The Messenger



Issue 154
November
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: December 2024
Copy deadline: Monday 18th November

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



Welcome to the November issue!

November is the traditional time of the year when we remember those who gave their lives for our Country in the two world wars. This year in our Remembrance article on pages 8 & 9 we focus on the Thornhams War Memorial remembering the 13 villagers who lost their lives in the two wars.

Carrying on with the remembrance theme, we also feature an article (on pages 16 & 17) about 'The Battle of Overloon' and a link to Thornham Parva - Lance Sergeant Thomas Esmond Alexander Briggs of the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment who was killed in action on 12th October, 1944. Maybe you are a descendant and can help with the request.

In our 'Down Memory Lane' article on pages 24 & 25, we feature look back to November 10th 1943 and the plane crash at nearby Brome.

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. At St. Mary's Church in Gislingham there will be a Remembrance Book to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War and residents are invited to record their family members' details in it. This book will be in the church for the whole of 2025 for residents to record details of their relatives who were involved in either conflict, whether civilian or military. It will then be deposited in the Suffolk Record Office as a perpetual memory to those who gave so much for our freedom.

Elsewhere in this issue… Congratulations go to the team at the Four Horseshoes for winning yet another accolade (see Page 7).

With the festive season looming, you will find entry details (Page 11) of the annual Children's Christmas Artwork competition which we run to find a Christmas themed artwork to appear on the cover of our December issue.

The magazine may look crammed with event posters this month, and that's because, as you will see in our 'Diary' on page 2, there are a large number of events being organised locally in November.

Finally, the deadline date for our December issue is Monday 18th November. If you have an event in December or January to promote, or an article to submit, please send your information as soon as possible. (Please note, we do not publish a January issue so, if there are any events planned for January they need to be detailed in the December issue).

Thank you. Until next month,



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: The Thornhams War Memorial, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Thornham Magna

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Friday 1st November: Pub Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: 5.00pm – 9.45pm

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

Sunday 3rd November: Breakfast Club
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 10.00am. See page 14 for details.

Tuesday 5th November: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 12.00 mid-day.

Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th November: GVC presents 'Hillbilly Hoedown'
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.00pm. Tickets on sale now! See page 12 for details.

Friday 15th November: Film Night – 'One Life'
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.30pm. See page 29 for details

Wednesday 20th November: Gislingham WI - AGM
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm

Friday 22nd November: Wine Tasting
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.00pm. – See page 29 for details.

Saturday 23rd November: Gislingham Christmas Fayre
- Gislingham Village Hall: 11.00am – 3.00pm. See page 19 for details.

Saturday 23rd November – Christmas Fair in aid of FOGS
- Gislingham Primary School: 12.30pm – 4.00pm. See page 37 for details.

Sunday 24th November: Gislingham Litter Pick
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 11.00am. See page 13 for details.

Friday 29th November: Street Forge Open Day
- Street Forge Workshops. 10.00am – 2.00pm. See page 36 for details.

Saturday 30th November: Christmas Craft Fair
- Mellis Village Hall: 10.00am – 2.00pm. See page 23 for details.

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 December 2024. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Monday 18th Nov.

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

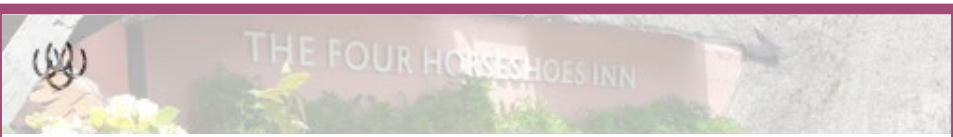
Thornham Bowls Club: Thornham Road, Thornham
New Members welcome. For more details contact Keith: 01379 871881

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



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THE FOUR HORSESHOES – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE

The Four Horseshoes Inn won a 'Visit England' award last month and was one of only three holiday spots in Suffolk to be recognised.

The ROSE Award is the Recognition of Service Excellence, awarded to a select few accommodation providers across the whole of country, by Visit England.

Tom Parkhurst, who took over the 12th century pub in 2008 said he was "pleasantly surprised" at winning an esteemed ROSE award.

He told me: "This award is recognition of all of the hard work, care and dedication that our amazing team at The Four Horseshoes bring every single day."

"The timing of this award was perfect! The summer months have been a cracking time for us, and the award was the icing on the cake on what has been a very busy summer. We definitely have that community feel. You dedicate blood, sweat and tears to the business, so it's good to know you're bringing comfort to people. We have people who work away from home and stay with us in the week, I hope we contribute to them doing a good job in their day jobs because they come back to comfortable and clean setting."





Tom waxed lyrical about his team at the Horseshoes: "I am immensely proud that the team here genuinely care about our guests. We have a team of 40 who work at the pub, and their shifts can vary between staff who work 60-hour weeks to youngsters doing one shift a week."

Tom continued: "We never rest on our laurels. It's hard to predict what's coming next for the hospitality trade. Lockdown was a very difficult period for us and the whole trade. I'm just so pleased to be almost back to normal and we can look forward and plan for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and then Easter. There is now a sense of normality again."

Reflecting on how important The Messenger magazine has been in supporting the business over the years, Tom continued: "I would like to say a big thank you to all of The Messenger's readers that support us throughout the year too!"

Jeff Norman

REMEMBRANCE DAY – THE THORNHAMS MEMORIAL

As we approach this year's Remembrance Sunday, the cover photograph of the Thornham Magna war memorial offers a fitting focus for our reflection.

This imposing Celtic Cross, at the entrance to the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene Church, pays permanent tribute to the men of both Thornham villages who made the ultimate sacrifice. At this time of year, when the vibrant autumnal colours start to give way to the onset of winter, the woodland surroundings make a particularly poignant backdrop, accentuating the wreath of bright-red poppies adorning the memorial.

Created from Portland Stone, the memorial lists the names of thirteen men from The Thornhams that gave their lives: eleven in the 1914-18 war, and two during the Second World War. This list, covering both parishes, is repeated on the carved wooden Roll of Honour inside the church at Thornham Parva. Each memorial also features the tribute 'Their name liveth for evermore' – biblical words brought to the country's cenotaphs by Rudyard Kipling, who himself lost his only son in the Battle of Loos in 1915.

Several months earlier, on 8th May 1915, The Thornhams had lost two of its sons on the same day, in the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium. That day saw the Suffolk Regiment face a particularly ferocious onslaught at Frezenberg Ridge; the bodies of Albert Head and



Arthur Markwell were never found, and they are now commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres – along with Walter Hawes, killed on the opening day of the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

Although most of The Thornhams' Great War losses were on the Western Front, one of its sons lies further afield. Claude Hubbard, who was a gamekeeper's assistant back home, is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, having died in May 1916, most likely in operations in Egypt or Palestine.

The villages' sacrifices continued through to the end of the Great War. Victor Wightman, aged 19, son of Robert and Alice Wightman, was killed in the Somme area of France in April 1918 repulsing the Germans' final push for victory. Grieving families were invited to have an epitaph carved on the headstone; Victor's sister, Florence, arranged for his to read in perpetuity: "Passed Beyond the Cannon's Roar but Not Beyond Love".

Tragically, the two villages suffered their final loss of the Great War after the Armistice had been signed. John Mayes - a farm labourer and husband of Eliza Mayes of Water Lane, Thornham Magna - was accidentally killed in Belgium in December 1918 in the aftermath of the fighting, leaving three children, the youngest of which, Reginald Mayes, was born in 1915.



If you look at the base of the war memorial, you will see an additional plaque bearing the names of the two Thornham men killed in the Second World War, Percy Lummis and Reginald Mayes (right). The sad fact that Mayes father-and-son are both listed on the memorial reinforces the impression that war must have had a very long-lasting effect on our local community. Reginald Mayes died in September 1943 on the Burma Railway, two years after his marriage to Annie Talbot. He is buried in Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in modern-day Thailand, where 5,000 other Commonwealth casualties are also buried or commemorated. His headstone bears the simple inscription, "That your sacrifice shall not be in vain. Peace be with you."

The Thornham Magna Celtic Cross war memorial was unveiled and dedicated in August 1921, having been sponsored by Charles Henniker-Major, the sixth Lord Henniker. It was erected by Messrs J Cooley and Son of Diss, at a cost of around £60, which was raised entirely by public donations. Colonel Lord Henniker had himself served in the First World War, as a major and later as lieutenant colonel in the Rifle Brigade. He had taken his battalion to France at the outbreak of war in 1914 and was involved in the great battles of the Somme and Ypres among others. He was of course deeply affected the war and his sponsorship and attendance at the unveiling ceremony must have been a highly emotional occasion for everyone present, reflecting the collective grief and remembrance of the community for their lost sons.

For our tomorrows, they gave their today.

GC

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Children's Christmas art competition

It's time for the Annual Christmas Artwork Competition for children under the age of 12 living in Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams.

The winning picture will appear on the cover of the December issue and the winners of each age category will be published inside the magazine.



The age categories are:

- **Age 2-4**
- **Age 5-6**
- **Age 7-8**
- **Age 9-11**

The criteria are:

1) Paper used must be no bigger than A4.
2) Actual design must be 20cm high x 17cm wide.
3) Closing date for entries: **8/11/24**
4) Submit entries to: Gislingham School Office, Mellis School Office, Gislingham Playgroup or Strawberry Fields, High Street, Gislingham (next to Gislingham Village store)
5) Name, address and age of child MUST be written on BACK of picture.
6) The Committee of the Messenger magazine will choose the winners.
8) A small prize will be awarded to the winner of each category.
9) The artist's name and age will be credited alongside their picture.

We look forward to seeing your entry!
The Messenger Committee


Gislingham Variety Club Presents
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Thurs 14th - Sat 16th November '24 - 7.30pm
Doors open 7pm
Gislingham Village Hall
Bookings: 01379 788304
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GISLINGHAM SPRING LITTER PICK SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER



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.



Stephen Schwarz was the Thornham correspondent for The Messenger for a number of years and Kate Fogg will give a presentation of highlights from Stephen's fascinating monthly "Notes from Thornham"

Booking at breakfast@thornhams.org

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL











It was great to see so many people come to our Autumn fair on 13th August. We had some great stalls including artisan beers, flowers, knitted items, hand-made aprons, baubles, wreaths, plants, prints, cakes, brocante, raffle, tombola, treasure hunt and guess the weight of the pumpkin. The prizes, and generosity of local businesses in providing these, was amazing. We also provided bacon butties and drinks. It was a very well attended event and we are very pleased to announce that we raised circa £1800 towards our village hall refurbishments. Thanks for attending and supporting us!

NEXT EVENTS:

Sunday 3rd November: Breakfast Club – 'Notes from Thornham' by Stephen Schwarz
10.00am: £10 / Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org

Friday 15th November: Film Night – 'One Life' starring Anthony Hopkins
7.30pm: £5. Booking: films@thornhams.org

Friday 22nd November: Wine tasting – Corney and Barrow
7.00pm: Christmas drinks selection with nibbles. £15. Booking and payment required prior to event. Bookings: amandachurch562@gmail.com

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

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Pilates Classes on Tuesdays 10.00am - Pilates gentle floorwork

and Wednesdays 11.15am - Pilates floor work – all levels

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

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

SEEKING A PHOTO OF THOMAS ESMOND ALEXANDER BRIGGS 1920-1944



On 12th and 13th October, a village in the Netherlands called Overloon held a major commemoration of "The Forgotten Battle" of WW2 – The Battle of Overloon. This followed on from the much more famous Battle of Arnhem, immortalised in the film "A Bridge too Far." However, the people of Overloon do not want the battle, which caused their population to be evacuated and their village destroyed by Allied Artillery, to be forgotten. Despite that devastation and disruption, they were and still are eternally grateful to our British Soldiers for liberating their village.

What has this to do with The Messenger, you may well ask? Many Battalions fought at the Battle of Overloon, but the one which swept right through the village itself was the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. 280 British Soldiers are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery there and most died in this battle – of whom 20 are from the 1st Suffolks.

In 2020 a group of volunteers set up the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation. Their aims are to find photos of as many of the men who are buried there as possible. They display these on their graves at three key times each year – May 4th/5th when the Netherlands commemorates the liberation of the whole country in 1945, around October 14th which is the official date of the liberation of Overloon in 1944 and on Christmas Eve. Their photos and short biographies are posted on their website. Local people adopt the graves and visit to pay their respects.

One of the men buried there whose photo has not yet been found was Lance Sergeant Thomas Esmond Alexander Briggs of the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment (Service No. 5832288). He was killed in action on 12th October, 1944. He was just 24 years of age. He was born in County Durham





Photos courtesy of: Stichting De Oude Schoenendoos (The Old Shoe Box Foundation) and Overloon War Chronicles Foundation

and was the only child of George Thomas and Eva Briggs who moved to Felixstowe between 1935 and 1939. By September 1939 George and Eva were both working as School Caretakers and were living at The Clock House, Maybush Lane, Felixstowe.

Thomas (who is believed to have referred to himself as Esmond) married Ellen Elizabeth Smith in spring 1939.

Ellen (or Nellie as she may also have been known) was the daughter of Albert Edward and Emma Maria Smith. They had the following children, all born in Eye: Florence Christabel, Esther May, Edith Emily, Charles Albert, Ellen Elizabeth and Edward George A. By June1921, they were living at Mellis Road, Thornham Parva with their three youngest children, including Ellen. Albert was working as a Painter & Paperhanger for Lord Henniker who owned the Thornham Estate. In September 1939, Albert and Emma were living at 219 Carters Farm, Thornham Parva with their son Edward George.

In September 1939, Thomas and Ellen Briggs were living at 30 Mill Lane, Trimley St. Martin near Felixstowe. He was working as a Grocery Van Driver and she was a Grocer's Shop Assistant. They had a daughter, Ann Esme Eva Briggs, in 1942.

After her husband's death, Ellen Briggs may have returned to Thornham Parva for a time. However, she went on to marry Leonard Endean in 1951 who was her cousin on her mother's side (maiden name Knott). They seem to have moved to Fulham in London and had no children. Ellen died in London in 1964 and Leonard in Kent in 1984. Thomas' mother died in 1967 in Felixstowe and his father in 1978 in Ipswich. In later years he was a Nurseryman. Ann Esme Eva Briggs never married and died in 2013 in March Cambridge. Her ashes are thought to have been scattered at Thornham Parva.

Florence Christabel Smith married Robert Hawes; Esther May Smith married Philip Steggalls, Edith Emily Smith sadly died aged only 36 in 1939, Charles Albert Smith married Elsie Watling and Edward George A Smith's marriage is uncertain. Their descendants may still live in the area.

If anyone is in contact with anyone who might have known Ann or Ellen or their relatives or friends who may have a photo of Thomas Esmond Alexander Briggs, can they please get in touch with the Foundation via their contact form: https://www.overloonwarchronicles.nl/en/contact/ or contact: Elaine Gathercole 01653 619276.

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PLANE CRASH AT BROME

On November 10th 1943, a B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bomber had taken off from nearby Thorpe Abbotts Airfield, and was only minutes into what should have been a routine ferry flight to RAF Alconbury, near Huntingdon, crashed in Brome village.

The aircraft experienced an on-board fire moments after take-off, forcing the pilots to attempt an emergency landing at the newly constructed concrete runway at Eye airfield. Before the aircraft reached the runway threshold, it collided with a tall line of ancient trees – close to what is now the Oaksmere Hotel – and plunged to the ground. It is the worst aviation tragedy to have ever unfolded in the mid-Suffolk district.

Civilian eyewitness reports, documented at the time by United States Army Air Force Accident Investigators, stated that the aircraft was observed with an on board fire and flying at very low level, before pulling-up sharply to avoid hitting the tree-lined avenue at the front of The Old Rectory (now the Oaksmere Country Hotel).

The aircraft immediately stalled out, crashing into overhead power lines and a gang of local road workers clearing drainage ditches. Fire quickly engulfed the already burning aircraft as it dragged a horse and tumbril into a nearby field as the road men tried in

Photo: The airmen were all killed in the incident in 1943.



vain to flee the scene. As the heat from the aviation-fuelled fire rapidly intensified, exploding ammunition and phosphorus ordnance prevented bystanders from being able to help any of the young airmen on board the doomed Bomber. When the gravity of the situation was fully realised, 13 American Airmen, 4 British civilians and one horse had all tragically succumbed to the horrific accident.

DOWN Memory LANE

The local roadmen killed in the crash were Walter Clarke, aged 50 and from Stradbroke, William Charles (Charlie) Burridge, aged 54 and of Langton Green in Eye, William Dixon of Finningham and Ernest Barker of Wetheringsett who died of his injuries two days later in Hartismere Hospital, Eye.

Whilst Press censorship, propaganda and the issues of public morale often prevented such stories from being told during times of war, the incident was covered by the Diss Express Newspaper at the time where funeral details of all the civilians killed were posted in the November 19th 1943 edition of the Newspaper. The bodies of the 13 young Servicemen who were aboard the aircraft were also recovered and buried at Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey with full Military honours.

80 years later, in 2023, a memorial was unveiled in the grounds of the Oaksmere Hotel, honouring all those who were lost.

Below: The memorial at the Oaksmere Hotel photos– by Jeff Norman





This story is anticipated to gain greater interest from the public due to the release on Apple TV+ this year of Stephen Spielberg & Tom Hank's final 'tip of the hat' to WWII – 'Masters of the Air'.

Based upon the story of the United States 100th Bomb Group, who were posted to Thorpe Abbotts airfield in Norfolk in 1943, this 9-Part TV Series (sister series to the award winning 2001 Band of Brothers), was entirely filmed in the UK and charts the story of the United States Eighth Air Force daylight bombing campaign, flown from the many wartime airfields of Suffolk & Norfolk. The group became known as "The Bloody Hundredth" due to heavy losses suffered in bombing raids over Europe between 1943 and 1945.

Spotted in Diss at the time, it is believed that Tom Hanks visited the airfield, now a museum, and signed a visitors' book after his animated alter ego 'Woody' on an incognito visit.

Jeff Norman *Source material: EADT, Diss Express & Clive Stevens*


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'TEAM GISLINGHAM JRSOS'

Dear Messenger readers,

Our names are George, Ruby, Alice, Jacob, and our mascot Officer Snuggles and we are "team Gislingham JRSOS!" (Junior Road Safety Officers.) Our aim is to raise awareness about Road safety and make our roads and community a happier, healthier and safer place to be!

We have had a really busy start to the school year:

- In September we have launched our first competition all about autumn safety as the clocks change and the nights draw in. We are giving prizes for the best posters and the ideas will help us to deliver a special road safety school assembly at the end of half term.
- We continue to complete regular traffic observations outside school to remind people about safe and responsible driving and celebrate good road safety.
- We took part in cycle to school week back in September. Rosie from class one got to take Officer Snuggles home for the weekend for showing great cycling and road safety awareness. He spent most of the weekend riding tractors!
- We received Speedwatch training from Steve Critchley and our first Speedwatch is planned on 22nd October with the wonderful Gislingham Speedwatch team.
- We met with Holly from Suffolk Roadsafe to plan our year ahead. Activities include delivering road Safety training across the school, fundraisers, a be bright be seen day, and a road safety comments/suggestion box outside the school gate to help involve all our families and community.

We are proud to say that when we met with Holly, she said we were one of the top schools in the county for JRSO excellence. We are proud to keep on striving in promoting all things road safety! Thank you for all your support

JRSO team Gislingham



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NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone, welcome back to Nature Notes!

And welcome to an astronomy special! Regular readers may recall that over the past few months I've been lamenting the lack of suitable conditions for astrophotography and, in particular, Milky Way photography. Either the sky was only dark enough for a couple of hours each night during the summer months, or the sky was clouded over, or the moon was too bright and so obscuring the fainter objects in the sky. Well, happily the conditions in late September/early October were just right and we had some stunningly brilliant night skies full of stars! Before getting too carried away though, it must be said that the ideal time to photograph the Milky Way has now passed. That is because at this time of year, its core, where many of its interesting features are to be found, now lies below the horizon. Moreover, it now resides in the south-western sky, which means having to wait until the sun has fully set in the west to see it at its best. Anyway, in early October I ventured out with camera and tripod hopeful of getting a good shot. The photo shown here was taken in Gislingham in fields between Mill Street and Back Street and shows me and my accomplice, Christine, looking towards the south-west. When taking a photo such as this there are two conflicting requirements: a long exposure time for the sky and a short exposure for the people. This image is the result of blending together two such photos; one at 30s for the sky and one, with some off-camera side-lighting, at 5s for the people.



View of the Milky Way, looking South-West

As we move towards Christmas, the familiar winter constellations and other objects are beginning to reappear in the night sky. Perhaps the most well known of these is the Orion constellation. According to legend, this depicts Orion the hunter, complete with bow and sword. This is a fantastic object, containing two of the brightest stars in the sky, Rigel and Betelgeuse, as well as a number of nebulae, ie. areas of colourful luminous gas, such as the Great Nebula, the Running Man Nebula and the Horsehead Nebula. Other objects that are presently in the night sky are the Andromeda galaxy, the planet Jupiter and the Pleiades star cluster. I'm looking forward to getting to grips with each of these, and more, over the next few months.

As I write, the past few days have seen a lot of excitement over the appearance of the Northern Lights, or Aurora, in our skies, a phenomenon I wrote about last

June. This year is turning out to be especially notable for the appearance of the Aurora - why might this be happening? Well, the Aurora is due to the interaction between our Earth's magnetic field and charged particles emanating from the Sun. The presence of those charged particles are in turn related to sunspot activity that occurs on an eleven year cycle. The last peak in that cycle was back in 2014 with the next due in 2025, although now the levels are already matching those of 2014.

I haven't had much luck when it comes to photographing the aurora, having slept through its recent appearances! That all changed on the night of 11th October after I received an e-mail from Mike Heath. It contained a photo and just two words: Outside Now! Mike's photo, shown here, was of a view looking north and showing the constellation of The Plough against a background of a beautiful aurora!

Acting on Mike's e-mail I quickly went out into the garden to see the sight - but was disappointed as I could only barely discern the Aurora by eye. However, taking a photo with my phone camera, as Mike had done, revealed the Aurora in all its glory!

Not knowing how long the spectacle of the Aurora would last, I grabbed several shots with my phone before switching to my "proper" camera. By now, it was nearly 1:00 o'clock in the morning, time having whistled by! One of my later shots of the night, shown here, was taken towards the east and shows the planet Jupiter and the open star cluster the Pleiades against the unearthly colour of the sky!

Stop Press: Comet C/2023 A3 may be visible low in the south-west during late-October.



The Aurora, by Mike Heath



The Aurora, looking North



View of the Aurora, looking East

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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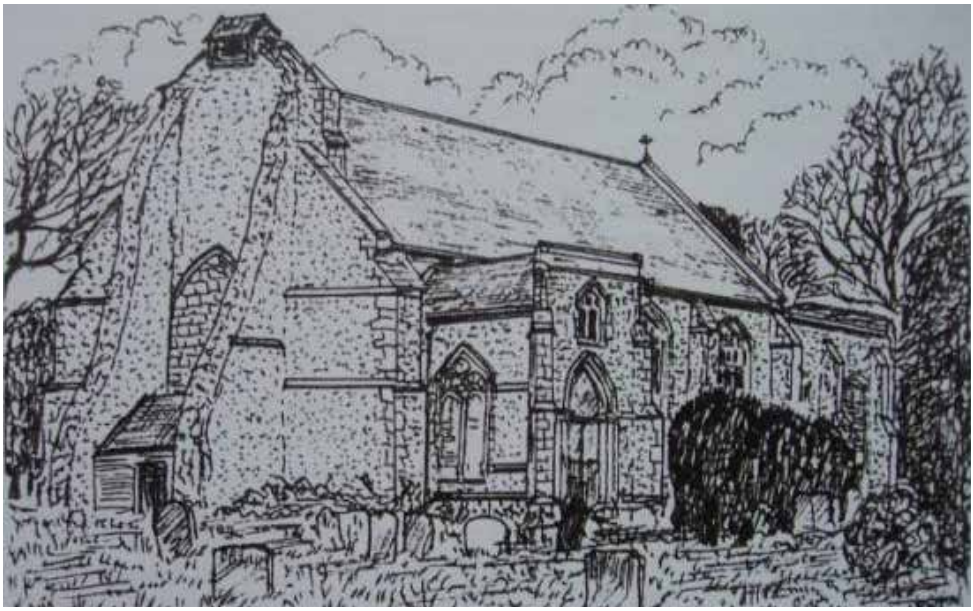


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MELLIS CHURCH NEWS



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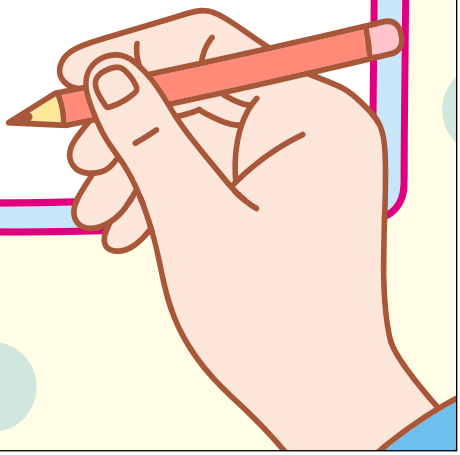
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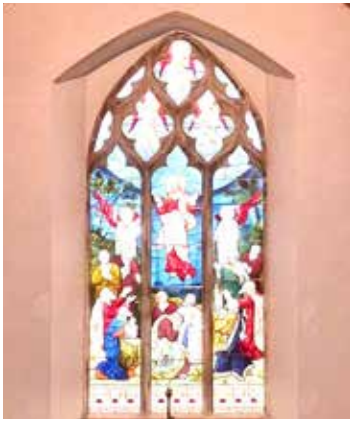


OS Map: 230 Distance: 4 miles/6 kms

Mendham is a small village just south of the A143 near Harleston on the east bank of the River Waveney.

Park in the free car park just past the Sir Albert Munnings pub on the right-hand side.

Turn left from the car park and head towards All Saints church down a short lane. The church is grade 1 listed medieval and restored in the 1860's. Notice the very small door on the cottage on the left. Go through the gate into the church yard and visit the church. You will see the amazing colourful stained-glass window above the alter.



Leave the church and head straight ahead and at the gate look to your right and see the remains of a war time pillar box. Turn left at the gate and continue along a short grass path. At the end turn right onto the footpath. (I will say now that there are very limited FP markers or easily visible, so following the instructions will be of help).

Go through a kissing gate and you are now on Mendham

Marshes, which can be flooded during the winter months. Cross the meadow keeping the telegraph pole to your left and observe a very dilapidated footbridge on your right. Continue over the other wooden bridge through two metal gates at either end of the footbridge.



Continue across the meadow with the trees are your left. Go through a 5-bar wooden gate and head across the meadow to the next wooden gate. At this second gate, you may have to lift the left had side above a pin which is on the post. Turn right and head towards the River Waveney and follow until you reach the corner of the field, turn left and continue until you reach another footbridge with metal gates at each end and cross over.

Walk across the field and over a concrete sleeper bridge and head slightly right towards another gate with a stile to the left. Over the stile has a small wooden bridge attached. On the right you will be able to see the very limited remains of the 12c Cluniac Priory.

Continue along the grass track which bears right and at the end bears left which then goes through metal barriers either side of the track. The track then bears left and continue until you reach another gate and go through a kissing gate and continue to the road (B1113).

Turn left onto the road which enters Withersdale Street, a pretty little hamlet which is part of the parish of Mendham. Please be very careful now, as there is no pavement for a short distance.

When you arrive at the crossroads, turn left at the Old Post Office. You are now entering a 'Quiet Lane'. Check out the Red House on the left. Continue along the lane observing many lovely houses. The road starts to climb and look left to see a lovely view across the marshes, you will be able to see where you walked earlier.

As you reach Mendham, turn left by the award-winning Village sign. It depicts a Gypsy girl Charlotte Gray leading a pony taken from a picture by Sir Albert Munnings. Head back to the car park.



Refreshment time at the pub and we had a warm welcome. There is a snack menu available and we had some tasty sandwiches. The interior has old beams. The restaurant area used to be a shop and Post Office. Emma can remember her Mum telling her that when she was young, she would swing on one of the upright beams in the shop. Her Mum grew up on Kett's Farm, not far away.

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CHARLOTTE'S BOOK BLOG



A Better Me by Gary Barlow ★★★★★ 5/5

Hello everyone, I hope that you're all doing ok. This month I have a book very different to what I would usually be reviewing, it's a celebrity memoir!



Reading celebrity autobiographies is something that I enjoy doing, however I often read them alongside fiction as I struggle to read a whole one all the way through on its own. This one however was written so well that not only did I read it alone, cover-to-cover without also reading fiction alongside, but I also managed to finish it in under a week which for non-fiction is a record for me! The book that had me in such a choke hold, was 'A Better Me' by Gary Barlow.

Love or hate Take That, it doesn't matter - this book is brutally honest and an insight into what it's like being in the limelight. I don't think I've ever read a book that is so open and dives into the thoughts and feelings of someone in various life events as much as this one did. Covering difficult topics from difficult times in Gary's life including bereavement, eating disorders and depression - it provides an insight into the many highs and lows of Gary's life. His solo career, his time in Take That and his life outside of work are so dramatically different from each other and all had such an impact on Gary's mental health. This book paved the way for Gary to pour his heart and soul into the world, and reading about his life experiences and what really went on behind the scenes was unbelievably eye opening. He talks very candidly about his depression, about the great lows after the band and the horrible time when he felt like the nation hated him. He hid himself away for years and wanted to put on weight so that people wouldn't recognise him.

However, not all was doom and gloom, as more and more stories from backstage at the Take That world tours and his life growing up unfold, the most hilarious things happened and had me laughing out loud. The balance between these was perfect which I think was the key to finding this book so gripping and easy to read. It wasn't just a "here's how I grew up, here's how I got famous and here's me now" - it's written almost as if he's talking and telling the story, reminiscing and remembering extra details as the book goes on as well as revisiting on-going jokes.

This book is a story of Gary's survival, picking himself up and moving on. Returning from years of a creative block to finally finding joy and happiness again within music. Re-finding himself and who he is meant to be. I finished this book wanting to give him a hug, but if one thing is for certain, it goes to prove that life is journey, not a destination.

A review for this book will soon be available to view over on my Instagram @ charlottes.bookblog, where I love to discuss people's current reads and their thoughts and opinions of books. I love to see what everyone else is reading too! If you have a book that you'd like to review to feature in The Messenger, get in touch – please get in touch!

Charlotte x

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TERRAPIN NEWS



What is "Gaslighting?" In the film Gaslight describes the actions of a manipulative and dominating husband who secretly turns the gas light up and down whilst insisting his wife is imaging it. It is now used to describe the process of an apparently trustworthy source putting forward a false narrative to achieve control of or the support of the gaslit.

This has been happening locally as the public has been made aware of Mid Suffolk District Council's plans to change the way in which waste is going to be collected from your doorstep.

Some statements I have read or heard: MSDC is going to take your black bins away, MSDC is doing this to save money, MSDC is going to neglect householders who have special needs regarding the collection of rubbish. The answer to all of these is a resounding NO!

The reforms to the way rubbish is being collected come as a consequence of legislation passed by the last government. Past Minister for the Environment Theresa Coffey said: "Simpler recycling will help us all recycle more easily, doing our bit to help save the planet and make the best use of precious resources that we use every day."

Is Mid Suffolk inventing a novel way of approaching this? No, our officers have looked at good practice from across the country, looking at different options and put forward what is considered to be the most efficient way of meeting the logistical challenge of collecting food waste, different recycling streams and general waste in response to the legislation.

Currently Mid Suffolk is languishing in 200th place in the National Recycling League Table and has made no significant changes to the way waste is collected since December 2014 when SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK opened in Great Blakenham.

For the 10th consecutive year, Oxfordshire County Council has been named the top performing county council waste disposal authority. In 2022 - 23, residents recycled, reused, or composted 57.2 per cent of their household waste, according to the latest government figures.

What will happen? From 2026 there will be weekly food waste collections, a small hopper for the kitchen that you can empty into a roadside bin, two recycling bins collected every third week, one for paper and cardboard, a second for glass and cartons, including tetrapod. Finally, the leftover rubbish in your black bin, containing an estimated 58% less due to better recycling, will be collected once every three weeks. And there will be help for families with medical needs, help moving bins or limited space.

To sum up bins will be collected 12 times every 6 weeks compared with once a week now.

The depot will be reconfigured, perhaps even moved to a larger site and MSDC are planning for the new fleet of food waste collecting vehicles to be electric.

From the SUEZ 2023 Annual Report, 253,294 tonnes of waste were collected and incinerated, producing 208,226 megawatt hours of electricity and using 237,596 litres of diesel to support the start up and shut down of the incinerator. SUEZ is incredibly efficient, when I visited it was both impressive and depressing. It is a significant contributor to the local economy, however there is no escaping the fact that SUEZ Suffolk's Great Blakenham waste incinerator is the largest emitter of carbon dioxide in Suffolk. The facility's emissions have steadily increased since 2019, when it produced 322.54 kilotonnes of CO2, or about the annual emissions of 77,000 cars.

Cllr. Rowland Warboys

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Gislingham United Charity

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

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

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

GUC Trustees meeting dates for 2025 are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Registered charity: No. 208340 • Trustees are Volunteers

Lamberts Service Station Ltd

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www.lambertsservicestationltd.com Email : lamberts.1@btconnect.com



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

TOTAL FITNESS (45 mins):

Gislingham Village Hall	Thursdays	6:15 p.m.

GENTLE FITNESS (45 mins)

Westhorpe Village Hall	Fridays	10:00 a.m.

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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!



Have you received a scam message like this? Trading Standards are receiving multiple reports from Suffolk residents after receiving a "parking fine" text message that purports to be from the "local council". THESE ARE SCAM TEXT MESSAGES! DO NOT CLICK THE LINK!

The text message leads to a fake but very convincing copy of the official government website, complete with accurate logos, branding and font. The page asks for personal and payment data, including your name, email, phone number and home address to pay the fine. Report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726 (it's free of charge).

iPhone or iPad: How to forward a text message:
1 - Take a note of the number that sent you the message.
2 - Press and hold on the message bubble.
3 - Tap More.
4 - Select the message or messages you want to forward.
5 - Tap the arrow on the bottom right of your screen.
6 - Input 7726 and send.

Android: How to forward a text message:
1 - Take a note of the number that sent you the message.
2 - Enter the conversation then press and hold on the message bubble.
3 - Tap on the three vertical dots on the top right of your screen.
4 - Tap Forward.
5 - Input 7726 and send

You can also take a screenshot or screen recording of the text message and send it to the National Cyber Security Centre at: report@phishing.gov.uk



Beware of scam social media posts offering tickets to upcoming Ipswich Town Football Club games. Tickets for matches are in high demand, so fraudsters know they can cash in on fans willing to pay much more.

Scammers are creating fake posts on social media or online marketplaces to advertise tickets that don't exist; these posts often include pictures of real tickets to convince the unsuspecting buyer that they are genuine. The victim is then tricked into making a payment by bank transfer which currently provides limited protection if something goes wrong. Once the victim has transferred the money, the scammer will send fake tickets or, more commonly, disappear altogether.

The only way of guaranteeing the ticket is genuine is to buy from ITFC. Ipswich Town Football Club have strict rules on reselling.

THE MESSENGER CONNECTION QUIZ

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

1. This street that stands between Northumberland Avenue and Pall Mall on the Monopoly board.
2. What is the Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire called?
3. What is the name for an empty tomb?
4. Famous poem written by John McCrea.
5. This organisation was formed to represent all members of the Armed Forces to ensure those who served and sacrificed were given the support they needed.
6. Song which originated from a 1740 poem by James Thomson and set to music by Thomas Arne.
7. Designed by Edmund Beckett Denison, this London landmark took 13 years to build and it was completed in 1859.
8. Name given to an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting; a truce.
9. Flower that appears on the cover of this issue

10) What is the connection between the first nine answers?

Answers appear on page 59.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

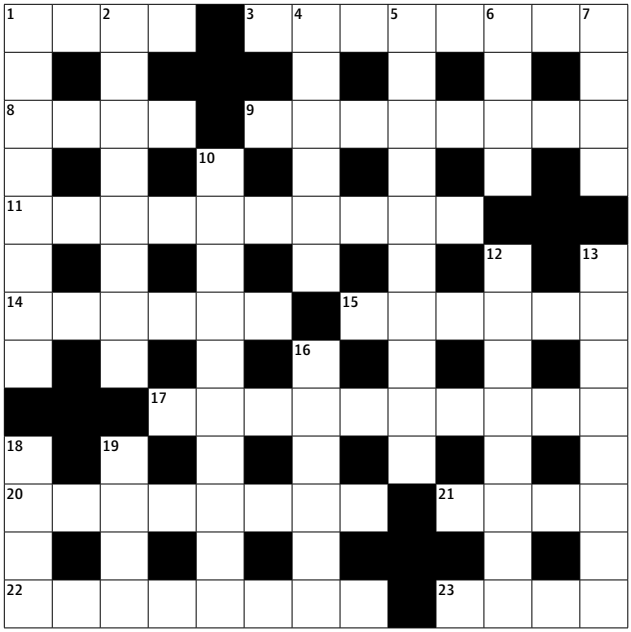
7			5				3	
3	2					9		1
8			4					
				8		6	1	
			6	9	5			
	8	2		4				
					7			4
2		3					8	9
	9				8			7

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 I accidentally dropped something! (4)
3 Astronaut or cosmonaut? (8)
8 Sense of excitement (4)
9 Chucklesome (8)
11 Ship - funny story to make friends? (10)
14 Floating plane (6)
15 Scabbard? (6)
17 Uninspiring place, person or thing (10)
20 Acerbic (8)
21 Indian cooking medium (4)
22 Freestanding (8)
23 Reside (4)

Down

1 Pair of universities (8)
2 Server of (deep-pan) food (8)
4 Sheep or cows, but not horse! (6)
5 Dodged bullet? (5,5)
6 Arguable (4)
7 Roost (4)
10 Ecofreak? (4-6)
12 Sham toil (anag.) (8)
13 Stealing (8)
16 Broccoli section (6)
18 Eager (4)
19 Burden of proof (4)

Last issue solution

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

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NOTICES

FUNDRAISING QUIZZES TO SUPPORT NOAH, A DISS SCOUT WHO IS BATTLING BONE CANCER

22/11/24 & 6/12/24 - Dickleburgh Village Centre

£5pp. 7pm start. Bar open & snacks on sale. All ages welcome. Quizzes are being organised by a Gislingham Scout.





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Open 23rd, 24th & 25th November: 10.00am to 5.00pm

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Painting, Textiles, Ceramics, Glass, Jewellery, Sculpture and Prints. Payment by cash and cheques only. Pre-orders welcome.



THANK YOU

Thornham Magna Bowls Club are pleased to announce that at our recent coffee morning to raise funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance we raised £505, a wonderful morning and many thanks to all the local people that supported us for this fundraising event.

East Anglian Air Ambulance

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 56.

1. Whitehall, 2. National Memorial Arboretum, 3. Cenotaph, 4. In Flander's Field, 5. The Royal British Legion, 6. "Rule, Britannia", 7. "Big Ben" – which marks the beginning of the minute's silence, 8. Armistice, 9. Poppies, 10. The connection is Remembrance Day / Armistice Day

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



This month is a month of prayer and remembering. At the beginning we hold an All-Soul's service remembering all who have lost loved ones this year, and on the 11th, we pause to remember the contribution of civilians and military servicemen and women of the Commonwealth and Britain, who gave their lives in the two world wars and later conflicts.

As I write the conflict in the Middle East is escalating – How long will it go on for? When will we have lasting world peace? How do I pray?

For the last two weeks I have been joining the 24-7 prayer movement, praying over the situation in the Middle East. People sign up on-line for an hour slot and each hour are then covered in prayer.

In the Bible, prayer is defined as a form of communication with God, where people can praise, confess, thank, and ask for needs and desires. It is a central part of the Christian life.

Jesus showed us how to pray, he would go away by himself to commune with God. He also told parables about how to pray. There are also examples of his prayers, like the anguish filled prayer in the garden before his death; and there is of course the prayer he gave his followers when they asked – teach us to pray.

Our relationship to God is expressed in our prayers, and prayer can take many forms: there are set prayers said in the services each Sunday; there are times when our prayers are much like the psalmist honest and desperate cries to God. There are times when can be so full of the joy of knowing the love of God through Jesus, that our spirit sings, and our prayers become songs.

Life is busy and for many of us our days quickly fill up with work, family, chores, leisure. How do we fit in time in to pray?

I think it's about being intentional, and there are several prayer apps that can help build prayer into our lives. I use 'Time to pray' and 'Lectio 365'. They are about 10 minutes in length and create space to commune with God wherever you are. In your lunch break, before you start work. Lectio 365 also has night prayer, which helps you to let go of all the issues of the day.

And the beauty of prayer is that you can commune with God anywhere. It's about finding the place that suits you. Most of our church buildings are open for you to use for prayer, for some people a walk in the countryside is a place to meet God. For others a comfy chair in a quiet room.

In one of the letters written to the early church the believers are told to pray in all circumstance, and to rejoice. Rejoicing may seem strange, but when we pray, we are looking beyond the here and now to the God who is faithful and true, a God who is forgiving and is endless love, a God who loves us so much he sent Jesus to show us the way to live and the way to our promised eternal home.

With a world that is groaning with hurricanes, famine and conflict, there are many circumstances that we can bring to God in prayer. And we are told that God, our loving parent God, both hears and answers.

I have been following Jesus for many years. The way I pray has changed over that time, and I have seen many prayers answered but I have found prayer is more than asking things of God, prayer is about deepening my faith and relationship with a loving and holy God.

I encourage you to find time to pray. Jesus followers said, 'teach us to pray'. Maybe like them start small, and each day simply say the Lord's prayer.

Our father in heaven, holy is your name. Your Kingdom Come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, forgive us our wrong doings as we forgive those who have wronged us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

If you want to find out more about prayer or want to join others to pray, please contact me.

Rev Debbie

From the Parishes: In loving memory of Angela Farrow (Yaxley)

Saturday 2nd November	Thornham Parva	6.00pm	All Souls Day Mass
Sunday 3rd November	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
4th Sunday before Advent	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	3.30pm	All Souls Memorial Service
Sunday 10th November	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All *followed by Act of Remembrance in the church and at the village war memorial*
3rd Sunday before Advent			
Remembrance Sunday			
	Yaxley	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Gislingham	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Mellis	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Thorndon	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Thornham Magna	10.50am	Act of Remembrance *followed by Holy Communion*
Monday 11th November	Stoke Ash	10.45am	Act of Remembrance
Sunday 17th November	Thorndon	10.00am	Together @ 10
2nd Sunday before Advent	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Worship for All
	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
Sunday 24th November	Thornham Magna	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday next before Advent	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Yaxley	10.30am	Worship for All

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am



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

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

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LOCAL INFORMATION

BUS TIMETABLES

Gislingham Bus timetable

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

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

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

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



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



Mobile Library: Gislingham
The 2024 dates for the Mobile Library are: 6 November, 4 December.
Times:
Broadfields Road: 15.10 = 15.45
Mill St.: 15.50 – 16.05

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Anglian Water Emergency	0800 145145
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Church Wardens: Gislingham - Ann Cottee Mellis - Vacant (TBC) Thornham Magna and Thornham Parva - James Fawcett	01379 788633 01379 788130
Citizens Advice Bureau Diss	01379 640530
Clerk (Parish) (Gislingham) clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com	07833 705915
Clerk (Parish) (Christine Moore - Thornham Parva)	01379 783226
Connecting Communities = Suffolk Passenger Transport	01449 614271
Crime Stoppers	0800 555111
District Council - Cllr Rowland Warboys rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk	01379 783412
Electricity Emergency	08007 838838
Essex & Suffolk Water Emergency	08457 820999
Eye Health Centre	01379 870689
Hall Bookings: (Gislingham - Terry Williams) email: gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com (Mellis - Helen Timmons) email: bookmellishall@gmail.com (Thornham Parish Hall - Beth Fredrikssen-Jones) 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 - Adrian Ramsey adrian.ramsay.mp@parliament.uk	07534 933356
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

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