The Messenger



Issue 165
November
2025

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH
MAGAZINE
AWARDS

THE MESSENGER TEAM



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

Editor & Photographer: Jeff Norman 07795 088764
Strawberry Fields, High Street, Gislingham. IP23 8JD

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

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

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

Thornham News & Events Co-Ordinator: Eileen Chandler
email: chandlersuk@yahoo.co.uk

Graphic Design: Jo Clifford, email: joclifford@cadecreative.com

Website: Mallen Baker & Bob Stuart, email: mallen@mallenbaker.net

Facebook: Bob Stuart, email: stuart.bob@gmail.com

Distribution Co-Ordinator: Goyle Weir
email: goyle@mac.com

News, features and advertised events in the Messenger magazine are added daily to the Messenger Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/themessengergismeltho

Next issue: December 2025
Copy deadline: Monday 17th November

E-mailed or hand-written submissions always welcome.

The editor reserves the right to edit, amend or omit submitted items at his discretion.

Digital copies of each issue can be downloaded from the Messenger website at:
www.the-messenger-online.com

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



Welcome to the November issue!

As promised, this month we feature reader's photos of the 'Tour of Britain' cycle race; which passed through our villages in September. Thanks to everyone who submitted photos, which are featured in our centre pages.

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 time last year, we published an appeal on behalf of the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation and we requested help in finding photos of Lance Sgt. Thomas Esmond Alexander Briggs of the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment who was killed in action on 12th October, 1944. He had links to Thornham Parva. Interestingly some photos and additional information have come to light. We publish a fascinating follow-up to this story on pages 20 & 21.

With the festive season looming you will find entry details (Page 23) for our Children's Christmas Artwork competition to find a Christmas themed piece of artwork that will appear on the cover of our December issue. Please note, the deadline is Friday 7th November. (Judging will take place a few days later.)

There's a number of local events coming up in our villages this month; and if you looking for something a little different, why not try the 'Murder Mystery' being performed by the Gislingham Variety Club on 28th & 29th November. See page 31 for details.

Finally, our December issue, has the deadline date of Monday 17th 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: Taken outside Gislingham Village Hall by Mae-Li Sun

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Saturday 1st November: Book Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon.

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd November: Art & Craft Winter Show
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 11.00am – 3.00pm. See page 12 for details.

Tuesday 4th November: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am-12.00 mid-day.

Saturday 15th November: Mellis Village Meeting
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am – 1.00pm. See page 8 for details.

Sunday 16th November: Christmas Afternoon Tea with Jane Haggar
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 2.00pm. See page 18 for details.

Wednesday 19 November: Gislingham WI AGM
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm.

Friday 21st November: Film Night – 'The Ballad of Wallis Island'
- Thornhams Parish Hall: Tickets £6 pay on the door. See page 42 for details.

Saturday 22nd November: Gislingham Christmas Fayre
- Gislingham Primary School: Time 12.00 – 4.00pm. See page 17 for details.

Friday 28th & Saturday 29th November: Gislingham Varity Club – Murder Mystery
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm. See page 31 for details.

WHAT ARE THE NEIGHBOUR'S DOING?

Saturday 1st November: Family Halloween Party
- Yaxley Village Hall. 6.00pm – 9.00pm. £2 per head entrance fee. Everyone is welcome.

Please note, any event changes after the magazine goes to print are updated on our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/themessengergismeltho

Our next issue is December 2025. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Monday 17 November.

CLUBS, CLASSES & REGULAR EVENTS

GISLINGHAM

Chat & Craft Club: Gislingham Village Hall. 1st Wednesday of every month. 12.00-2.00pm. Contact: Elspeth Tranter on 07473 131841.

Baby and Tots Group for the Under 2's: Primary School**.** Every Wednesday 9.45am – 11.00am. Contact Debbie Nicholls: 07762 116 335

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

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

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

Gislingham WI: 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.

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

Yoga Classes: Gislingham Village Hall. Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.30pm
And via zoom on Thursdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Both term time only
Contact Clare Hall on 07704 570877 or email: thornhamyoga@yahoo.com

Gislingham Variety Club: A local multi-talented group who perform twice a year in the Village Hall. If you are interested to join us, please contact by email: gislinghamvariety@gmail.com

THORNHAM

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

Pilates Classes: Parish Hall. Tuesdays 10.00am. No floorwork.
Thursdays 11.00am – mix of Pilates, yoga and functional exercise.
Contact Michelle via email: hello@yapl.co.uk

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

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

MELLIS

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

Pilates Classes: Memorial Hall. Mondays 9.30am. Becky Cruickshank: 07734 414151

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Ley House, 11a London Road, Harleston, IP20 9BH
Tel: 01379 851253

Moore House, 8 Fore Street, Framlingham, IP13 9DY
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GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

HELP SHAPE OUR NEW PLAYPARK



Pictorial Survey

Complete it to have your chance to make a difference!



We're running a pictorial survey to give everyone the chance to choose what they'd love to see at our village playpark. From swings to slides, climbing frames to quiet corners—your voice matters!

We'll aim to go with the majority where possible, so every response counts.

Scan the QR Code below to access the survey and have your say!







New Bus Services from Gislingham and Surrounding Villages

Convenient timings for market visits, shopping, appointments, and social outings

Thursdays to Stowmarket

Pick up: Bus stop opposite village shop

09.31. Returns 12.46.

Stops incl.: Eye, Stoke Ash, Thornham Magna, Gislingham, Finningham, Cotton, Cow Green, Old Newton & Stowmarket

Fridays to Diss

Pick up: Gislingham Village Hall

09.30. Returns 13.35.

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Visit www.suffolkonboard.com or call 0345 606 6171 for full timetable and updates

Listen and inform

Mellis 'drop-in' - village meeting

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025
10.00am to 1.00PM - refreshments available.

Mellis Parish Council invite you to come along and share your thoughts on the pending challenges that we face due to:

- The planned infrastructure and possible building developments around our village.
- The impact on the common and how we can respond to a changing environment.
- How we can develop a biodiversity plan to ensure the common remains the central attraction to the village.

We also want this to be an opportunity for you to **meet the Parish Council** and raise any other concerns you may have.



MELLIS PARISH COUNCIL NOTES









The bulb planting at Mellis Garden in September was a fabulous community event, and we were very lucky as it was a glorious day. Twelve wonderful people, including our youngest volunteer Ava (aged 8), from Mellis, Yaxley, Occold and Debenham, planted 1100 bulbs in super quick time so that we will now have a burst of springtime favourites early next year.

Please do go along to the garden next to the primary school at anytime, to enjoy the plants, listen to birdsong, hear the humming of insects pollinating our fruit trees or simply take a seat on one of the benches to just take 5!

Thank you volunteers for the planting and the singing. We will keep you updated with other events.

Ghed Paterson & Lorraine Farley, Parish Councillors

LISTEN AND INFORM - MELLIS VILLAGE MEETING

Your parish council invites you to attend our 'drop-in' meeting on Saturday 15th November between 10am and 1pm - refreshments will be available.

You will be able to see:

- Plans for pylons, solar and BESS units

Talk to the Parish Council about:

- Possible impact from your perspective
- Share concerns
- Understand what the PC have already been doing

We are inviting members from:

- Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Waveney River Trust, MSDC biodiversity team, located councillors
- They will help to field questions and support the Parish Council to build a plan that will rejuvenate the common and help us understand what part we can all play in caring for the wild open space on our doorstep.

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NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 13th December: Quiz Night
Doors open at 7.00 pm. Entrance Fee £5.00. Bring your own Food, Drinks and Glasses.
Email: gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

Saturday 10th January 2026: Quiz Night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust - Details to follow

Saturday 14th February 2026: Jumble Sale - Details to follow

Saturday 28th March: Music Quiz Night - Details to follow

Saturday 25th April 2026: Bingo Night - Details to follow

Saturday 16th May 2026: Charity Auction - Details to follow

Saturday 27th June 2026: Gisfest - Details to follow



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.

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


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PRIVATE VIEW FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER £10 ENTRY
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START FROM 11.00-15.00PM
POP UP TEA SHOP
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FREE ADMISSION

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



FUTURE EVENTS:

Friday 31st October: Preview Night of Art & Craft Winter Show
7.00pm – 9.00pm. Contact: amandachurch562@gmail.com

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd November: Art & Craft Winter Show
11.00am – 3.00pm

Sunday 16th November: Festive Afternoon Tea – with Jane Haggar on Magic of the Musicals. 2.00pm. Tickets £20. Bookings: helenbelsey@outlook.com

Friday 21st November 7.30pm Film night – 'The Ballad of Wallis Island'
Bookings: films@thornhams.org Tickets £6 pay on the door

Saturday 6th December: Ceilidh – traditional family folk dancing
6.30pm: £12 pp. (Children free). Pay on the door. Booking text: 07707 530340.

Friday 12th December: Quiz Night
7.00pm. £5pp, max team of 6. BYO snacks – bar and ice creams available.
Bookings: events@thornhams.org

Friday 16th January: Film Night – title to be confirmed
Bookings: films@thornhams.org Tickets £6 pay on the door.

Saturday 24th January: Jumble Sale – details to follow.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Pilates (gentle with no floorwork). Classes on Tuesdays 10.00am.
Booking is essential at hello@yapl.co.uk

EveryBody Strong, Stretch, Relax – mix of Pilates, yoga and functional exercise.
Thursdays 10.00 am. Booking is essential at hello@yapl.co.uk



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

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




CHOCOLATE
AND WALNUT









THORNHAM AUTUMN FAYRE 2025

On Sunday 12th October the annual Thornham Autumn Fayre took place in the village hall. Preparations start weeks beforehand with raffle ticket selling, sign painting and of course preparations for cake making by the band of great cooks in the village. We love our hall but if you've ever been before then you will know that it's not the biggest so the fantastic menfolk of the village kindly volunteered their time to erect 3 gazebos together with fairy lights to add some extra space.



Early Sunday morning saw a flurry of activity. We had some new stallholders, some returning from last year and some firm favourites that have been coming since we started (we won't name names!).

Our lovely Jean and Rosemary manned the kitchen and produced the delicious bacon rolls…. the smell was so tempting so once they started cooking the queue started to form. Our cake stall is always a hit…..Bakewell tarts, chocolate sponge, cheese scones, Victoria sponge, pistachio cake, vanilla cake plus so much more and with special thanks to Andy for making delicious apple pies.

The raffle had fantastic prizes with donations from The Four Horseshoes, The Cherry Tree at Yaxley, Aspalls Cider, Norfolk Natural Living and a kind donation of the top prize of £100 cash…..plus so many more.

We pride ourselves in having local businesses at our fair…..they included Humber Doucy Brewery, The Heart of Suffolk Distillery, Tropic Skincare, Swallowtail Preserves, Ruby & Grace Candles, The Little Corner Pet Shop, plus local crafters….Jane with her beautiful crocheted stall, Maggie with flowers and arrangements, Cuttlecrit with their unique critters made from stainless steel cutlery, Mick with wonderful wood turnings, Cailin with jewellery and art & Jenne with her beautiful painted pebbles and artwork.

As it's an Autumn Fayre, we like to had a pumpkin competition in there somewhere…. this year was a corker…guess the girth of the pumpkin!! That caused a titter or two!

At 3pm the Fayre came to a close and the job of packing it all away started…. ready for next year.

We would like to thank everyone who came, everyone who helped, everyone who had a stall and everyone who supported in so many other ways. We love our hall but it needs looking after and that takes money. We want to see the hall thrive and offer more to our community. The most amazing amount of £1647 was taken and this will go towards our ongoing improvements at the hall.

If you want to know more about what events we have planned then check out our page in The Messenger or look at our Facebook page Thornham's Parish Hall.

Amanda Stiff with photos by Chloe Stoneman

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GISLINGHAM CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 22nd November 2025
12-4pm

The School Hall, Broadfields Road, Gislingham, IP23 8HX

All money raised is given back to the school

- Meet Father Christmas
- Refreshments available
- Lots of local stall holders
- Raffle and games
- Children's craft workshop




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TICKETS £20

TEAM GISLINGHAM JRSOS'

Dear Messenger readers,

We would like to introduce ourselves. We are the Junior Road Safety Officers from Gislingham School. Our names are Riley, Phoebe, Eva and Cory. Our aim is to raise awareness around road safety, reduce congestion, encourage safe and responsible driving, and make Gislingham a healthier and safer place.

* We have completed our first of regular traffic observations before and after school and have shared advice and requests to parents/ guardians. Two of our pupils from reception, Hayley and Rachel both got to take our mascot Officer Snuggles home for the weekend for being amazing road safety buddies when crossing the roads outside school.
* We are really proud of our partnership with Gislingham Speedwatch and after having received training, we completed our first Speedwatch on 10th October along the High Street in Gislingham. We hope that having children involved in such an important scheme that we can help to change behaviour, raise awareness and encourage new volunteers.
* We supported cycle/scoot/walk to school week 13th-17th October in partnership with the Bikeability Trust.
* We wrote a rap and shared important safety information in a whole school assembly around road safety at Halloween, and general safety as the nights draw in.
* We are planning to launch fun and educational road safety competitions during the year.
* We are planning to run road safety training across the school in partnership with road safety professionals.



If you have any comments, support or advice to help us achieve your aims then we would love to hear from you.

Many thanks for your support.

Eva, Riley, Phoebe and Cory – Team Gislingham JRSOS

THOMAS ESMOND ALEXANDER BRIGGS – FOLLOW UP

Some of you may remember an appeal on behalf of the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation for a photo of Lance Sgt. Thomas Esmond Alexander Briggs of the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment which appeared a year ago in the November 2024 edition of the Messenger.



Thomas was born in 1920 in Country Durham and was the only child of George and Eva Briggs who moved to the Lodge House in Thornham Parva between 1935 and 1939. This is how he met Ellen Elizabeth Smith who lived with her parents, Albert and Emma Smith, at nearby Carter's Farm Cottage. Subsequently, Thomas' parents moved to Felixstowe to work in the grounds of Felixstowe Ladies' College. They had been market gardeners in County Durham.

Thomas and Ellen married in 1939. After their marriage they lived in Trimley St Martin and had a daughter, Ann Esme Eva Briggs, in 1942. Sadly, Thomas was killed in action on 12 October 1944 near Overloon in the Netherlands (see picture below) and is buried there.

Ellen went on to marry Leonard Endean in 1951 and died in London in 1964. Annie died in 2013 in March in Cambridgeshire. Annie is commemorated in Thornham Parva Churchyard where her ashes lie above the grave of her maternal grandparents and just a few plots away from her mother's grave.



Thanks to a number of people, contact was made with a good friend of Annie's, Barbara McGowan, who had kept a box of family papers belonging to Annie. She was able to supply photos of Thomas and Ellen. The photo of Thomas will now be displayed in front of his grave for the first time..



However, the box contained much more. Annie had become aware many years later of two letters which a young Dutchman called Piet d Bruijn had sent to her mother in 1961. Piet was only 16 on the day Thomas died. He happened to be with Thomas that day and was able to explain the circumstances to Ellen.

He wrote that Thomas was killed in woods north of the village. He had been shot in the leg – a flesh wound. He says he tore Thomas' trouser leg and "tied his leg with his cane" – by which he may have meant he used his cane to put on a tourniquet. He goes on to say that a first aid man gave Thomas a morphine injection and that Pete then carried him to a tent where a doctor gave him a blood transfusion.

At that point, Thomas gave a necklace to Piet to give to Ellen. He told him: "Go to England. George he will know Ellen ...? Ellen give this. Remember me to Ellen. Remember me to the family Ellen George and Eva."

Piet assured Ellen that Thomas had not been in much pain because the wound was numb and helped by morphine. He died peacefully while holding Piet's hand. He tried to comfort Ellen with the thought that he had died "without noise, without the hell of fire, sand, stones, noise and so on". His last words were for Ellen, his family and for Piet, who was his friend.

Piet told Ellen why it had taken him so long to contact her. He had no address, just the three names, and also a reference to Thornham Parva which he did not understand. In 1945, he tried to get an address from the War Ministry, then the Dutch, Belgian and French Red Cross, but without success. In 1948, he was sent with his brother to the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and returned to the Netherlands in 1950. Then he found out about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and it seems that a first letter to Ellen was sent via them.

Since the discovery of these letters, the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation has managed to trace two sons of Piet and make them aware of this wonderful story.

For those who wish to read more, Thomas' full story is now available on the Overloon War Chronicles Website at https://www.overloonwarchronicles.nl/en/briggs-thomas/

For our tomorrows, they gave their today.

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Children's Christmas art competition

It's time for the Annual Christmas Artwork Competition for children between the ages of 5 and 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 5-6**
- **Age 7-8**
- **Age 9-11**

The criteria are:

1) Paper must be no bigger than A4.
2) The actual design must be 20cm high x 17cm wide.
3) **Closing date for entries: Friday 7/11/25 at 2.30pm**
4) Entries should be submitted to: Gislingham School Office, Mellis School Office or Strawberry Fields, High Street, Gislingham (next to Gislingham store).
5) Name, address and age of child **MUST** be included on the **BACK** of picture.
6) The Messenger Magazine Committee 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 winning pictures.

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THE RAILWAY TAVERN

NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday 1st November 8.30PM ***UNCOOL SAM***

A great night of driving R&B classics including Dr Feelgood & JJ Cale.

Thursday 6th November 7.30pm ***QUIZ NIGHT***

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

Saturday 8th November 8.30pm KARAOKE DISCO

Musical jollification with Video Disco & Karaoke.

Thursday 13th November 8.00pm OPEN MIC NIGHT

Come along and have a go. Open to all abilities. Turn Up, Sign Up, Sing Up.

Saturday 15th November 7.00pm MUSIC BINGO

No music knowledge required. This is a fantastic night of singing and winning.

Sunday 16th November 5pm LEGENDS OF VEGAS

West End star Ben Lake performs Frank Sinatra, Tom Jones & Michael Buble.

Thursday 20th November 7.30pm ***QUIZ NIGHT***

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

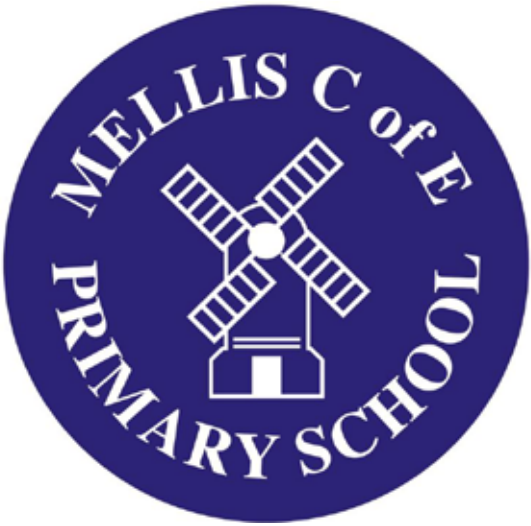
Thursday 27th November 7.30pm ***BINGO***

£1 a card for cash prizes and Final game £2 per card for CASH JACKPOT.

Saturday 29th November 8.30 COUNTRY & WESTERN

The Redneck Rodeo playing new & classic Country songs with

Live Music from The Singing Cowboy CONNOR BAINES



‘To Be Our Best.’

Is Your Child Starting School in September 2026?

Book a personal appointment to view the School on

01379 783376

or Email

office@mellisprimaryschool.org

Find out more about us by visiting

www.mellis.suffolk.sch.uk

Instagram: search for ‘melliseprimaryschool’

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TOUR DE SUFFOLK

The Tour of Britain is a multi-stage cycling race, conducted on British roads, in which participants race across Great Britain to complete the race in the fastest time. The event dates back to just after the Second World War; inspired by the grandeur of the Tour de France.

On Wednesday 3rd September, Babergh and Mid Suffolk hosted the second stage of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men's cycling race. Starting and finishing in Stowmarket, it passed through Thornham Magna and Gislingham along the route.

Having previously hosted a stage finish of the women's race in 2019 in Stowmarket, this was the first time that a stage of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men's race had started or finished in the Babergh or Mid Suffolk districts.

Despite gusty conditions and sometimes torrential downpours, thousands of people cheered on the riders at the start and finish in Stowmarket, and throughout the 105.3-mile (169.3 km) route through Debenham, Eye, Thurston, Lavenham, Sudbury, Hadleigh and the numerous villages between.

Millions more watching the live TV coverage heard commentary team talk about the unique character of our market towns and countryside and repeatedly praised organisers and communities for the very special atmosphere they had created for the riders and crew while in Suffolk.

This is the first time that two stages of the men's race have taken place in the county, with both stages won by Olav Kooij, the 25-year old Dutch rider who rides for Visma–Lease a Bike.

Organisers of the Lloyds Tour of Britain subsequently thanked communities for braving the elements and turning out in force to support the race through town and villages across our districts.

Cllr Andy Mellen, Green leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, said: "We're so proud to have hosted such a prestigious sporting event and it was a fantastic day. The weather didn't seem to put people off, big crowds turned out to support, and there has been a great atmosphere. We know this race will provide a boost to the local economy, and seeing some of the world's top riders will hopefully inspire others to get out on their bikes. There is something like £17m worth of direct economic benefits to the communities along the route, so it is a real boost for the local economy."

The Tour of Britain has become more than just a race. It's a celebration of cycling culture, local communities and British landscapes. Each year, millions of spectators line the roads to catch a glimpse of this unique spectacle.

Our readers have once again stepped-up in submitting some amazing photos of the event as it passed through our villages. Unfortunately, we only have room for fourteen and they are featured on the following three pages.

Jeff Norman

READERS' PHOTOS

LLOYDS BANK TOUR OF BRITAIN









Many thanks to Chris Welstead for sending in the photos on this page.

LLOYDS BANK TOUR OF BRITAIN

READERS' PHOTOS







READERS' PHOTOS

LLOYDS BANK TOUR OF BRITAIN





Many thanks to Debbie Norman, Mike Heath and Darrel Charles for sending in the photos on these 2 pages.







NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles



Hello everyone and welcome back to Nature Notes

One morning in early October I set out for a walk around Wortham Ling in the hope of seeing some interesting fungi. Whilst this had been a good time to visit in previous years, on this occasion I was unlucky and didn't see any fungi at all. The two photos of toadstools













shown opposite, including the spectacular but poisonous red and white spotted Fly Agaric, were taken last year. During my latest visit, there were still signs of summer lingering on in the form of purple heather and even several Small Copper butterflies fluttering about, albeit looking rather tatty. I'll leave it for a couple of weeks and try again at the Ling.

Closer to home, there are signs of autumn to be seen. Up at Gislingham's Charity Meadow, some thoughtful planting has resulted in beautiful colours in the hedgerows, including that of the Guelder Rose with its now red leaves and clusters of red berries that are favoured by Bullfinches and Thrushes, amongst other birds. Elsewhere, there are "conkers", beechnuts, acorns and walnuts aplenty, which bodes well for our wildlife preparing their winter food stores.





It's the time of year when we gardeners are out tidying things up in the garden, weeding, pruning and generally making good. Whilst this is taking place, it doesn't take long for a Robin to appear to see what's going on and grab itself a tasty morsel in exchange for a cheerful song! Isn't it delightful to have their company?

As I mentioned last month, I've been getting ready for the new astronomy season, i.e. galaxy season, by getting out after dark with my camera and generally getting back "in the groove". Happily, we've had some good clear starry skies when I've turned my attention to a couple of well known constellations, The Plough and Cassiopeia. I've found that such objects can make rather underwhelming photos because the stars appear so small. One trick I wanted to try this time was to focus the camera on a nearby object, a paraffin lantern in this instance, so making the stars out of focus and therefore bigger. Here's a shot of The Plough taken using this technique, which I was quite pleased with.

Photos opposite, clockwise from top left: Purple Heather, Small Copper Butterfly, Fly Agaric, Guelder Rose Berries, Walnuts, Unknown Fungi

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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DI'S BOOK BLOG



"Murder at the Black Cat Cafe" by Seishi Yokomizo

First published in 1973, English translation published in 2025.

I came across this book when in Waterstones. I thought that the cover is absolutely beautiful. I love cats and Japan, so was very intrigued. The lady at the checkout said that the much-loved Japanese author is considered to be in the same league as Agatha Christie. That was the decider for me!!





So, onto the story....

Set in the 1940s it tells the tale of marriage, illicit lovers, murders, unidentified bodies, prostitutes, monks, detectives, double crosses, black cats....



All this occurs in an unnamed town just outside Tokyo. The town is a combination of ancient Japan with all its beauty and mystery, alongside brothels in the 'alleys of temptation'!!

A police constable on his nightly rounds, notices something strange in the garden of a property called 'The Black Cat café'. Upon investigation he discovers a young monk frantically digging. And thus, the appearance of the first dead body...

What follows is an intriguing story involving the local police detective aided by an older, experienced private detective. In another book he'd probably be called Hercule Poirot!

There are twists and turns leading to a satisfying conclusion.

My only criticism is that there are a lot of characters, so I found it helped to write them all down, reminding me who everyone is. The novel isn't very long and is easily read in a few sittings.

Enjoy!

Di Herbert



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GUC Trustees meeting dates for 2025/2026 are as follows: Friday 21st November, 9 January, 13 March, 8 May, 10 July, 11 September, 13 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
Tel: 01379 783380, Email: gislinghamunitedcharity@gmail.com
Or can be downloaded from the "Organisations" page on the Parish Council Website:
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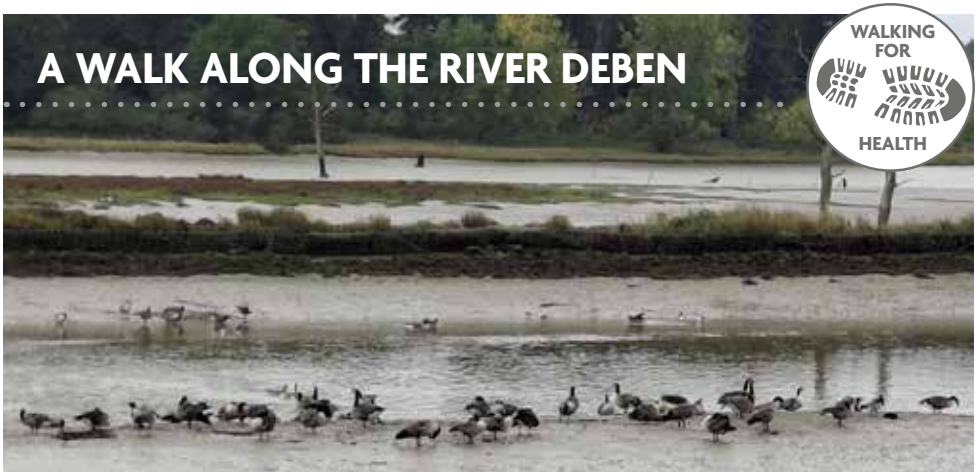
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A WALK ALONG THE RIVER DEBEN



WALKING FOR HEALTH

O/S Explorer Map: 202 Distance: 7 kms/4.5 miles approx.

This month, we decided that we would walk along the River Deben footpath.

Once at Woodbridge, head for Melton and cross over the railway crossing at Melton Station, there is a free car park just after on the right.

Near the entrance to the car park is the footpath which leads to the river footpath. Go over the wooden bridge and bear left. Walk up the slope and you will now see the river on your left. You will be able to observe many species of wader birds. We saw Canada Geese, Oyster Catchers, Cormorants and Egrets.



As you pass the large boat yard on your right, at low tide you can see several abandoned boats and wrecks, which look like skeletons. Continue past the Deben Cafe Bar on the HMS Vale *(right)*. When you reach Barretts Furnishings on the left with a railway crossing on the right, bear left and then right past the buildings and back onto the footpath.

When you reach the roadway, bear left, then right in front of a restaurant which will take you past a museum and a building that is reconstructing a replica of the long boat that brought King Raedwald to Sutton Hoo. You cannot gain access at this point, however, later in the walk you will be able to visit (see details on the facing page).

At the next level crossing, turn left and walk in front of the restaurant which has a tall wooden wall in front and then turn left onto the footpath again. Along this stretch, there are many house boats of all shapes and sizes and some also using old military vessels.

You will approach the Tide Mill, which still continues to grind flour. Why not pay it a visit and explore the history - *https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/about/*

Continue past Woodbridge railway station and the path bears left. As you reach the river again, there are several benches where you can have a rest and take in the view. By this time, the tide had come in and was nearly up to the wall.

Continue past the Rowing Club and boat shed, opposite is a large barge and as you look down onto the river bed, you will see a statue of 'The Two Sisters' which was installed in 2020 which celebrates Molly and Ethel Everson, who along with their brothers Cyril and Bert, managed the yard inherited from their father in 1969.



As you continue along the river path, you will see to your right a large model boating lake. This part of the path is named the Fynn Valley Walk/ Sandlings Walk. As the river gets wider and bears left, you will see a footpath post ahead, take the footpath to the right. Go over the level crossing and to the top of the track. You will now see some houses. As you reach the road, turn right and continue to the end where you meet a main road. Cross over onto the one-way street. At the end turn right and continue to the crossroads near Prezzo. Ahead is the High Street with many independent shops and eateries.



You have the opportunity of investigating more of Woodbridge, by turning left and walking up the hill to the Market Hill. You will find the Kings Head and a couple of cafes, which face the Town Hall. Also of interest, is a violin maker's shop. There are also some very exclusive independent boutiques. Just off Market Hill is St Mary the Virgin church. You need to go down some steps and enter this beautiful church.

'The Domesday Book records in 1086 that in "Wodebryge" there was "A church with 19 acres valued at 2 shillings" The indications are that this was a Saxon church, built probably at the close of the 10th century, so that there has been a church on this site for over a thousand years. The present building dates from the early part of the 15th century.'

If you now wish to visit the museum with the replica boat return to the junction near Prezzo's and walk down to the main road, next to the Anchor pub. Cross over on the zebra crossing, turn left and then right and this will take you to the museum area. There are a few eateries here. This is the Sutton Hoo Shops Company. You can visit this working attraction which is free of charge - *https://saxonship.org/getting-involved/visit/*

Once you have visited, to get back on the route we took, go back to the main road and turn right and follow the road until you reach the traffic lights opposite the Red Lion pub. We had continued along the High St. and arrived at the same point next to the Red Lion.

Melton Rd is ahead from the High St. (or turn right at the lights) and continue along this road, taking in the many different designs of houses. After about 1.5 kms, just past the green grocer's shop, take the footpath on the right onto Dane Lane. At the end turn left and continue to the road, turn right and head for Melton Boatyard, by crossing the railway line. Keep to the left-hand side, there is a footpath sign and rejoin the river path.

Continue along the river path, and as you reach a footpath post with an acorn sign, bear left down the slope and bear left at the bottom. At the split of the path, turn right and go back over the wooden bridge, returning to the car park.

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COURGETTE CAKE



This month, Gislingham WI recommends this Courgette Cake recipe. This simple courgette cake is deliciously moist and a great way to use up a glut of courgettes.

Ingredients:

- 250g pain flour
- 1 tspn salt
- 1 and half tspns bicarbonate
- 5 tbsps unsweetened cocoa
- 200g caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 250g grated courgette
- 120ml vegetable oil
- 1 tspn vanilla extract
- 60g chopped walnuts

Method:

- Mix altogether. Bake at 160 C for 50 minutes.

Gislingham WI meets on the third Wednesday of every month at Gislingham Village Hall, 7.30pm. If you would like more details, please phone Margaret on: 01379 783903



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TERRAPIN NEWS



The consultation period for a mandatory, county-wide plan to restore and enhance nature has now closed and the draft report can be found here: *https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/suffolk-lnrs-public-consultation-report.pdf*

There is an excellent interactive map that can be found online here: *https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c81d396175f64eda97de0693979f59fb*

The map reveals existing areas for nature and valuable habitats and also specific proposals for creating and improving habitats for nature recovery and natural flood management.

The plans have been developed by Norfolk County Council in partnership with the Suffolk County Council. They identify priority areas for nature recovery, guides sustainable land use, creates habitat networks to connect ecosystems, and engages communities in restoration projects. The strategies help to deliver on initiatives like biodiversity net gain for new developments and provides a framework for environmental land management schemes.

I would like to mention that the River Dove is enclosed by a corridor of land with recognised potential for biodiversity.

This is important because it overlaps with the work of the River Waveney Trust who have investigated the potential for flood resilience along the river that is a tributary of the river Waveney and also that Mid Suffolk has purchased from the Kerrison Trust 62 acres of land north of Thorndon, recognising the potential for increasing the biodiversity and its significance as a flood plain.

Another local group, based in Eye, “Love the Dove” is currently investigating pollution along the River Dove, I have supported them with the purchase of water testing kits and testing will take place from Wickham Skeith to Eye. Their work will be important as the LNRSs recognise the importance of water quality and freshwater environments.

The Suffolk and Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are designed to be part of the nationwide move to create the space and connectivity needed across our region for nature to thrive, recover and be resilient. It is a requirement of the Environment Act of 2021 and will be part of 48 planned strategies across England.

The LNRSs will be of “material considerations” for planners and developers, they will identify possible harms but also ways in which development can also achieve the statutory net gains

In May 2026 there are plans to elect a Mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk. There will be a Mayoral Combined County Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk created and the LNRSs, already developed collaboratively by Norfolk and Suffolk should play a significant role in shaping the environmental governance and coordinating nature recovery efforts by this new strategic authority.

The new mayor could act as a “Mayor for Nature” using the LNRSs as blueprints for the integration of nature recovery into infrastructure and housing plans, direct funding to priority areas including agriculture, ensuring that growth and development is nature positive, supporting both ecological and economic goals.

Rowland Warboys, District Councillor for Gislingham Ward

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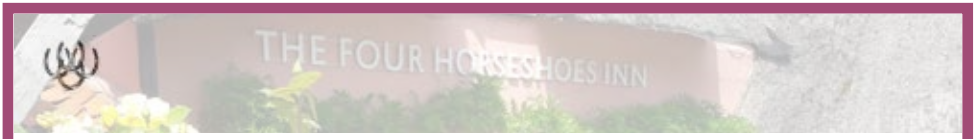
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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!



WITH CHRISTMAS FAST APPROACHING, YOU MAY BE THINKING OF BUYING A PET FOR CHRISTMAS?

We are being warned by Suffolk Trading Standards to beware of fake pet sellers on social media, because one Suffolk victim has lost £500 to an individual posing as a breeder.



Suffolk Trading Standards has received a very sad report from a Suffolk resident who was seeking a pet companion after losing two dogs within a short period of time. The victim came across a Facebook page that purported to be a breeder based in Portsmouth. After talking to the breeder via Facebook messenger and agreeing to purchase one of the puppies available, the victim was instructed to purchase five £100 Apple gift cards. Following the payment of the gift cards the victim was contacted via email by a company purporting to be a pet delivery company.

The delivery company, allegedly based in Winchester, requested a further £900 for shipping and insurance costs. The victim offered to pay by credit card, but the delivery company refused this and insisted on payment via bank transfer. The victim then realised that it was a scam and no further money was sent.

How to protect yourself:

Do your research: If you're making a purchase from a website or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first. Look up reviews of the website or person you're buying from. If you're purchasing an item from an online marketplace, you can view the seller's feedback history before going ahead with the purchase.

Trust your instincts: If you're unable to view the animal in person, ask for a video call. If you're buying a young animal, make sure you're able to see the mother and rest of the litter. Any responsible seller will understand why you want to view the animal in person. If the seller declines, challenge them on why. If you have any suspicions, do not pay any money until you're certain it's genuine.

Choose your payment method wisely: Avoid paying by bank transfer. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering your money if you become a victim of fraud.

When things go wrong: Anyone can fall victim to fraud. If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud.

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Lunch Club 11.45am to 12.45pm

Afternoon 12.45pm to 3.45pm

"Children arrive with a 'spring in their step' and are welcomed by friendly staff. They immediately join in with their friends and explore a well resourced and fun environment." Ofsted, May 2022.

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

THE MESSENGER NINE LETTERS QUIZ

The first letter of each answer will spell out an anagram. What is it?

1. Gary Brooker fronted which band in the 1960s?
2. Who played Shaft in the 1971 film of that name?
3. Which actress uncrossed her legs in a notorious 1992 film?
4. What word describes an earth-shattering battle?
5. Who has written under the pseudonym of Barbara Vine?
6. Where was there a famous gold rush in the 1890s?
7. Who was the Greek God of Love?
8. Who was the lead singer with 'The Band'?
9. The imprisonment of Nick Leeson led to the collapse of which bank?
10. The answers are...?

Answers appear on page 63.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

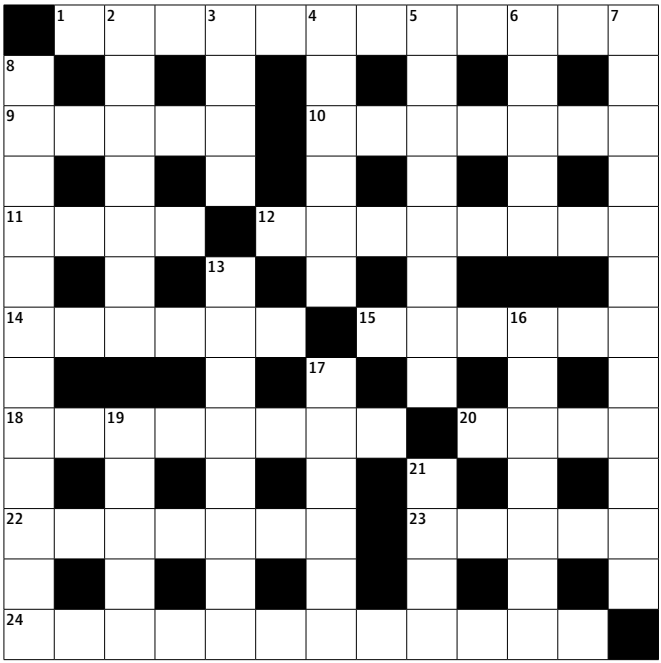
	4		2			3		
						7	6	9
1				9				
	5	1		8				
		9	4		7	8		
				5		2	9	
				2				8
3	7	6						
		2			1		3	

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Desperate Dan or Mickey Mouse, say (12)
9 Drawing one gets you nowhere (5)
10 Large sailing ship used for trade and warfare (7)
11 Surge (of emotion) (4)
12 Lou or Elvis? (8)
14 Salesperson (6)
15 This will make the balloon go up (6)
18 Resident of Tirana or Berat (8)
20 Close together (4)
22 Whip, camera or coffee (7)
23 Middle Eastern sweet made with ground sesame seeds (5)
24 System for naming things – no numeral etc (anag) (12)

Down

2 Go-between (7)
3 Signs (a contract) (4)
4 Drink at Christmas (6)
5 Agitated (8)
6 Perfect (5)
7 Vague (12)
8 eg, eg (12)
13 High spot? (8)
16 Breathing aid (7)
17 Shelf over a fireplace (6)
19 Old-fashioned sweeper (5)
21 Informal discussion (4)

Last issue solution

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

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NOTICES

THE HIDDEN GARDENS OF MELLIS 2026

Do you live in Mellis and love your garden? Do you enjoy showing it to your friends? We are planning an OPEN GARDENS EVENT in May or June 2026 and are looking for volunteers to open their gardens to raise funds for the Memorial Hall and St Mary's Church, Mellis. We are keen to have a variety of gardens and there is already a great deal of interest. To find out more with no obligation, please contact:

Rebecca: rebngord@hotmail.com or Sonia: s.charnley@btinternet.com or Helen: Helen.timmons@hotmail.co.uk

GISLINGHAM ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION (GAGA)

We still have one remaining vacant plot available.

If you live in Gislingham and would like to have fun growing your own produce, fruit, veg or flowers, with like-minded, helpful and friendly neighbours, please give me a call on: 01379 788998 or by email: emma-ed@hotmail.co.uk

Emma Bryant



Walsham Arts & Crafts Exhibition

29th, November - 1st December 2025

10.00am till 5.00pm

The Priory Room (next to the church)

Walsham le Willows IP31 3AB

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Alison Dane, Helen Dougall, Joff Duck,
Chris & Hilary Evans, Mandy Jaggard,
Sharon Laslett, Jenny Portlock,
Phil Stearn, Mary Jane Toulson,
Rob Wheeler

for further information:
Mary Jane Toulson 01359 259 646
Or, Helen Dougall, helen@hdbatik.co.uk
Payments by cash or cheques only

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 60.

The answers are: 1. PROCUL HARUM, 2. RICHARD ROUNDTREE, 3. SHARON STONE, 4. ARMAGEDDON, 5. RUTH RENDELL, 6. YUKON, 7. EROS, 8. ROBBIE ROBERTSON, 9. BARINGS. The anagram spells out RASPBERRY

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



As we move into November the leaves and fruits have fallen from the trees, the ground is barren, the days are darker, wetter and colder. The hot dry summer is a long distant memory. For many it is a month of reflection and remembrance, starting with All Souls Day on the 2nd of November. A time when many of us go to our churches and light a candle in remembrance of those loved ones, who have passed. We also see poppies appearing at monuments, memorials, lampposts, churches and on our collars.

Everyone recognises that small red flower as a symbol for us to remember and reflect on the sacrifice of the armed forces and civilians who have died in conflicts and acts of terrorism. At the same time, it also represents the hope for a peaceful future.

The poppy being used as a symbol of remembrance started over a 100 years ago, when in 1915, a Canadian doctor Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote the war poem, In Flanders Fields. Following the terrible devastation he witnessed on the battlefields in Ypres, Belgium. The poem describes the delicate red flowers that bloomed where more than a million soldiers died between 1914 and 1918.

Inspired by this poem Anna Guérin, a French teacher turned war effort fundraiser and humanitarian, began selling poppies on certain days from September 1919. Initially, her Poppy Days benefitted the widows and orphans of the war in devastated regions of France. She was christened "The Poppy Lady from France". Her idea was for all World War I Allied countries to use artificial poppies. Made by French widows and orphans, as an emblem for remembering those who gave their lives during the World War I. At the same time, creating a method of raising funds to support the families of those who had died and those who had survived. She asked the American, Canadian and British legions to use the poppy as a Remembrance emblem. In 1921, the Royal British Legion ordered a million poppies from Anna Guérin in France and commissioned a further 8 million to be manufactured in Britain. They were made from silk and were sold on 11th November that year in the first ever Poppy Appeal.

In 1926 in Scotland, Lady Haig opened Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, employing former veterans to make the flowers out of tissue. The Remembrance Poppy has been used as a symbol and for fundraising for all conflicts since. In 2023, the legion started making fully recyclable paper poppies.

As we buy and wear our poppies this November our thoughts will be with those affected by war.

At the primary school on the 11th November, we hold our poppies in our hands, look at them and say this prayer:

Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers:
give thanks to God for the lives of those who have died in war,
remembering all the joy they brought to families and friends,
and all the good things they did for their home and their country.

Then look at the red petals: red reminds us of danger and harm.
Ask God to be close to those who are still facing danger each day,
to give courage to the armed forces, and compassion to all who help others.

Place your whole hand over the poppy:
poppies are also fragile and need to be handled gently.
God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad.
Ask God to comfort all who are grieving the loss of someone they love.

Finally place a finger on the centre of the poppy:
ask God to help you play your part in working for peace in the world.

Emma Morris, Lay Elder

NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday 1st November	Thornham Parva	6.00pm	All Saints Mass
Sunday 2nd November	Thorndon	10.00am	Together @ 10
4th Sunday before Advent	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	3.00pm	Memorial Service
Sunday 9th November	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All
3rd Sunday before Advent			*followed by Act of*
Remembrance Sunday			*Remembrance in church and*
			at the village war memorial
	Gislingham	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Mellis	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Thorndon	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Yaxley	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
	Thornham Magna	10.50am	Act of Remembrance
			followed by Holy Communion
	Stoke Ash	3.00pm	Worship for All
Tuesday 11th November	Stoke Ash	10.45am	Act of Remembrance
Sunday 16th November	Mellis	10.30am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday before Advent	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
Sunday 23rd November	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All
Sunday next before Advent	Yaxley	10.30am	Worship for All
Christ the King	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th November	Yaxley	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
1st Sunday of Advent			***Benefice Advent Rings***
			blessed & first candle lit

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am



Reverend Debbie Nicholls – Rector
rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com ✆ 07762 116 335

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LOCAL INFORMATION

BUS TIMETABLES

GISLINGHAM AND THORNHAM 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

Fairline Bus (Wednesday only – Market Day) to Bury St. Edmunds:
Leaves Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes 09.46 / Gislingham (Shop) 09.46 / Arrives BSE (Bus Station) 10.48. **Returns** from Bury St. Edmunds 13.25 (Bus station) / Gislingham (Shop) 14.32 / Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 14.36.

Fareline Bus 460 (Thursday only) from Eye to Stowmarket
Leaves Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 09.25 / Gislingham (Shop) 09.31 / Stowmarket (Argos) 10.02. **Returns** from Stowmarket (Argos) 12.15 / Gislingham (Shop) 12.45 / Thornham Magna (Four Horseshoes) 12.52.

Simonds Bus 72 (Fridays only) Gislingham (via Thornham) to Diss
Leaves Gislingham Village Hall 09.30 / Thornham Magna Four Horseshoes 09.41 / Diss Bus Station 10.05. **Returns** from Diss Bus Station 13.00 / Thornham Magna Four Horseshoes 13.30 / Gislingham Village Hall 13.35.

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



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



Mobile Library: Gislingham
3 Dec, 31 Dec.
Times:
Broadfields Road: 15.10 = 15.45
Mill St.: 15.50 – 16.05

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Anglian Water Emergency	0800 145145
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Thornham Magna and Thornham Parva - James Fawcett	01379 788130
Citizens Advice Bureau Diss	01379 640530
Clerk (Parish) (Gislingham)	07833 705915
clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com	
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
Rev'd Debbie Nicholls, Rector of South Hartismere Benefice rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com	07762 116 335
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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