earlier than usual, hence the earlier deadline date of Friday 15th March. As always, please send your contributions as soon as possible so they can be included.

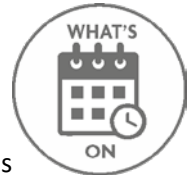
I hope you enjoy reading this issue!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: Thornham Fishing Lake, Thornham Walks

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Friday 1st March: The Village Social Pop-Up Bar (with Hog Roast)
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm – 10.00pm. See page 35 for details

Saturday 2nd March: Book Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon

Tuesday 5th March: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 noon. See page 21 for details

Saturday 9th March: Mellis Tree Planting
- Mellis Garden: from 10.00am – see page 20 for details

Friday 15th March: Thornham Film Night – The Lunchbox
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.30pm. See page 47 for details

Sunday 17th March: Gislingham Litter Pick
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am. See page 27 for details.

Sunday 17th March: Thornham Litter Pick
- Thornham Parish Hall: 10.00am. See page 13 for details

Tuesday 19th March: An Easter Concert of Songs & Readings
- St. Mary's Church, Gislingham: 7.00pm. See page 59 for detail**s.**

Wednesday 20th March:
Gislingham WI – Wendy Smith – Line Judging at Wimbledon
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm

Friday 22nd March: Cinema at Eye: 'A Haunting in Venice'
- Eye Community Centre: 7.30pm. See page 58 for details

Saturday 24th March: Mini Spring Fair
- Thornham Parish Hall: 11.00 am – 3.00pm – See page 18 for details

SAVE THE DATES:
Thursday 6th June: Mellis D-Day 80th Anniversary, beacon and BBQ
Saturday 15th June: Gisfest
Saturday 6th July: Gislingham Summer Fair

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 April 2024. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Friday 15th March

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 Sue: 01379788093 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

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Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the quiz night on Saturday 27th January at Gislingham Village Hall in memory of Jack and to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended, local businesses who generously supported our raffle and Malthouse Security for kindly sponsoring the event.

We raised a fantastic £1,335 which will be used to help and support teenagers in East Anglia. Since we started fundraising for TCT we have raised a total of £23,500 - all given in Jack's memory.

We are so grateful for everyone's generous support.

Kevin & Julie Cook

https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/





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JOYCE MAYES OF THORNHAM MAGNA 23/6/1921-24/12/2023

Relatives and friends of Joyce Mayes met at her funeral in Thornham Magna church on 23rd January 2024 to celebrate the life of this much loved and missed member of the community.



Joyce was born on 23rd June 1921 to Lillian Plowman in Camberwell, where Lillian was in service.

Shortly afterwards they moved to Little Blakenham Rectory in Suffolk where her mum became the housekeeper. Joyce started school at Somersham, which she remembered with fond memories, and then went to Yaxley School and onto Eye County School when it opened in 1935.

On leaving school, Joyce worked in service as a maid, initially in Eye and then in Thornham as a maid for Rev. Victor Henniker at Thornham Magna Rectory. During this time, she met Ernie. They married in January 1942 at Eye Registry Office and she became stepmother to Brian.

They lived at 173 Water Lane where they had a very large garden and Joyce did various jobs on the estate. In 1956 their daughter Wendy was born. Joyce started work at the Red House in 1961 for the Cartwrights and, again many years later, for Lord and Lady Henniker. She also returned to work at The Old Rectory for various families as well as working on the Estate farm.

Joyce and Ernie moved to Honeysuckle Cottage in 1980, but, sadly, four years later Ernie passed away. Joyce took over the garden, growing flowers and vegetables, taking great pride in her garden. She enjoyed coach holidays and was actively involved with the church and village events. She loved the countryside, nature and wildlife. Joyce would take Wendy and the girls back to Little Blakenham in springtime to see the bluebell woods and to listen to the nightingale. Her hobbies included knitting and baking, her family all loved her home cooking and joined her for a roast lunch every Saturday.

Joyce and her granddaughters, Sarah and Hannah, loved spending time with each other. The girls often stayed at weekends and they would play cards and learn how to knit. Joyce often went away with the family to motorcycle events including Wales and Yorkshire which she thoroughly enjoyed. To Wendy she was a wonderful mum, always supporting the family and spending lots of time together. They spent many a weekend going to car boot sales looking for bargains, followed by a drive around her beloved Suffolk countryside stopping for a picnic.

She had a great many friends and family who visited her regularly.

At the grand old age of 99 Joyce sadly had to leave Thornham and move into Cedrus House Care Home in Stowmarket, where she was popular with the staff and residents. Although she grew less mobile, her memory never faltered and she could recall memories from being a young girl. During her time in Cedrus House her two great granddaughters were born; Grace and Poppy who regularly visited their great nan bringing her much joy.

Shortly before she passed away, she was still proudly saying “Well I am 102½ you know!”

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, messages and attendance at the funeral. Joyce died as she lived, peacefully and content.

Stephen Schwarz



G.C.COBBOLD

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GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



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

The first point of contact for any matters relating to the Parish Council, is the Parish Clerk on **clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com** or you can contact the Chair of the Parish Council on **07900 963471**.

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



The Parish Council have been contacted by a few residents advising that Footpaths and land on Charity Meadow are being badly churned up by Horses. The Parish Council have been in contact with the Footpath Warden who has advised that although horses and cycles are not permitted on footpaths, if the landowner gives permission, then they are allowed to use the said footpath.

Charity Meadow Land is owned by Gislingham United Charity. The Parish Council believe permission for Horse riding was granted many years ago by GUC. The Parish Council will contact GUC Trustees to discuss residents' concerns.

For information there are three bridleways in Gislingham:

- ✓ FP14 running from the Mellis Road to the Burgate Road.
- ✓ FP23 running from Redhouse Farm, Morleys Lane, south to the railway line.
- ✓ FP57 running from Back Street past Jenny's Farm. It then goes onto Finningham's Parish.

In May 2022 the Footpath Warden contacted the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Manager to enquiry about converting footpaths to bridleways. He was advised that it is down to the landowner to agree to any changes.



Unfortunately, at this time of the year horses do tend to churn up the surface, which isn't helped by the recent heavy rain.

Julie Bell, Chair, Gislingham Parish Council

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NEWS FROM THORNHAM MAGNA PARISH MEETING



LITTER PICK

Can you spare an hour to keep Thornham Magna tidy?

A litter pick is being planned for Sunday 17 March at 10.00am

Volunteers are asked to meet at Thornham Magna village hall at 10.00am and we will provide you with hi-viz jackets, litter bags, litter pick sticks and guidance!

We suggest you come along with your own gloves and some sturdy footwear.

You can help improve the environment for all, and you might just enjoy it!

THE THORNHAM MAGNA PARISH MEETING NEEDS YOU!

It meets three times a year to listen to the views of residents and support village life. It needs someone to become the Clerk and / or Responsible Finance Officer. Neither role is very demanding and you can make a difference with only a few hours commitment. If you can help, contact Malcolm Goodwin by email at magnaclerk@thornhams.org.

The next Thornham Magna Parish Meeting and AGM is planned for Saturday 8 June at 10.00am

Malcolm Goodwin
Chair / Clerk of Thornham Magna Parish Meeting (magnaclerk@thornhams.org)
Chair of Village Hall (malcolmgoodwin@outlook.com)



THE RAILWAY HOTEL, MELLIS

DOWN Memory LANE



The Railway Hotel was built in 1840, when many hotels or taverns were built alongside the coming of the railways. People travelling long distances in horse-drawn carriages needed accommodation and refreshments.

Shortly before a train arrived, a bell would ring in the hotel bar, alerting would-be passengers of the train's arrival.

Mr. James Manning was the proprietor in 1905. It was somewhere between 1910-1920 that the name changed to The Railway Tavern.



In addition, the cottages in Sunnyside were built to house the rail workers who were constructing the new railway line from London to Norwich along with the station at Mellis. The property on the left of the photograph below was the old Post Office and the postmaster can be seen standing by the gate.



The station and line were completed in 1849 with the branch line to Eye being completed in 1867 making Mellis Station, Mellis Junction. The photograph on the right was used on a postcard of Mellis Station that was issues in 1919.



The White Lion Pub, located opposite the Railway Tavern, opened in 1855 and became The Station hotel in 1896.

Mellis was clearly a thriving village with two hotels, three pubs and a mill. The Railway Tavern was the first, and is now the last, pub in Mellis.

The pub is located in the heart of Mellis Common, the largest unfenced common in England, which was used by Oliver Cromwell to exercise his troops during the English Civil War.

Current Landlord, Frank Hill, purchased the pub in 2011 and in 2017 the pub was given a full refurbishment including a Victorian railway style porch to the side and inside. Mellis residents and customers got involved by donating Railway Memorabilia ranging from old suitcases and hats to beautifully framed pictures of Mellis Junction, including a genuine Mellis railway train ticket.

Source material: *Historic photos courtesy of the 'Gislingham History Hub' fb page, 'Rural East Suffolk In Old Photographs', F.G. Pawsey & Co., Bury St. Edmunds and info by Frank Hill.*

AMANDA'S HALF MARATHON

Amanda will be running the Cambridge Half Marathon for EACH on the 3rd March 2024.



If you would like to sponsor Amanda, her Just Giving page can be found at:

each

East Anglia's Children's Hospices

https//www.justgiving.com/page/amanda-kemp-1699346716083

Amanda Kemp
07985 125140

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

We have noted that there are horses being ridden over the green and car park outside the hall. We would ask those responsible to cease from doing this. The Village Hall and its environs are not public land.

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 1st March: 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 16th March: Quiz Night. THIS EVENT IS NOW SOLD OUT

Saturday 18th May 2024: Quiz Night. Details to follow.

Saturday 15th June 2024: Gisfest. Details to follow.

Notice is hereby given that
GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
has applied in respect of
GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL, GISLINGHAM, EYE, SUFFOLK, IP23 8HP
for a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 to allow for the sale of alcohol on and off the premises on Monday to Sunday between the hours of 8am and midnight.

Representations to this application must be made in writing by 31st March 2024 to the Licensing Team, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX where applications can be inspected during office hours. It is an offence liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5000 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.



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.

Thornham Magna Village Hall

SPRING FAIR

SUNDAY 24 MARCH

11 - 3pm

Complimentary tea & coffee



NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



FUTURE EVENTS:

Friday 15th March: Thornham Film Night – 'Seaside special'
7.30pm: Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Sunday 17th March: Litter Pick
10.00am – 12.00 noon: Pickers and refuse sacks provided.

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

Friday 19th April: Thornham Film Night – details to follow
7.30pm: Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Sunday 28th April: Breakfast Club – speaker Adele Manson – Wolsey and the Tudors
10.00am: Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org £8.00

Friday 17th May: Thornham Film Night – details to follow
7.30pm: Bookings at films@thornhams.org

Sunday 9th June: Breakfast Club – details to follow
10.00am: Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org £8.00

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

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Pilates Classes on Tuesdays 10.00am - Pilates Seated & Standing (no floorwork) and Wednesdays 11.15am Every Body Pilates (general & all levels)

THE THORNHAMS ANNUAL JUMBLE SALE





On Saturday 17th January, we held our Thornhams annual jumble sale. There were some great quality items of clothing, Bric-a-brac, bedding and books for sale. This event takes a lot of effort sorting and organising, but it is one which is always well attended. We are very pleased to announce that we raised £847.75 towards the village hall restoration project. A big thank you to all those who made it happen and to those who came and purchased.

Mellis Community



Tree Planting

Volunteers needed to plant 23 fruit trees at our new Mellis Garden (next to the primary school)

Saturday 9th March 2024 from 10am

Please bring gloves, spades, wellies

Text Cllr Lorraine Farley: 07913 183534

Mellis Parish Council

NEWS FROM MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL



Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Mellis

Memorial Hall IP23 8DW

10am - 12pm

on the following Tuesdays

5th March, 2nd April

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

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www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

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IN THE GARDEN



More rain and high-water levels have been a theme of this winter, causing much flooding on roads. With saturated ground it's likely that many bulbs may not make it, however it will present the opportunity for replanting come autumn, so it's worth noting where and where bulbs are not coming up in the garden in preparation for next year.



With much of the garden mulched to suppress annual and ephemeral weeds in spring, the Walled Garden is getting into shape for the year ahead, our attention is now focused on starting seed sowing in the warmth of the poly tunnel. This year we have invested in heat mats, which will be one way of us mitigating any late frosts of cold periods. It's worth remembering in the coming weeks to keep glasshouses monitored so that seedlings do not perish on cold nights, window sills are of course a safer bet to get seeds germinating earlier, but as ever space is of a premium.

Following our Glasshouse Café being closed over the last couple of months, we are pleased to announce that it is again open to the public (Wednesdays and Thursdays 10.30-2pm), we will be serving hot and cold drinks, home-made cake and savoury treats, all made on site by the people we support within the garden environment. Best of all many of the ingredients will come from the garden as we make our way through the seasons.

Watch out too for our plant sales and pop-up shop which will also be returning soon, a great opportunity to bring a bit of the walled garden to your own garden at a very reasonable price.

Luke gives his account of his recent work in the garden; "I have been doing work around the bonfire area, to get out compost and fill new compost bins. I have also used loppers to prune apple trees and take this to the bonfire area and chop it up into small pieces to be used to give nature a home. I have been planting seeds and moving compost into the beds, I like the process of preparing the soil for planting and mulching to stop the weeds."

Phill Williams, Lead Project Worker (Horticulture)
Beyond The Wall, The Walled Garden, Thornham Walks

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CHARLOTTE'S BOOK BLOG

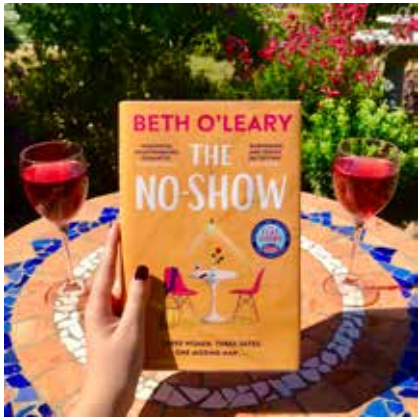


The No-Show by Beth O'Leary

★★★★★ 5/5

Hello bookworms! I hope everyone is getting lots of reading in. This month I have chosen to share my thoughts on 'The No-Show' by Beth O'Leary - one of my favourite authors.

'The No-Show' was my 3rd read of Beth's books out of 4 and her books just always amaze me! This was such an incredible read, and I finished it in just under 3 days which is a record for me with a hardback!



'The No-Show' follows the life of Joseph Carter... but even more so - Miranda, Jane and Siobhan, the three people he stood up on Valentine's Day. When Joseph Carter asks Siobhan for a breakfast date, she jumps at the chance. When on this day he promises to take his girlfriend of 5 months Miranda out for lunch to celebrate her new job, she jumps at the chance. And when Jane doesn't want to be alone at a colleague's wedding dinner and needs a "boyfriend", Joseph jumps at the chance.

The only thing is... he stood each of them up. But it isn't what you think. As each of the women start a mission to determine whether Joseph Carter is cheating on them, we soon learn that things are not what they seem, and the twist that comes along with this was huge and very unexpected.

This book was honestly incredible, and totally took me by surprise! I was definitely not expecting that ending at all, and don't think I'd have ever guessed it! I really recommend this book if you liked any of Beth's other books! She's mostly known for her novel 'The Flatshare', and has since written 4 other books too, all of which are amazing!

Want to chat more about this series with others who have also read it? You can find me on **Instagram @charlottes.bookblog** - where I review and chat about books with the nicest community of people you could ever meet. Can't wait to see you there!

Have you got a book you have enjoyed and want to share with Messenger readers? Let me know what it is and why in 50 words or fewer and I'll feature an assortment of recommendations from readers one month. Or, if you'd like to be a "Guest Reviewer" one month, send me a book review of approx. 350 words and a "Head and shoulders" photo. And the page is yours!

Email me at: charlotte_norman@me.com

Charlotte x

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GISLINGHAM SPRING LITTER PICK SUNDAY 17th MARCH



10am start – for approx 1 hour

Please meet at the village hall

Hi-viz, grabbers and bags provided

Refreshments afterwards supplied

Once again, the Mendlesham Scout Troop will be organising the event this year. They are pleased to volunteer as it will help go towards their badges.

We are asking for your continued support on the day, as the Scouts will not be able to cover all the areas of the village to pick up the litter.

If you do require further information, please contact Martyn Bryant on 01379 788998/07900 147912.

A TO Z OF GISLINGHAM BY MARTYN BRYANT & JEFF NORMAN



A **Annual** Village Meeting. This is held every May in the village hall so that reports can be read out of what happened throughout the year.

B '**Book** Sale' on behalf of the Friends of St Mary's. This is always the first Saturday of the month at the Village Hall. There are thousands of books available at 50p each and the chance to catch up with friends and others with coffee and cake. **Bell** Ringers or do you say 'Campanologists'? Every Wednesday evening, you can hear the team practising. In 1822 a bell-ringing record was set here which stood for over 150 years.

C Our **church** – St Mary the Virgin is steeped in history. It is over 900 years old and a grade 1 listed building. Particular interest is the red brick tower, the double hammer beam roof and the Georgian box pews. There are fragments of the rare 15c painted glass in the North window. **Charity** Meadow – This fine area is open to everyone, with a recently refurbished play area.

D What a **Drama**. If you have inspirations to star in the West End, join Gislingham Variety Club (GVC). They put on some terrific shows. Why not join in the fun, either on stage, back stage or front of house.

E **Easy** on the gas. Remember the speed limit is 30 mph in the village! Well done to our Speed Watch team, who set up along Mill Street and Thornham Road.

F Gislingham has some 80 miles of **footpaths** in our parish. They stretch all over our village. We have a Footpath Warden who regularly inspects the footpaths and reports any remedial work required by SCC. There is a special brochure 'Circular Walks in Gislingham' with copies available from St Mary's church. The **Flower Festival** is held annually on the August Bank Holiday weekend. There are always beautiful arrangements in the church along with some games, a raffle and refreshments.

G **GAGA** – Gislingham Allotment and Garden Association. The group has been going for many years and there are 16 allotments at the rear of the overspill car park at Thornham Walks.

H The **history** of Gislingham dates back to 910 AD. A Norseman called Gisling started a settlement, probably on a settlement of an existing Saxon village. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a prosperous village with three manors and ten estates. The place names of Rush Green and Jenny's Farm go back over 1000 years. There were brick works near the railway line and a mill which was built in 1821 in Mill Street.

I **Interested** in joining a club in the village. We have Carpet Bowls, Yoga, Pilates, Gentle Fitness, plus more. You will find information of these each month in this magazine.

J Why not **join** in the Bi-Annual Litter Pick. It is amazing what is dumped along our roads and footpaths. Normally in April and October. Look out for details. Help to 'Keep our Village clean'.

K Are you a **keen** reader? The Mobile Library visits the village every four weeks. Again, details can be found in this magazine each month.

L Shop **LOCAL** and support local businesses. There are dozens of small independent businesses who support the community by advertising with us. Please support them!

M Our award-winning Community Magazine, The **Messenger**. Published every month, it is full

of interesting articles and events. A must read as it falls through your letterbox. Articles and information can also be found on the website and Facebook page.

N Are you **New** to Gislingham? Why not get along to the next Parish Council Meeting, join in some classes in the Village Hall, become a member of the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council, or Friends of St Mary's Church. All these organisations welcome new volunteers.

O Do you know we have several National **Open** Gardens every year. One repeat entry is by Ross Lee has his garden in Chapel Farm Close, Ross has been so successful, he has been featured in BBC Gardeners World and also in their magazine. The other Garden is Ivy Chimneys, Mill St, with Iris and Alan Stanley.

P **Parish** Council. The meetings are held every month and every resident has an opportunity to ask a question at the open section of the meeting. Do you have a young one? Gislingham has a **Playgroup** for pre-schoolers, aged 2-5; on the same site as the Primary School.

Q Beat the **queues** in the bigger Post Offices and utilise the mobile Post Office van which is parked on the Village Hall car park, every Friday 12.15 to 2.15.

R The brick-built **Railway** Bridge: Landmark entrance to the village from the A140. The Ipswich to Norwich line opened in 1849.

S Our 'outstanding' Primary **School** is part of the heart of our village. It was rated outstanding at its last Ofsted inspection – "There is a high quality of education, incredible results in England and Maths, strong support and care for the children and the behaviour of the pupils is exemplary." We also have a **Silver** Band. Their HQ / Band Hut is in Mill Street. New members welcomed. The **Summer** Fair will be back this year, after a 4-year absence! A great community event for all **the family that epitomises village life! Scout** Group - Although we do not have our own village Scout Group, several of our youngsters belong to Mendlesham or Eye Scout Groups as both are within their own catchment areas.

T **The** Village Social. The pop-up bar is usually held the first Friday of every month in the Village Hall. These events now include live music and outside caterers, on occasions.

U If you require support for applications for residents of Gislingham who find themselves in hardship and need. Contact Gislingham **United** Charity. This is also extended for educational purposes, whether at school, college and University.

V Our **Village** Hall. A great community hub! It is available for private bookings, but hosts on a regular basis Quiz Nights, Book Sales, Jumble Sales, and other activities, namely Pilates, Carpet Bowls, Yoga etc.

W We have our own local **WI** which meets every Wednesdays at the Village Hall. The '**Watson Bowl**' is awarded ever year along with the 'Volunteer of the Year' award at the Annual Village meeting.

X '**X**' marks the spot where Prince William landed his East Anglian Air Ambulance on a field behind West View Gardens in July 2017. Since it turned out to be Prince William's final flight and final day working with the EAAA, the only photo which captured this, taken by resident Colin Davis caused a real social media and paparazzi frenzy!

Y **You** are the heartbeat of our village and your support with all the events, organisations and clubs is vital to keep our Village alive and kick 'in, so please support where and when you can.

Z The **Zillionaires**, our local based band, who are the "headliners" at our annual Gisfest. A great range of music which keep us dancing all night long.

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SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 4.45PM *ENGLAND V IRELAND*

Six Nations Rugby Live on three BIG Screens

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 8.30PM *KARAOKE DISCO NIGHT*

Musical merriment with video disco and karaoke. Hosted by Paul "On the Road Again" Draper

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 8PM *OPEN MIC NIGHT*

Calling all musicians and singers. Come along and have a go on stage. Hosted by Mike & Gemma

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH *SIX NATIONS FINALE*

Wales v Italy 2.25pm, Ireland v Scotland 4.45pm, France v England 8pm.

All games on all three BIG Screens

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 5PM *THE HOT STOVE THREE*

A St Patrick's Day treat with Ceilidh, Celtic folk Trio. The Hot Stove Three

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 7.30PM *QUIZ NIGHT*

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

ALL money goes in to the prize pot. FREE snacks and nibbles during the interval

NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes!

The place to see Eagles in the UK is generally taken to be up in Scotland, however, there have been recent sightings of these enormous birds in Norfolk and Suffolk. In 2021 a White Tailed Eagle, or Sea Eagle as they may be called, was seen at Snettisham and again last October at Holkham in North Norfolk. At the end of January this year a pair of the Eagles were seen at an undisclosed site in West Suffolk and last month there were several sightings just down the road from us near the Pakenham Watermill. White Tailed Eagles were once widespread across the UK but hunted to extinction by the early 1900s. They were reintroduced from Norway to Scotland in the 1970s where they are now well established. The birds have also been reintroduced in Ireland and on the Isle of Wight. Whilst there were plans to reintroduce the birds in Norfolk this has been deferred following concerns expressed by farmers and managers of shooting estates who fear that their stocks would be predated. As with the Red Kite, reintroduction projects can be controversial. Nevertheless, the birds appear to be now naturally expanding their territory into our region. One to keep a watchful eye out for and with its wingspan approaching 2.4m should not be difficult to identify!

This is the time of the year when delicate Snowdrop flowers appear, seemingly in defiance of the miserable weather we may be enduring. Happily for us, these can be seen along many of the verges bordering our local roads, a particular hot-spot being along the Thornham Road, close to Thornham Walks, There is also a good display within



Snowdrops at St Mary's, Gislingham

St Mary's Churchyard in Gislingham. Another common flower that can be seen at this time of year is the yellow Winter Aconite and a large swathe of these colourful flowers can also be seen at St Mary's, sheltered by the perimeter wall by the road. I am pleased to say that a tiny Winter Aconite plant has appeared in my garden, quite unexpectedly - courtesy of a bird I daresay. As I write, Daffodils are also starting to appear, indicating that Spring is well on its way! Hopefully, this will also signal an end to the heavy rain that we've had.

One creature that I'm hoping see now is the Brown Hare. It's fair to say that these animals have given me the run-around these past few years but, who knows, this could be *the* year I manage to get up close and personal!



Winter Aconite at St Mary's, Gislingham



Snowdrops Alongside Thornham Road



Brown Hare



Early Daffodils

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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TRIED & TESTED RECIPES by Debbie





DELICIOUS BANANA MUFFINS

Banana muffins make a great snack for children after school. They are quick and easy to make and freeze well too.

So, make these instead of throwing away those brown bananas. I find these are better the day after they are made, when kept in a tin.

Ingredients: Serves 12

- 200g (7 oz) plain flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 large bananas, mashed
- 150g (5 oz) caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 75g (2 ½ oz) butter, melted.
- Dark chocolate chips

Preparation:

Prep: 10 minutes. Cook: 25minutes.

1. Preheat the oven to 180c / Gas 4. Place 12 paper baking cases in a muffin tin.
2. Sift together the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt; set aside.
3. Combine mashed bananas, sugar, egg and melted butter in a large bowl. Fold in flour mixture, and mix until smooth.
4. Before spooning the mixture into the muffin cases, I added some dark chocolate chips and mix in well.
5. Spoon evenly into the baking cases in muffin tin.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 25 to 35 minutes or until muffins spring back when lightly tapped.

CIRCULAR WALK AROUND RICKINGHALL AND SEE WHERE BASIL BROWN LIVED

OS Map – 230 Distance: 8 kms / 5 miles

The first part of this walk is on roads, however, on the return it is on footpaths until you reach Botesdale.

Rickinghall was the birthplace of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Prime Minister of Canada from 1894 to 1896, as well as the life-long home of Basil Brown the amateur archaeologist who was instrumental in discovering and excavating the Sutton Hoo Anglo Saxon Ship Burial and associated treasure in 1939. (Look out for the house plaque a bit later).

We parked on the main road opposite the Bell Inn where there were plenty of spaces.

Start your walk at the Bell Inn and head westward. You will pass some very old and interesting buildings, one being on the opposite side of the road, Pavilion House. This was previously a fabric shop, but now a family home. Continue along the road and you will see the blue plaque on the house where Basil Brown lived. You will also see the White Horse on the opposite side of the road. It was converted to a house in 2016 but was previously owned as a pub by a Gislingham resident. When you get to the junction and the sign post for the Village Hall, turn right.









Here, you can enter the churchyard of St Mary's Inferior, with the church only open Saturdays 9.30 – 2pm, so we were unable to view inside the church. The church sits in 24 acres and is mentioned in the Doomsday Book 1086. Additions have been made to the church during the following centuries. As you look around the churchyard, it is very disappointing to see so much long grass and brambles which are taking over the graves and paths. Leave the churchyard by the top right-hand corner and turn left. As you walk up the road, the old Primary School which was built between 1930 -1949, is on the left. Continue pass the Village Hall and as you get to the last house, you will need to leave the pavement and cross over the road.

As you reach the entrance to the Hinderclay fishing lakes, on the left is a small light aircraft club with a grass runway.





The road bears left and then to the right which continues up past Hinderclay Hall and barns. Continue along the road and take the short path on the right towards St Mary's church. Once through the metal gates, the pathway divides a short avenue of oak trees, one of which must be many hundred years old. Inside the church, it looks very uniform with all the kneeling cushions all sitting at the top of the pews. They have birds, animals and other designs. There are some beautiful stained-glass windows. This church yard is tidy and well kept.



It is believed the current church dates from 1257, but it is thought a wooden Anglo-Saxon church was on this site and mentioned in the Doomsday Book.

Leave the church and turn left. Take the footpath on the left going through a farm yard. At the end of the building on the right, bear right and then left and ahead you will see a large green water container and the footpath, more of a track just past it, so continue along this track.



The track drops down into the valley and crossing a couple of footpaths and over a large concrete bridge and continuing up the slope to the top of the path. Go through a gap in the hedge with the footpath opening up onto a gravel driveway. Walk past several houses until you get to a T-junction on the track. Turn right and when you get to Drum cottages, follow the footpath on the right of the flint wall.

Continue on this path and check out the tree trunk with the 'mystery' stones on top.

Follow the path down across some marshland and over a wooden bridge. When you reach the road turn right. Check out the engravings on the wall of Cherry Tree House. Continue along the road and it will bring to the point where Botesdale and Rickinghall meet. Continue along the road to the Bell Inn.

We had a lovely pint in the Bell and has a very good menu. The Sunday lunches looked really good. There is also the Greyhound for an alternative.

Emma & Martyn Bryant

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£5 per ticket **Max. 8 per team**

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Scouts

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1st Eye Scout Group
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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 Trustees will consider all applications received up to 48 hours before each meeting.

The remaining meeting dates for 2024 are 15th March, 17th May, 19th July, 20th September, and 15th November.

All applications should be made to:
The Acting Clerk at 'Woodberry', High Street, Gislingham, IP23 8JD.
Telephone: 01379 783541. Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com

Gislingham United Charity is a registered charity, No. 208340. The Trustees are volunteers.

The Trustees are seeking to appoint a new permanent clerk. Anyone interested in this part-time paid position should contact the Chair on chairguc@gmail.com

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5th April - £79pp

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5th April or 31st July - £65pp

London Eye, Cruise & Guided Tour
8th April or 19th August - £82pp

Brighton
9th Apr, 16th Aug or 16th Oct - £41pp

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THE SIX BELLS COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE

We thought Gislingham residents might appreciate an update on the situation of the Six Bells public house and the continuing efforts of the SBCG to bring about its return to its proper function as a community asset.





As many will know, the owners appealed against the decision of the Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) to reject their Change of Use (COU) application. The appeal was considered by the Planning Inspectorate (PI) who comprehensively dismissed the appeal in May last year, noting that the proposal contravened the National Planning Policy Framework which stated that planning decisions should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued community facilities, of which a public house is one. He noted the pub was now designated an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and that that value was reflected in the high number of third-party objections to the COU. He also noted, perceptively, that of the few that supported the COU, many did not appear to live in the village. The full judgement of the PI is available on the MSDC website.

The success of the "pop up" pub evenings held it the village hall, while no substitute, demonstrates the appetite for reinstatement of the Six Bells as a pub.

We would like to reassure residents that we are in ongoing contact with the MSDC planning team who are fully aware of the situation and are concerned about the future of the Six Bells. We will update residents when further developments become apparent.

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.

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TERRAPIN NEWS



At the Full Council Meeting 25th January, the council agreed to proceed with the full delivery of a Skills and Innovation Centre at the Gateway 14 employment site in Stowmarket.

This is a unique development that will provide bespoke services to address gaps in the provision for training in digital skills and environmental innovation, skills relevant to a sustainable energy efficient economy, an 'innovation' hub and open workspace options for new tech enterprises and a centre to support local businesses.

This will be a substantial facility, 35,690 sq. ft, designed to be as sustainable as possible. Gateway 14 has a clear business goal, to maximise sustainable construction and to explore low carbon heat and energy and utilise water resources across the entire site and this centre will be an exemplar building.

The Centre will be in many ways a "Green" Skills and Innovation Centre, the initial design proposes roof mounted solar PV, possibly a combined green/PV roof, air source heat pumps, battery storage etc. to provide self-consumption energy opportunities and cost savings for occupiers. Electric vehicle and bicycle charging points and biodiversity planting to further embed green infrastructure and mitigate carbon impact.

Local employers often face challenges recruiting the staff with the skills they need, especially in the green economy, in core areas such as building services (practical skills around solar panel installation, insulating buildings, heat pumps etc.) and land management, carbon management, conservation and flood management.

The Green Skills and Innovation Centre will not be operating in isolation, it will involve working with key partners such as the University of Suffolk, University of Essex, West Suffolk College, Freeport East Board, SCC Skills Team and Innovation Board.

This is a major investment by the council in the future of its residents, it is to be funded by a £6 million Freeport Grant from Central Government and the balance from Business Rates generated by the continued development of Gateway 14 and Freeport East. In the short term the Council will invest from its reserves to complete the building work. There will be no need to take on additional government loans.

The business case has been drafted in line with HM Treasury Green Book Requirements, The Green Book is guidance issued by HM Treasury on how to appraise policies, programmes, and projects. It also provides guidance on the design and use of monitoring and evaluation before, during and after implementation. The MSDC business plan, that includes future operating costs, has been meticulously worked out to show how the project delivers, in addition to economic benefits, the best public value for society, specifically social, welfare and environmental benefits.

The Joint Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Corporate Plan (2019-27) sets out the organisational vision of 'great communities with bright & healthy futures that everyone is proud to call home' supported by the Council's mission to 'provide strong, proud, and inspirational leadership; striving for excellence, and together building great communities for everyone to live, work, visit and invest in'. The Skills and Innovation Centre concept accords with the organisational vision and mission.

Cllr. Rowland Warboys

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GISLINGHAM PLAYGROUP

This half term we have had a winter theme looking at arctic animals and snow, as well as celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentines Day.

We also set up a bird watching station and the children used binoculars to see the different birds that visit our garden.

Next half term we will be making Mothers' Day gifts and looking forward to Easter.





FUNDRAISING

We would like to thank the village shop for supporting us by selling our Christmas hamper squares.

The money raised will buy new resources for the children.

Congratulations to our Hamper winners Lucy Seymour & Vanessa Knights.



GISLINGHAM PLAYGROUP



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

Breakfast Club 8.00am - 8.45am

Morning 8.45am to 11.45am

Lunch Club 11.45am to 12.45pm

Afternoon 12.45pm to 3.45pm

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ROGUE TRADERS: Gislingham and Finningham updates!

On Tuesday 6th February a Finningham resident was approached at the door by an individual claiming to be from Suffolk Highways. The caller offered to pea shingle the resident's driveway with leftover materials from works on the A140 and said they would provide bank details so that the resident could make payment for this online.

Were you approached? Did you see any vehicle they were travelling in? If you have any information, please contact us via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Suffolk Highways will never call at your property to offer leftover materials.

On Wednesday 7th February, three young males were in Gislingham collecting money for 'Great Ormond Street Hospital'. Whilst there is nothing wrong with that, they were in the village calling on houses from lunchtime up until 8.45pm. As has been well documented on social media, at 7.45pm, someone tried to gain access to a property in the High Street. The resident called 999, and a Police Patrol call from Stowmarket Police Station was in the village in 25 minutes. They questioned the three "Charity Collectors" outside the village shop and they appeared to have genuine documentation. The Police did patrol the village for 30 minutes but did not see anyone one else acting suspiciously. They will now patrol the village periodically in the evenings, since there had also been a car theft from Poppy Way, back in January; and several residents have noticed on their door cams, that someone had entered their drive and tried to open a car door. But then left.

Suffolk Trading Standards were notified of the Traders and this is their response:

"We are really sorry to hear of the unsettling things going on in and around Gislingham. Please do make sure you continue to report any individuals trying to gain entry to properties, to the Police.

With regards to the charity collectors, unfortunately they are legally allowed to knock until 9.00pm but cannot do so in groups of more than 2. ***If they fail to comply with this you can make a formal complaint to the Fundraising Regulator: https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/.../make-complaint***

To help stop them coming to your door, and especially to those who may be vulnerable, we would encourage you to have a 'No Cold Calling' sticker on your door. This then makes it a criminal offence if they call at your property. There are two possible routes that you can look at to help protect you and your neighbours. Either you can have an individual FREE sticker from us to display on your door, or you could look to nominate your road as a No Cold Calling Zone (it will need to meet certain criteria). ***Please read more here, and apply if you feel the road meets the criteria: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/fair-trading/no-cold-calling-zones***

Alternatively, email us on tradingstandards@suffolk.gov.uk with you name and address and we'll send a sticker out to you in the post."

THE MESSENGER CONNECTION QUIZ

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

1. American Actor who starred alongside Julie Roberts in the 1990 film, Pretty Woman
2. Who was the Mermaid Princess in Walt Disney Pictures' animated film The Little Mermaid?
3. Scottish folk rock band formed in 1972 in Paisley, Scotland, by former school friends Joe Egan and Gerry Rafferty. Their best-known hit is "Stuck in the Middle with You".
4. What is the name for a lady's bag, most commonly used during the evening, which has no handles and is rectangular in shape?
5. Headwear most commonly worn by women and girls during Easter?
6. Beginning with 'D', what is the name of the punctuation mark that is similar to a hyphen but differing primarily in length, and serving different functions?
7. A type of footwear that mainly covers the foot and the ankle, while some also cover some part of the lower calf.
8. The Pearl Bridge in Japan, The Humber Bridge in the UK, and the Golden Gate Bridge in the US are all examples of WHAT type of bridge?
9. What term is given to a summary of any piece of fiction that reveals plot elements which will give away the outcome of a dramatic episode?
10. What's the connection?

Answers appear on page 59.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

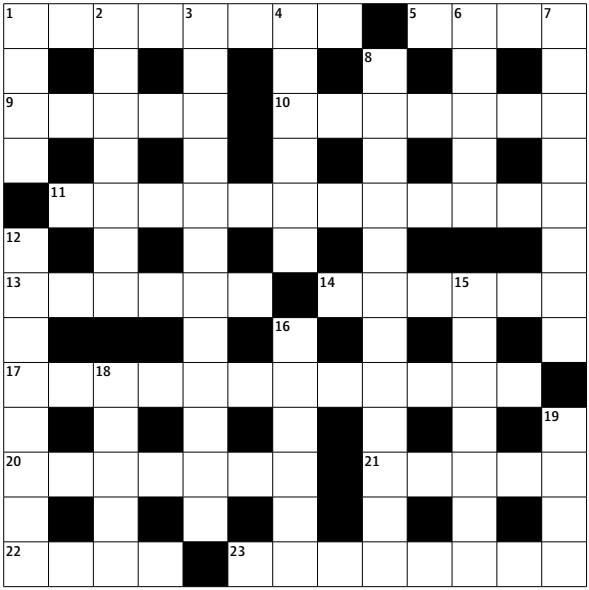
1			6				9	
	2	6		9			7	
				5		2		
2			9					4
	8			4			3	
5					6			8
		8		6				
	1			7		3	6	
	7				2			1

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Finish (8)
5 Conventional religious painting in oil on a small wooden panel (4)
9 City of South Holland, famous for its blue pottery (5)
10 Hot & dusty southerly Mediterranean wind (7)
11 Carrie Fisher's role in Star Wars (8,4)
13 Undertaker's vehicle (6)
14 Long period with very low temperatures (3,3)
17 Demagogue (6-6)
20 Blend (7)
21 Pirouette (5)
22 Small whirlpool (4)
23 Something that's not clear, one way or the other (4,4)

Down

1 System for sending secret messages (4)
2 Infectious disease marked by paroxysms of chills and fever (7)
3 Act without inhibitions (3,7,2)
4 Decoration of threads or pieces of fabric tied together (6)
6 Hidden hoard (5)
7 Babies less than five weeks old — Ena's note (anag) (8)
8 Kind of distance running (5-7)
12 Deficit (8)
15 Studio for both French and British artists! (7)
16 Introductory textbook (6)
18 Supervisory committee (5)
19 Supplication (4)

Last issue solution

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

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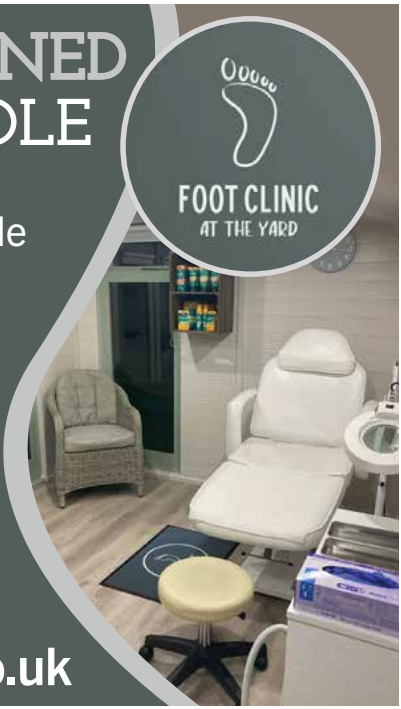
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19th March 7.00pm

Our choir will sing songs by Graham Kendrick as we tell the Easter story.

Join us afterwards for refreshments. Entry to the Church free - there will be a retiring collection.

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On **Sunday 24th March** we are inviting you to an informal afternoon of our entertainment in Walsham Le Willows Memorial Hall. Doors open at 1.30. We bring the afternoon to a close at 4 pm.

Entry is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted. There will be a raffle and there is a small charge teas and cakes. We hope you will be able to join us.



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Gents white V-neck sweater. Size 44" chest, as worn at Thornham Bowls club. New. Free to a good home! Joan Calkin, IP23 8HF. email: joancalkin31@gmail.com

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 56.

1. Richard Gere (GEAR) 2. Ariel (AERIEL) 3. Stealers WHEEL 4. CLUTCH Bag 5. BONNET 6. DASH 7. BOOT 8. SUSPENSION 9. SPOILER 10. They are all parts of a car.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



I don't know about you, but for me March is one of my favourite months of the year. January seems to last forever and February flies past. When we get to March we are in the first month of Spring after a long, wet and windy winter.

The saying "In like a lion, out like a lamb" will hopefully be true for us this year, as we long for calmer weather.

March represents a time of transition, growth, lighter days, the shoots of new life in the garden, along with celebrations, reflection and hope.

As we start March we are already in Lent, a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection at Easter. Lasting for forty days – from Ash Wednesday, on the 14th of February this year, to the evening of Holy Thursday. Have you given something up for Lent this year? Something that you normally enjoy eating? Or have you instead given up your time (one of the most precious things we have) to help other people or volunteer? Or 40 kind gestures, one for each day of Lent, or a bible reading or quiet reflection each day?

On the 10th of March, Mothering Sunday, we celebrate and give thanks to mothers, grandmothers, aunts, carers or guardians who do so much for us. They look after, nurse us, listen to us, care for us, love us and forgive us. They never ask for, or expect thanks, so this is a day we can show them how much we love and appreciate them. Originally Mothering Sunday began with a religious purpose. Held on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday, it was a day to honour and give thanks to the Virgin Mary. This was when people visited their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral in a family's area. The spread of Christianity throughout Europe in the 16th century increased the celebrations. The gatherings at the 'mother' church, reunited families and gave children, many of who worked as domestic servants, or as apprentices away from home (from as early as ten years old), a day off to join their family and see their mother.

As the month draws to a close, we celebrate Easter. For some it is a time filled with children excitedly taking part in Easter egg hunts, chicks and lambs being born, spring bulbs filling the garden with flowers and seeing gnarled dead looking trees bursting into life filled with blossom and young leaves. This renewal of life in nature can echo Christ's resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday.

As Christ said:

"I am the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.
Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die".

John 11:25-26.

Emma Morris - Lightwave Schools and Families' Minister

From the Parishes:
In loving memory of: Joyce Mayes (Thornham Magna)

MARCH 2024



Friday 1 March	Mellis	10.30am	World Day of Prayer
Saturday 2 March	Wetheringsett	10.30am – 12noon	CONNECT *(Mothering Sunday crafts)*
Sunday 3 March *3rd Sunday of Lent*	Gislingham Thorndon	10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Holy Communion
Sunday 10 March *4th Sunday of Lent*	Thorndon	10.00am *(Refreshments & make a Posy to take away only)*	Together at 10
Mothering Sunday	Mellis Stoke Ash	10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Holy Communion
Sunday 17 March *5th Sunday of Lent*	Thornham Parva Gislingham Thorndon	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Holy Communion Worship for All
Sunday 24 March ***Palm Sunday***	Thornham Magna Wetheringsett Yaxley	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Worship for All Worship for All
Monday 25 March	Thornham Parva	7.00pm	Sung Compline
Tuesday 26 March	Thornham Parva	7.00pm	Sung Compline
Weds. 27 March	Thornham Parva	7.00pm	Sung Compline
Thursday 28 March ***Maundy Thursday***	Gislingham ***Deanery Service***	7.00pm	Holy Communion
Friday 29 March ***Good Friday***	Stoke Ash Stoke Ash	2.00pm 3.00pm	Stations of the Cross Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 30 March ***Easter Eve***	Thorndon Thornham Magna ***Deanery Service***	10.30am – 12noon 7.00pm	CONNECT (Easter Hunt) Easter Eve Holy Communion
Sunday 31 March ***Easter Day***	Thorndon	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am (NB: Not 28th)

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Reverend Debbie Nicholls
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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:- 27 March, 24 April, 22 May, 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) clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com	07900 963471
Clerk (Village) (Tina Schwarz - Thornham Magna)	01379 788207
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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