The Messenger



Issue 164
October
2025

Serving Gislingham, Mellis and the Thornhams

WINNER
NATIONAL
PARISH
MAGAZINE
AWARDS

THE MESSENGER TEAM



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

Next issue: November 2025
Copy deadline: Monday 13th October

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

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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 October issue!

August Bank Holiday weekend once again saw the annual Gislingham Flower Festival at St. Mary's Church. The event raised a total in the region of £2200. My thanks to Mae-Li for supplying the photos of the flower arrangements, which can be seen in our centre pages.

Wednesday 3rd September saw the Tour of Britain Men's cycling race pass through Thornham Magna and Gislingham. Following my request for reader's photos of the event last month, I couldn't resist choosing this photo by Chris Welstead for our cover photo. Next month, we'll publish a selection of the photos submitted in a 'cycle race' colour spread.

Now, before we know it, Christmas will soon be here! October is the month we always launch our Children's Christmas Artwork competition. There are three age categories and there will be a winner in each age category and the three winning pictures will all appear in the December issue. One will be chosen to feature on the cover. (Full details can be found on page 19).

The magazine may look crammed with posters this month, that's because there is a large number of community events being organised locally in October. Whilst we publish these free of charge for our local community groups and charities, I would like to point out, we have a limited amount of free space each month. Due to collating issues, this issue (68 pages) is the largest number of pages we can publish and our largest issue of the year. We therefore reserve the right to reduce poster sizes to half pages, if necessary, in order to publish them all.

Despite this however, we have not compromised on our regular articles and the local information we publish each month. On page 66, we have updated the local bus timetable information. This reflects the new Thursday bus to Stowmarket via Thornham Magna and Gislingham and the new Friday bus to Diss via Thornham Magna and Gislingham. My thanks to Ian Urwin for providing this information. Similarly, page 5 has been updated with some new local groups' info.

Until next month!



Jeff Norman, Editor e) themessengereditorial@gmail.com

Cover photo: taken in Gislingham by Chris Welstead. Britian's Tour of Britain Men's cycle race.

DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



Saturday 4th October: Book Sale
- Gislingham Village Hall: 10.00am – 12 noon

Tuesday 7th October: Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 10.00am-12.00 mid-day.

Saturday 11th October: Mellis Quiz Night
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 7.00pm. £5.00 each, with teams up to 6. See page 11.

Sunday 12th October: Autumn Fair
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 11.00am – 3.00pm. See page 15.

Sunday 12th October: Mellis Litter Pick
- Mellis Memorial Hall: 11.00am

Wednesday 15 October 2025: Gislingham WI - soup supper.
- Gislingham Village Hall: 7.30pm.

Friday 17th October: Film Night – 'The Salt Path'
- Thornhams Parish Hall: Tickets £6 pay on the door. See page 38

Saturday 18th October: Quiz Night
- Gislingham Village Hall: Doors open at 7.00 pm.

Sunday 26th October: Sunday Breakfast Club – with local artist Reg Siger
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 10.00am. See page 14.

Sunday 26th October: Gislingham Litter Pack
- Gislingham Village Hall: 11.00am – 12.00 noon. See page 12.

Friday 31st October: Preview Night of Art & Craft Winter Show
- Thornhams Parish Hall: 7.00pm – 9.00pm. See page 42.

WHAT ARE THE NEIGHBOUR'S DOING?

Friday 3rd October: Harvest Supper
- Yaxley Village Hall. 7.00pm for 7.30 pm. £10 per head. Tickets: Gill Stone 07976 007630

Saturday 18th October: Quiz Night
- Yaxley Village Hall. 7.00pm for 7.30pm. £2.50 per head. Everyone welcome.

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 November 2025. The "What's On" Diary deadline is: Monday 13th October

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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Tel: 01379 851253

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REBECCA, AMY & EMILY DO ULTRA CHALLENGE



On Saturday 13th September, Rebecca Earle and her sisters Emily and Amy Eade completed one of the Ultra Challenge Series of events, the 25km Thames Bridges Trek.

This year, they decided that they would like to take on a fundraising challenge together, as sisters. Their chosen charity was the British Heart Foundation. This cause is incredibly close to their hearts, and it marks a personal milestone for Rebecca, as it is her first major endurance challenge since undergoing her second open heart surgery five years ago.

To boost their fundraising for this special charity, before the event, they held several cake sales. The first of these was held at their Mum's house, Woodberry in Gislingham. This was at the end of May and was very well supported by local residents and friends. The following month they held another cake sale but this time at Rebecca's house in Bradfield. They then baked even more cakes to take into work and share with colleagues in exchange for donations.

Their 25km trek in September started at Bishops Park and was due to take them and over 2,500 other participants, along the River Thames and over 16 of the bridges that cross it, with a finishing point at Southwark Park. Unfortunately, due to the protests that day, some last-minute adjustments had to be made to the route, so as to avoid the protesters.

After completing the trek, Rebecca said, "We had a wonderful time completing the challenge and despite two torrential downpours, we completed the 25km in 5 hours and 19 minutes. We would like to thank all those who kindly supported our Gislingham cake sale back in May. With your help, we have now raised an incredible £3,446 for the British Heart Foundation! Thank you for being a part of our journey."

If you would like to make a donation to this very worthy charity, please take a look at their JustGiving page: ***www.justgiving.com/page/rebecca-emily-amy***

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New Low-impact Exercise Class coming to Gislingham

FIT VILLAGES

Active Suffolk

Gislingham Village Hall, Mill St, Eye IP23 8JX

Free sessions every Thursday

11:30 - 12:30

The first session starts on **Thursday, 4th September 2025**.

This class is for all abilities and will focus on balance, stability, core strengthening, posture, mobility, muscular strength, low-impact cardio, stretch and relaxation. Something for everyone! *8-week subsidised sessions by Fit Villages. Then hopefully continued by the instructor for years to come!*





BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

To book contact Becky Cruickshank on;
beckycruickshank@btinternet.com

For further information contact **Tyler Beales** on **tyler.beales@eastsuffolk.gov.uk** or **07748 181434**



Chat and Craft Club

Coming soon on first Wednesday of every month



2 hours of crafting and chat - £8 cash

Venue: Gislingham Village Hall

Starting date: Wednesday 1st October 2025

Time: 12pm-2pm



If you are interested please contact Elspeth Tranter on 07473 131 841

Listen and inform
Mellis village meeting

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025
10.00am to 1.00PM

Mellis Parish Council have set a date for a Parish Meeting for the community in the Memorial Hall with a theme of :
'listen and inform'

It is hoped as many people as possible can attend.

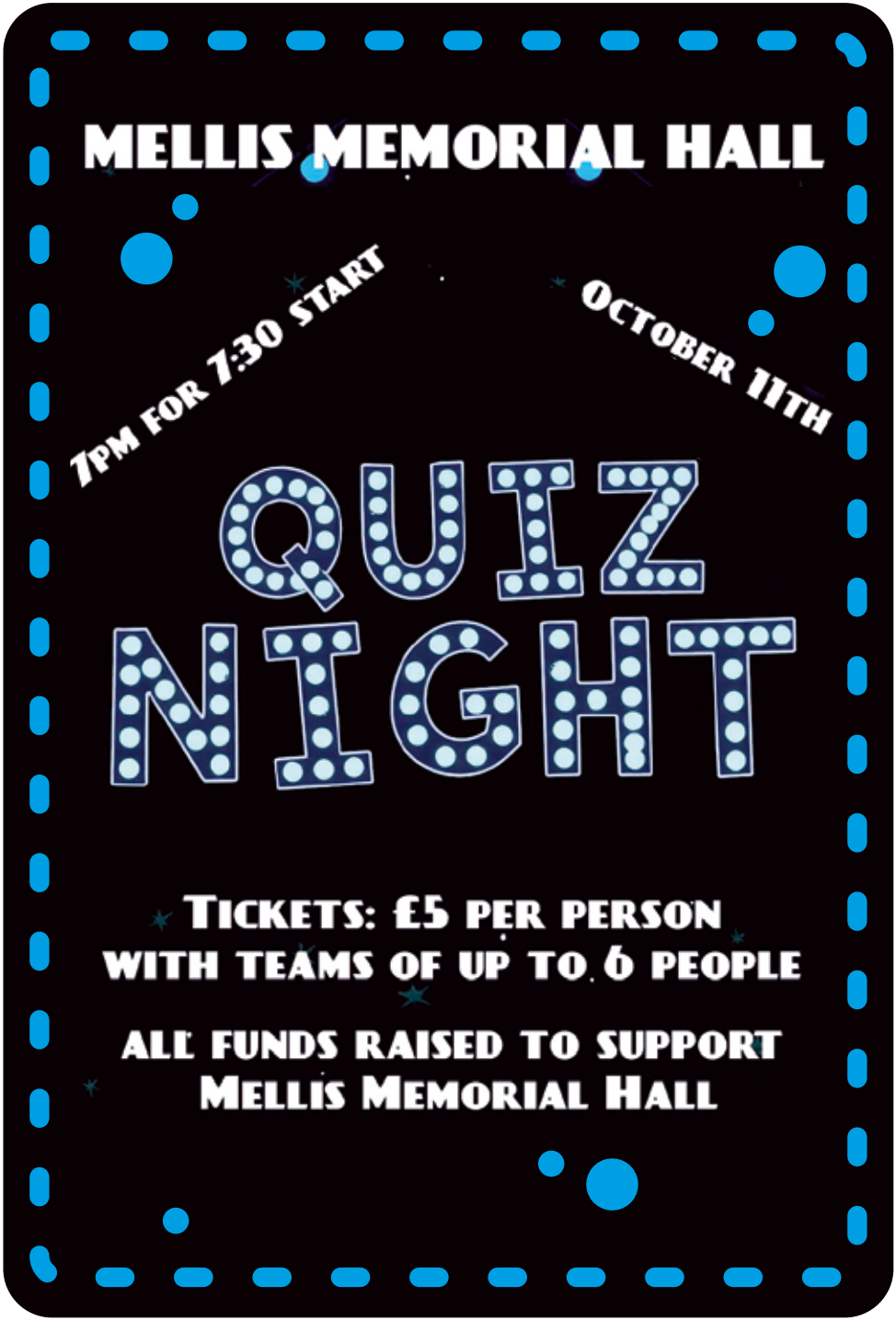
There is a lot to cover including:

- local major infrastructure proposals
- potential biodiversity plan
- community projects

Plus any issues you may want to discuss or raise with the Parish Council.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW ...




MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL
7PM FOR 7:30 START
OCTOBER 11TH
QUIZ NIGHT
TICKETS: £5 PER PERSON
WITH TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE
ALL FUNDS RAISED TO SUPPORT
MELLIS MEMORIAL HALL

GISLINGHAM AUTUMN LITTER PICK SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER



10am start – for approx 1 hour
Please meet at the village hall
Hi-viz, grabbers and bags provided
Refreshments afterwards supplied

We are asking for your continued support on the day, so as 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.

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 18th October: Quiz Night
Doors open at 7.00 pm. Entrance Fee £5.00. Bring your own Food, Drinks and Glasses.
Tickets from Terry Williams: gislinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

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

Saturday 24th 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



Enjoy a delicious breakfast in the warm and friendly atmosphere of our Sunday Breakfast Club together with a talk by local artist Reg Siger

Booking essential at breakfast@thornhams.org

NEWS FROM THORNHAM PARISH HALL



FUTURE EVENTS:

Sunday 12th October: Autumn Fair
11am-3pm – local crafts, homemade cakes, face painting and much, much more. Refreshments available including bacon butties! FREE ENTRY

Friday 17th October: Film Night – 'The Salt Path'
Bookings: films@thornhams.org Tickets £6 pay on the door.

Sunday 26th October: Sunday Breakfast Club – with local artist Reg Siger
10.00am £10. Bookings: breakfast@thornhams.org

Friday 31st October: Preview Night of Art & Craft Winter Show
7.00pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd November: Art & Craft Winter Show
11.00am – 3.00pm. Artists to contact: amandachurch562@gmail.com

Sunday 16th November: Christmas 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 – title to be confirmed
Bookings films@thornhams.org Tickets £6 pay on the door

Friday 12th December: Quiz Night – details to follow

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sit to Stand Pilates (gentle with no floorwork). Classes on Tuesdays 10.00am. £10 per class. Booking is essential.
For further info please visit www.yapl.co.uk or email hello@yapl.co.uk

EveryBody Strong, Stretch, Relax – functional Pilates class with elements of yoga included, suitable for all levels – beginners, returners, existing exercisers. Thursdays 10.00 am. £11 per class. Booking is essential. For further info please visit www.yapl.co.uk or email 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

CLARE COTTAGE, GISLINGHAM

DOWN Memory LANE





Clare Cottage in Coldham Lane is a Grade 2 Listed House.

Historic England listing:

'JH and DH 1622' on fireplace bressumer, altered C20. Timber frame, plastered in panels and weatherboarded. Thatched roof. 2 cells with end stack. 1 storey and attic. Central entrance in a C20 thatched gabled porch, offset brick plinth, C20 2-light lattice leaded casements, 2 raking 2-light dormers. Right end rendered extruded stack, rebuilt cap. Attached to left end a low weatherboarded service outshut with a hipped roof, weatherboarded gable end. To rear a C20 1 storey flat roofed addition.

Interior: stop chamfered fireplace bressumer with original date and initials, also 'EA 1765' and 'TE 1785', chamfered axial binding beam, cranked arched bracing in walls, cambered collars clasp purlins with tension bracing across rafters."

Clare Cottage appears on an early 1800's map as a 'Painters Workshop'. I don't know if it was just that or also a home as well. Early census reports list no name on the single building that appears on Coldham Lane. Nor incidentally, for Coldham House which was added approx. 100 years later. The official listing has Clare Cottage as 1700s.

A Listed Building Officer inspected the cottage some years ago and he felt that the cottage could be 200-300 years older than stated. He pointed out that the roof 'beams' had been cut from tree branches and although, side branches had been removed, the limbs had been left as they were. Nobbles and all. Apparently, this was common practise back in time as no one cared how they looked. Just as long as they held the roof up!

The roof originally was straw and this can be seen in the 1930's black and white photos opposite. At some point it has been changed to Norfolk black water reed and remains so today.





A knock of the door a few years ago by a lady who had lived here as a child, clarified a few things for us:

Why the name change?: Mrs Vernon (the Local Doctor's wife - pictured on the right in front of the cottage) and her two daughters lived here in 1956-58. The house at the time was called Coldham Cottage. It changed to Clare Cottage in memory of Mrs Vernon's best friend who had sadly died of cancer. Philippa (the visitor) looked around the cottage and was staggered to discover 'Beams' everywhere. They'd been wallpapered over when she lived here. Her biggest shock though was the inglenook fireplace. It had been boarded over in her day and she had no idea it existed. Not long after we moved here (2006) one of my older neighbours was telling me about my cottage from years back. She'd been friends with the then owner and one day they'd been looking at cottage and realised that the living room size, didn't match the dimensions of the outside. They decided to investigate. This involved (eventually) knocking down an internal wall! The removal of the wall uncovered the inglenook fireplace. But not just that. Pots, pans, plates with food remains were found around the fire place. Further discoveries included a long dead cat and a shoe inside the chimney. Witches Marks, dates and initials also appeared on the beams.

I wish I could say that we've had some good finds here too. But alas all we have found was some broken clay pipes, a horse tooth and part of a Belemnite fossil (66million years old) when we dug a soakaway "in the front garden". There was also a Well at the side of the cottage.

When we moved here, there were some concrete steps in the garden which appeared to go nowhere. A Neighbour again had the answer. There had been a proper swimming pool in the back garden.

Leigh Smith

Check out on Facebook, the 'Gislingham History Hub' for more archive photos and historical information on the village.

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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 used 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 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.

We look forward to seeing your entry!
The Messenger Committee

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LOCALS NOMINATED AT UK BOOK BLOGGER AWARDS

The Book Party is a non-profit Community Interest Company, founded by author AJ West in October 2021 at the launch of his debut novel, The Spirit Engineer, and play host to two themed parties each year for the book community - both authors and readers.

"The Book Party is a fresh take on literary events: part festival, part social gathering, part networking event. Bringing world-famous and establishing authors together with book influencers and general readers, the party strips away the barriers that traditionally separate authors from readers, creating a unique celebration where everybody is treated like a special guest. We're not a traditional literary festival nor an author Q&A, other events offer those things brilliantly. Instead, we're offering a chance for writers, publishers, and readers to connect in a relaxed, welcoming environment, open to everybody." - The Book Party

From this, The Book Party also launched the 'UK Book Blogger Awards' that occur annually, and are the chance to nominate your favourite bloggers and authors for five different categories and vote for them to win categories.

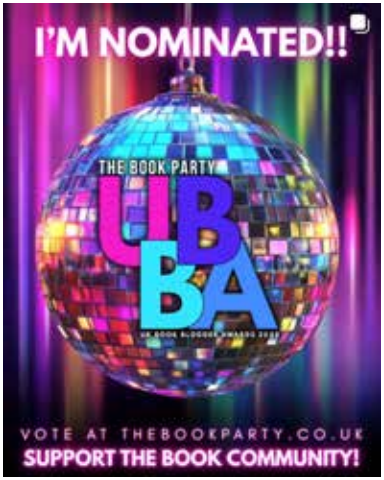


This year, we have some very exciting news here at The Messenger regarding this: local author Mary-Jane Riley (who for many years wrote our Book Review page), has been long-listed for the 'Blogger's Author" category, in recognition of her support towards the book blogging community on Instagram.

Not only this, but our book reviewer, Charlotte Norman, is up for both the 'Creative Excellence' category AND 'Book Blogger of the Year' for her Instagram page (@charlottes.bookblog) which is an incredible achievement and recognition for what she does.

Charlotte said: *"I honestly cannot believe that I am up for this award. It is an honour to be on the long list amongst these incredible fellow bookstagrammers. I have had the privilege of being part of such an incredible online community for 5 years now, and I can honestly say it's one of the best things I've ever done and achieved, and to be recognised in these awards means the world to me.*

I nominate and vote at these awards every year, but never in a million years did I think that I'd make it to the long list myself! I'm also immensely grateful to all of the opportunities that I've had as a result of running my account: the free books I get sent from publishers, the opportunity to write a monthly column for The Messenger magazine and the chance to meet and talk to some incredible authors."



BOTESDALE DENTAL PRACTICE & IMPLANT CLINIC
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We're proud to welcome you to the new home of Botesdale Dental Practice & Implant Clinic, now located in a purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Botesdale. Opened in September 2024, our new practice reflects everything we stand for: quality, accessibility, comfort, and clinical excellence.

Founded in 2010 by experienced dentist Dr. Martin Sulo and managed alongside his wife, Eve Sulo, our family-run clinic continues to offer the same trusted care—now with enhanced space, modern equipment, and cutting-edge facilities designed to support the best in patient care.

Together with our dedicated team— Tasha, Michelle and Isabelle—we've created a warm, friendly

environment that's also fully accessible, thoughtfully designed, and equipped with the latest in dental technology.

At Botesdale Dental, our mission is to deliver high-quality, evidence-based dentistry using the best tools, techniques, and materials available. We stay ahead of the curve through ongoing professional development, working with leading labs, and investing in innovations that ensure patients receive expert, personalised care.

We offer a full range of services, including:

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- Dental implants, surgical procedures, and bone grafting
- Family dentistry – gentle care for children, adults, and older patients

Whether you're a long-standing patient or visiting us for the first time, our new home was designed with you in mind - providing a relaxing space where care is not only clinical, but compassionate.

Now welcoming new patients – come and experience dentistry at its best.





Botesdale Dental Practice & Implant Clinic, The Drift, Botesdale, Suffolk, IP22 1DH

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THE RAILWAY TAVERN

OCTOBER 2025

Thursday 2nd October 7.30pm ***QUIZ NIGHT***

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

Saturday 4th October 8.30PM ***THE ANYONES***

A great night of singalong classics from the 1960's to modern day!

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Saturday 11th October 8.30pm ***KARAOKE DISCO***

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Thursday 16th October 7.30pm ***QUIZ NIGHT***

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

Sunday 19th October 5pm ***THE MOTEL VANDALS***

A jumpin' afternoon of Rock-A-Billy Blues and Rock & Roll.

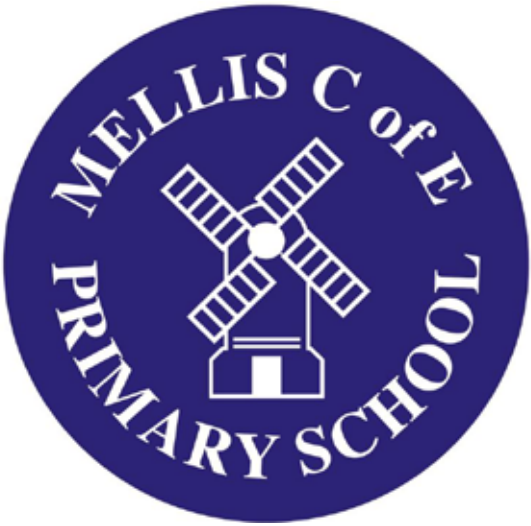
Thursday 23rd October 7.30pm ***BINGO***

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VAN MORRISON – REMEMBERING NOW

MUSIC NOTES

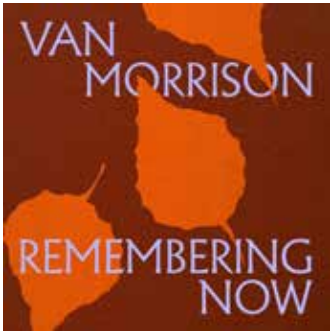


Born in 1945, Van Morrison was feeding off musical greats such as Hank Williams, Jimmie Rodgers, Muddy Waters and Leadbelly when at 13 he was a travelling musician singing, playing guitar and sax in several bands, before forming 'Them' in 1964.

Making their name in Belfast, 'Them' soon established Van as a major force in the British R&B scene. Morrison's matchless vocal and songwriting talents produced instant classics such as 'Gloria' and 'Here Comes the Night'. Then came Van's solo career with the Top 40 hit 'Brown Eyes Girl' in 1967, Moondance (1970) and 'Tupelo Honey' (1971).

Needless to say, awards and accolades followed – a knighthood, a Brit, an Ivor Novello, 6 Grammys, 2 honorary doctorates not to mention the international awards.

Now with one of the most revered catalogues in music history and his unparalleled talents as composer, singer and performer Morrison's achievements loom large. Yet there has never been any suggestion that as one of the most prolific recording artists of his era, he would ever rest on his laurels.



In June, Van released his 47th studio latest album 'Remembering Now', and marks his return to original music with a rich blend of soul, jazz, R&B, blues, folk and country and somehow makes it look effortless. Van not only sings but plays guitar and sax on the album.

I was thrilled by this great new album because I've been a Van Morrison fan for a long time! Since 1990 to be precise! I'd just bought my first CD player and my musical tastes were moving in different directions as I re-vamped my music collection as I started to collect CD's. 'The Best of Van Morrison' was released in 1990 and that was the start of my love affair with "Van the Man". I realised I needed to start paying more attention to his music. I now have 32 in my collection, as I started to discover some of his back catalogue as well as all his new releases from that point. There have been a few disappointments along the way, but not many!

So, back to the present, at 80, his distinctive voice remains as powerful and remarkably emotional as ever. 'Remembering Now' is certainly the best album Van Morrison has released in over 10 years. It is great to see an artist of such legacy and stature continuing to convey their musical passion.

JAN

Author's Rating: ★★★★★ 4/5

GISLINGHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2025

Very many thanks to all those who supported Gislingham Flower Festival 2025. Without all the volunteers, both on the Bank Holiday weekend and beforehand it would have been impossible to stage. Of course, the stars of the show were the exuberant, beautiful, spectacular, artistic and imaginative flower displays in the church. The sights and scents were breathtaking.



Outside, much fun was had trying to herd reluctant ping pong balls into jars that seemed to resent their space being invaded. Very frustrating! In addition, there were opportunities to remember where numbered squares were, guess the number of sweets in a jar, name a rabbit, win a plethora of prizes on the tombola and have a chance of winning £50 for a mere £1 stake on a Treasure Hunt.

Also of course there were many prizes available in the lottery, again with a first prize of £50. In the hall there was a full range of delicious cakes and refreshments available as well as some interesting items on the bric-a-brac tables. There was indeed something for everyone and many visitors commented on how well it all went. Especial thanks are due to Elspeth Tranter for organizing the flower displays again. And of course to Ann Smethurst and Sandra Smith for their herculean efforts organizing the refreshments, helped by the cake makers and all those who helped in the village hall on the three days; and to Jackie Campbell for the cake sale and bric-a-brac stand. For my own part, thanks to the humpers and dumpers for setting everything up on the Friday and returning all to its rightful place on the Monday. Martyn Bryant and his team once again demonstrated how a marquee should be put up!

So, to some of the results. All of the prizes went to people in the village, with Heather Moore taking the first prize of £50 and Di Herbert taking the second prize, a highly cherished special edition Welsh Whisky. The winner of the £50 in the Treasure Hunt was Linda Pettit (but there is strong rumour that her son, Jacob might have had a hand in choosing the successful number).

Regrettably, the numbers of visitors was slightly down compared with 2024 and the financial results reflected the reduced number with approximately £900 going to the PCC and £1330 to FOSM.

Once again very many thanks to all who helped in any way. No doubt planning for FF26 will begin very soon.

Chris Pitt. Chairman FOSM

GISLINGHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2025









Flower Festival photos by: Mae-Li Sun







GISLINGHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2025















GISLINGHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2025










NATURE NOTES by Darrel Charles

Hello everyone and welcome back to Nature Notes

Between 18th July and 10th August, the Butterfly Conservation organisation's annual Big Butterfly Survey took place. Over 125,000 people took part, reporting which butterflies they saw over 15 minutes in any outdoor space.


Red Admiral

Happily, the results of this year's survey are a big improvement over last year's, with most species showing a significant increase in numbers. This is easily explained remembering what a wet spring we endured last year. Those butterflies that showed the biggest increase in numbers over last year include the Common Blue (228%), Painted Lady (207%), Red Admiral (185%), Small Tortoiseshell (141%), Holly Blue (135%), Large White (131%) and Small White (128%). However, those people tasked with analysing these data were disappointed that the number of sightings this year weren't even better, given the particularly good spring and summer we've enjoyed. Over a longer time-frame of 15 years, numbers of many species are reportedly down. Loss of habitat has long been attributed to a steady decline in butterfly numbers, especially those species associated with woodland and farmland. Sadly, this negative trend can be expected to continue in East Anglia as the Great Grid Upgrade pushes on with the installation of new electricity pylons and solar panels. Against these factors what can we do? Well, an obvious thing is to grow more butterfly loving plants in our gardens. Not only is this good for butterflies but also other creatures and our own sense of well-being.


Common Blue


Painted Lady


Small Tortoiseshell

One advantage of the shorter hours of daylight is that opportunities for astronomy have returned at civilised times! I've been dusting down my telescope ready for the new season and re-familiarising myself with the various controls and apps that are now an intrinsic part of the hobby. It may not be old-school, but I do appreciate controlling and monitoring the equipment whilst it is outside on a cold night and I am nice and warm in the kitchen.

As part of my preparations for the new season proper, I've been taking some photos of the Milky Way from my garden. This shot was taken on 12th September at around 9:00pm and shows the Milky Way over my house. During that evening, clouds were passing through, as can be seen on the right of this two minute (4x30secs) photo. This shot did not need a telescope but just my camera fitted with a wide angle lens (11mm on an APSC sensor). The camera was, however mounted on my star tracker to avoid star trails that would otherwise be seen due to the rotation of the earth. When we next have a clear night I plan to repeat this shot with a longer exposure time, hopefully to bring out more detail.



The Milky Way Over Gislingham

One of the astro highlights of October 2024 for me was seeing a comet in the sky over Gislingham. Another such opportunity may come around in early 2026 when the comet designated 24P/Schaumasse will be passing by. The visibility of comets is hard to predict but here's hoping it'll be another stunner!



Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) October 2024

We'll soon be surrounded by autumn colour as the leaves on trees and shrubs turn. Why not make a point of getting out with your camera and taking some photos? And if you do, why not share them in Nature Notes via The Editor?

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.

Thornhams Film Night
Friday, 17th October 7:30pm

Based on the true story of a couple's 630 mile trek along the beautiful but rugged Cornish, Devon and Dorset coast.



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DI'S BOOK BLOG



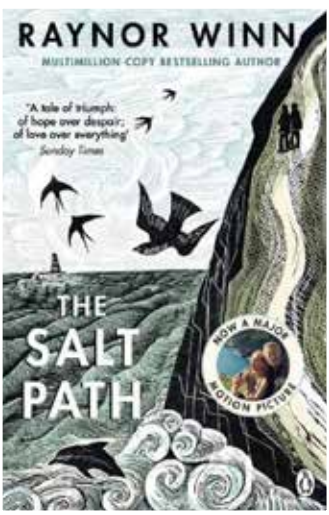
"The Salt Path" by Raynor Winn (2018)



Since the release of the film there has been plenty of news coverage about the truthfulness of the writer's narrative.

This review is not about the writer, but about the book.

Whilst sitting in the cinema waiting for the latest Tom Cruise "Mission Impossible" film to start(!), a trailer for an intriguing film came up. I decided to go and see this film when it was released - "The Salt Path".



I had no idea that it was based on a best-selling book and as I had enjoyed the film so much, I decided to buy said book.

It's a story describing the events leading up to, and then about the struggles financially and physically endured by the writer and her husband, Moth. As well as them being made homeless and destitute, Moth receives a devastating health diagnosis.

So, what do the couple do?

They decide to walk the 630-mile South West Coast path, starting in Somerset and leading round to Dorset. They survive by wild camping using inadequate equipment, and very little income.

A book about just walking for miles and miles, may sound monotonous, but Raynor manages to keep the reader continually interested. Her evocative descriptions of the different coastal scenery are beautiful and atmospheric. You feel you are experiencing all that they see, feel and smell.

Although you are pulled along with their optimism, you feel their despair which rises when looking ahead into their possible future.

There are humorous moments, which are needed, to lighten the ongoing physical and emotional toil. They also meet many interesting characters along the way - mostly kind and helpful.

It could be a very depressing book, but I found it to be a triumphant story of beauty and joy. Personally, I was delighted by the ending.

Di Herbert

If you'd like to go and see the film, it is being shown at Thornhams Parish Hall this month, on Friday 17th October. Bookings: films@thornhams.org Tickets £6 pay on the door.



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

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:
https://gislinghamparishcouncil.com/organisations/gislingham-united-charity/

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Christmas at Kew - 2nd December - £65pp
Bure Valley Railway with Lunch - 3rd December - £69pp
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Ingredients:

- 300g Lamb mince
- 200g Feta Cheese crumbled
- ½ a small red onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp harissa paste
- 1 tbsp dried mint
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 320g sheet of puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds, crushed
- Salt, to taste



Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C fan/ gas 6 and line a baking tray with baking parchment.
2. Add the lamb mince, feta, red onion, harissa, mint, cumin and coriander to a mixing bowl and combine well with your hands. Season with a pinch of salt.
3. Unroll the puff pastry sheet and cut it in half lengthways so you have two long strips. Using your hands, spread half the lamb mix in a cylinder shape along the middle of one of the pastry strips. Brush the edge closest to you with the beaten egg, then lift the other pastry edge over the meat to meet the egg-moistened edge, pressing a fork along the length to seal the two. Repeat with the remaining pastry strip.
4. Cut each long sausage into eight mini ones, then gently lift them onto the lined baking tray. Brush all the beaten egg, then sprinkle over the coriander seeds. Transfer to the oven and bake for 20-35 minutes until golden.





Debbie Norman

A STAYCATION WITH A DIFFERENCE

Instead of a 'Walk for Health' this month, we thought you would like to read about our staycation for Emma's birthday.



Although her birthday was a week beforehand, I told her that her main present hadn't arrived so we agreed to have a night away at the Gin Trap in Ringstead. Well, to put the cat amongst the pigeons, Emma then asked what we would be doing on the way up to Norfolk. I quickly put my thinking cap on and said as the present was coming from Norfolk and would be handed over at the Dabbling Duck at Great Massingham.

Now, I hear you saying, what was the present? Well, back at the beginning of the year, I saw a Facebook post about a donkey sanctuary in Norfolk that organises donkey walks and grooming. I contacted Karen, the owner, to arrange for us to walk two donkeys for an hour in the countryside and then groom some of the others. This was the surprise. Emma loves donkeys, horses and all creatures, so this was a perfect surprise present.

The weather was good so Emma drove her Z4, with the roof down, up to Norfolk. She didn't have a clue where we were going apart from the Dabbling Duck. When we drove past the pub, she questioned where are we going. Karen gave us directions to the donkey compound, but, unfortunately, they were for if you were approaching from the north, not the south, so we went up and down a few times. But we did find it.



We entered the paddock and were immediately greeted by about a dozen donkeys who came over for a fuss. Karen explained that she started by looking after two donkeys and now has rescued many more.

We had chosen Chocky and June as walking companions, so they were loaded into the horse box, or should it be the donkey box? We followed for about a mile and pulled into an off-road area. Chocky and June were off loaded and we walked on a footpath/bridleway at a leisurely pace, stopping every minute for the girls to have a munch at the grass and green growth on the path. We met up with some dog walkers and a jogger with a dog and arrived at Harpley, just opposite the Rose & Crown pub. We walked up the pavement for a short distance and then onto a footpath heading back to where we started. This took about an hour. One of the donkeys was a seaside rescue and, at first, was very upset when kept in the paddock. Karen told us that they decided to take him to the beach one day and he perked up and has been fine ever since.

For more information contact Karen at:
donkeysfortherapyandfun@gmail.com or
https://donkeysfortherapyandfun.co.uk/



Thanking Karen for her time and needing some refreshments, we headed back to Great Massingham to the Dabbling Duck. My son, about 10 years ago, was the Head Chef. Notable regular guests are Kate and William and Sir Alan Sugar. In fact, we saw him when we visited my son all those years ago. He flies into a local small airfield and goes to the pub.

It was too early to arrive at Gin Trap, so we visited Castle Rising castle. I had lived in Norfolk for 18 years and had never visited it, so it was a lovely choice.



Castle Rising castle, built in 1140, is one of the most important 12c castles in England. Although the main roof no longer exists, some of the rooms are still intact. The castle passed to the Howard family 1544 and it still remains in their hands. The current owner is a descendant of William D'Albini II. It is now managed by English Heritage and is definitely worth a visit.



Now off to the Gin Trap. We had a lovely room with a lounge downstairs and a large bedroom and en-suite upstairs. We had a pint and, as it started to rain, utilised the covered area in the back garden. Dinner was an eventful time, the food was okay but a waitress tipped a jug of water over a guest and then bumped into the barman sending a liqueur coffee all over the floor. Fortunately, there were no further incidents at breakfast!

We had decided to follow the coast road up to Holt, passing several pub/hotels that we had stayed in the past, also Holme-next-the-Sea where Sea Henge was discovered in 1998. The Sea Henge dates from 2049bc. We decided to stop on the way at Wells-next -the-Sea. The main street has many independent shops and coffee shops. There were lots of people crabbing from the quay and there is also French's and Plattens is an award winning fish & chip shop near the quay.



We continued our journey to Holt where there is a lovely antique shop opposite Byfords. It has a small entrance but upstairs there are loads of rooms filled with stock.

Emma wanted to visit the recently taken over 'Back to the Garden' by Jarrolds. We found much of it unchanged, there is a deli with local produce, fresh meat counter, plus the restaurant. The menu is smaller than it was previously, but there are many specials and it is open during the evenings.

Finally we had a leisurely journey back home via Dereham, Watton and East Harling.

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Gislingham Village Hall	Wednesdays	10:15am
Westhorpe Village Hall	Wednesdays	12:15pm
Gislingham Village Hall	Thursdays	7:10pm

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TERRAPIN NEWS



Nearly sixty years ago I was in a school assembly listening to the Headmaster talk about "Faith Hope and Love." The Biblical reference is 1 Corinthians 13:13 and is now often rephrased as "Faith, Hope and Charity." He described how James 1st translated the Christian bible from the Greek and how the ancient Greek scribes used one of their six words for love. He was at pains to explain that the scribes didn't use "Eros" passionate love, but "Agape."

"Agape," this is the selfless, unconditional form of love that asks for nothing in return. In the Christian context it is the love of God for humanity and that people are encouraged to show towards one another. Charity I often feel is a rather timid translation.

Perhaps this is a common thread in all religions. In Sikhism we have "Prem" that refers to pure, divine love, love that is directed towards God in the phrase Waheguru – the shock and awe as light/teaching dispels darkness.

The Open University has a free course that is an introduction to UK immigration law and how the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention relates to UK law. To become a refugee, an individual must first successfully claim asylum. Until refugee status is granted an asylum seeker is in limbo, unable to work, housed at the whim of the home office, and dependent on the state's charity for food and the basics of life.

The 1951 UN Convention defines several circumstances that may cause a refugee to seek asylum, I offer just one: "Fear." Fear for one's own safety, one's family, fear on a scale that the only course of action is to uproot oneself from friends, work and country to literally put oneself at the mercy of another country's laws and regulations. Hoping for a new start to one's life away from persecution and threat. A leap of faith.

Our public services are undoubtedly under strain, hollowed out, suffering from 15 years of underinvestment, austerity triggered ironically by the bursting of the US housing market bubble.

There is a shortage of affordable housing, an affordable house is defined as 20% below market value with a covenant to resell at 20% below market value. Mid Suffolk has a planning target of 35% affordable properties from developments over 10 houses. The council developed and marketed 87 affordable houses over the last 12 months, Housing Associations developed many more. The Castleton Grange Development, Eye will provide a total of 53 affordable homes when complete.

However people are still struggling to get on the property ladder, The Independent Newspaper gave the following statistics: Land registry data in England shows that the average house price now costs £286,594 – nearly six times higher than three decades ago. But the average salary has barely more than doubled in that time, from £15,034 to £37,430, while the upfront cash needed for a deposit is more than 10 times greater on average.

Rents are also soaring, by 31% in the past five years alone.

Serco, lease properties on the open market, they have no connection with or impact on Mid Suffolk's affordable housing programme. The families Serco is contracted to house have no impact whatsoever. They are families seeking somewhere free from fear, strangers in, at times, a very strange land.

Rowland Warboys MSDC Councillor, Gislingham Ward

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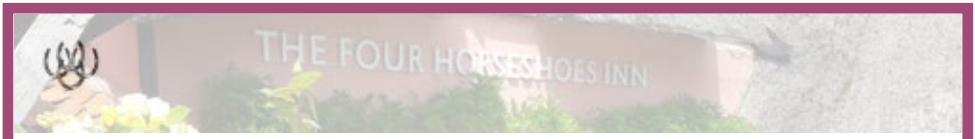
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TIP OFF, RIP OFF!

SCAM ALERT: FAKE PARKING CHARGE NOTICE TEXT MESSAGES



Action Fraud are warning residents to be alert for fake parking fine infringement text messages.

These messages, which frequently claim to be a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN), make a range of claims about 'outstanding', 'unpaid' or 'overdue' fines. Often messages will that 'additional fines and interest', 'vehicle seizures' or 'driving licence suspensions' are a risk if fines are not paid 'immediately'.

These messages are fake and anyone following the link will be taken to a well-presented website which will look to gather personal and financial information.

Genuine PCNs are on physical paper and always include instructions on how to pay or appeal it. If you receive this or any other suspicious text messages you can report them by forwarding the message free of charge to **7726.**

To forward a text message follow these steps

iPhone or iPad:

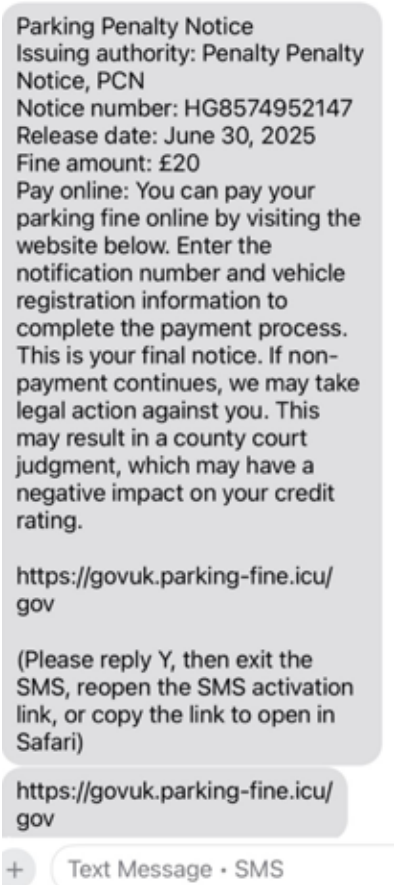
1. Take a note of the number that sent you the message
2. Press and hold on the message bubble
3. Tap More
4. Select the message or messages you want to forward
5. Tap the arrow on the bottom right of your screen
6. Input 7726 and send

Android:

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

If you are unable to forward a suspicious message 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

You can also report suspicious text messages received to us via our partners the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone **0808 223 1133**.



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THE MESSENGER NINE LETTERS QUIZ

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

1. A gryphon had the body of a lion and the head and wings of what type of bird?
2. At what racecourse is the Rowley Mile?
3. What is 500 in Roman numerals?
4. What was the name of the TV series which featured James Bolam as someone who was stuck in hospital?
5. Oporto lies at the mouth of which river?
6. What is the score 111 known as in cricket?
7. Who was the subject of the film Coalminers Daughter?
8. Who is the Greek Goddess of Love?
9. Which city is the capital of Pakistan?
10. The answers are...?

Answers appear on page 63.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

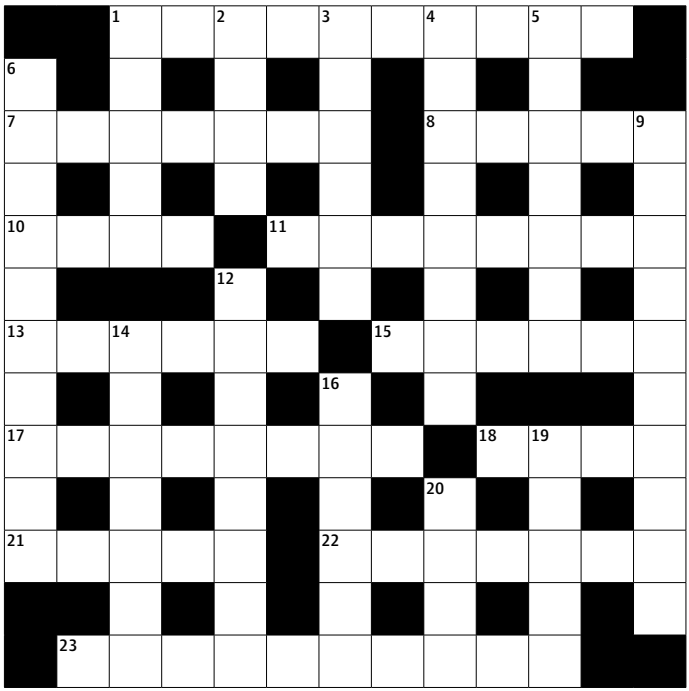
	3			5		1		
9			1					
4		5		2				3
			2				7	
8		7				4		6
	5				8			
3				9		6		5
					2			9
		6		4			8	

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

Last issue solution

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

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

1 Nitwit (5,5)
7 Remove the fastenings from (7)
8 Smallish, colourful songbird (5)
10 Twilight (4)
11 Bright red mineral – ran cabin (anag.) (8)
13 Attractive house, in adspeak (3,3)
15 Somnolent (6)
17 Hallucinatory, altered state of mind (8)
18 Language, source of 'khaki' and 'purdah' (4)
21 Roughneck (5)
22 Complicated geometrical figure or pattern (7)
23 Minuscule (5-5)

Down

1 Dismisses (5)
2 Pb (4)
3 Affluent young banker, e.g. (6)
4 Foot soldiers (8)
5 Medieval weapon (7)
6 Old-fashioned person (5-5)
9 Loud commotion (5-5)
12 Erode (4,4)
14 As salt is in water (7)
16 Hearty laugh (6)
19 Irritable (5)
20 Roué (4)

Last issue solution

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

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NOTICES

HARVEST THANKSGIVING & HOLY COMMUNION



On Sunday October 5th at 10.30a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving & Holy communion will be held at St. Mary's Church Gislingham. Everyone is very welcome. Donations of tinned and packeted goods would be gratefully accepted for the Stowmarket Food Bank.

Anyone wishing to help decorate the church, please come to the church on Friday or Saturday morning between 10a.m. and 11a.m. or contact Ann Cottee on 01-379-788633.

GISLINGHAM ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION (GAGA)

We currently have two vacant plots 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



U3A DISS

The monthly meeting takes place on the morning of the first Thursday of each month at the United Reformed Church in Mere Street, Diss, IP22 4AD. Forty-five minutes are allocated to refreshment, socialising and catching up on the interest groups and notices. This is followed by a talk from an interesting guest speaker.

Our October Meeting is on the 2nd October - Speaker Peter Tatum – World Heritage Sites

Doors open at 9.45am and the meeting commences at 10.30am. Refreshments are available FOC until 10:15am.

Visitors/Non-Members are welcome. We ask for a £3 donation towards refreshments and the speaker.

For information about https://diss.u3asite.uk/

Answers to the Connection Quiz on page 60.

1. EAGLE, 2. NEWMARKET, 3. D, 4. ONLY WHEN I LAUGH, 5. DOURO, 6. NELSON, 7. LORETTA LYNN, 8. APHRODITE, 9. ISLAMABAD. The anagram spells out DANDELION.

SOUTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE



I was recently buying my coffee at the Costa on Liverpool Street Station. I presented my re-usable cup and my Costa card. 'Ah' said the assistant with heavy irony, 'your loyalty card'. She pointed out that my cup was from Starbucks, and had a cardboard sheath from Caffè Nero: 'I see that you are loyal to all your coffee shops,' she said.

It was a fair point, and it reminded me of a poem by the Victorian poet Ernest Dowson in which, lying in the arms of new lovers, he cannot suppress memories of his old love. At the end of each stanza, he addresses her: "I have been faithful to thee, Cynara! in my fashion."

Clearly, he believed that even just thinking about her was a sign of fidelity: loyalty, it appeared, was an elastic concept.

Actually, the idea of a loyalty card is a strange one. Who is being loyal to whom? We are told that a major reason why supermarkets, in particular, issue them is to build up a picture of individual customer's buying choices, a picture which can then shape their marketing strategy. Amazon customers are often made aware of this, even without loyalty cards. Some years ago, when my grandchildren were very small, I realised that Amazon's idea of my tastes was: Anglican liturgy - Wagner operas - disposable nappies

All this set me wondering whether loyalty is necessary a virtue at all. In the case of those who served the German Third Reich - to take an obvious, if extreme, example - giving unquestioning loyalty to party and state was not held subsequently to excuse complicity in war crimes. It is the object of the loyalty which is key. When the theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was associated with the plot to assassinate Hitler, he was clearly acting disloyally as a citizen, but (it could well be argued) in conformity with deeper laws of justice and humanity - if you like, in loyalty to the purposes of God.

When is loyalty unequivocally a good thing? Maybe only when it's experienced as unconditional love and faithfulness. One instance might be the uncompromising love of a parent for a wayward child - love that is not blind to faults, and is grieved by them, but which won't stop loving. Or perhaps it's the wronged partner in a relationship, who still finds the grace to love, despite what has happened, and despite the pain endured. I guess that what I am describing is how we imagine God - God who has no need of loyalty cards, because he knows us to the core, but whose faithfulness is unflinching, and who goes on loving us, despite, and despite, and despite.

Time for a coffee! ***(Rev'd) Alan Harding***

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SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER			
16th Sunday after Trinity	Gislingham	10.30am	**Harvest Festival** with Holy Communion
	Thorndon	3.00pm	Harvest Festival and Re-commissioning of Elders
SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER			
17th Sunday after Trinity	Thornham Parva	10.30am	**Harvest Festival** with Holy Communion
	Stoke Ash	3.00pm	**Harvest Worship for All** with refreshments
SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER			
18th Sunday after Trinity	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
	Mellis	10.30am	Worship for All
	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT
SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
Last Sunday after Trinity	Yaxley	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Thornham Magna	4.00pm	**Harvest Evensong**

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am



Celebrating the "Hallows" of Hallowe'en?

The sights, sounds and splendour of the Latin Mass for the Saints

Saturday 1st November, 6pm at St Mary's, Thornham Parva

Now we are in meteorological autumn, nights draw in, shop shelves fill with witches, skeletons and cobwebs, and the Hallowe'en season begins to stir. But long before pumpkins and trick-or-treating, this was the time when the Church turned its thoughts to the company of the saints in heaven - the "hallows". The English word "hallow" is still in regular use as a verb, but "hallow e'en" uses it as a noun - the eve of the feast of the "hallows", or Saints. The word derives from the Old English Halig - similar to the modern German Heilige (Holy). It is coincidental that the saints depicted on the famous altarpiece at Thornham Parva are each also sporting a Halo - as that's Greek.

All Saints' Day, on 1st November, is one of the oldest and grandest festivals of the Christian year where thanks are given to those who, through their faith and example, have shone as beacons of holiness. In the medieval imagination, the saints were not distant figures, but powerful companions and intercessors—friends in heaven who could bring our prayers before God. The Middle Ages celebrated this feast with great solemnity and splendour: choral music rising to the rafters, clouds of incense, rich vestments and ritual, all within the glowing setting of parish churches lit by candlelight.

Following the success of last year's Mass for All Souls, Canon Paul Andrews will return to Thornham Parva on 1 November, along with the Schola Thornhamensis, to celebrate Mass for All Saints' Day, with authentic music, vestments and liturgy, in the perfect setting of our thatched medieval church and its world-renowned medieval retable.

We invite all who wish to come and share in this unique experience—to step back in time, to savour the beauty of worship as our ancestors knew it, and to join the timeless celebration of the saints in glory.

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



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Fridays at Village Hall:
12.15 – 14.15



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Broadfields Road: 15.10 = 15.45
Mill St.: 15.50 – 16.05

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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
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