

Finningham Newsletter

January - February 2017



Also find us online



Friends of Finningham



www.finningham.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Social Amenities Committee

Chairman	Colin Winter	01449 781372
Secretary	Kelly Worger	07745 508089
Treasurer	Beryl Allen	01449 781132
Marquee Bookings	Ian Armstrong	01449 780215
	Mobile:	07879 670949
'49' Club	Bob Storey	01449 781651
Newsletter Editors	Richard & Lorraine	01449 781048
	Email: newsletter@finningham.com	
Website	Tony Kilbee	01449 781075
Other members	Mick Cattermole	01449 781589
	Nick Garner	

Parish Council

Chairman	Tony Kilbee	01449 781075
Parish Clerk	Natalie Hill	07802 492495
	Email: finninghamparsclerk@gmail.com	

Parish Footpath Wardens

John and Beryl Allen 01449 781132

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Andy Brownlie 07795 078125

Police

Safer Neighbourhood Team	01473 613500
Crime Reduction Officer	01473 613500
Emergency	999
Non Emergency	101
Crime stoppers	0800 555111

Doctors

Mendlesham	01449 767722
Bacton Manor Farm Surgery	01449 781777
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295



WEBSITE

Finningham Website

If you have any information, article or photos that you think would be of interest for the site, please send your copy to

webmaster@finningham.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Dog Club

The response has been good for setting up a dog club.

The plan is to start in January and meet weekly/fortnightly for fun and games with the dogs. Owners can share concerns and swap ideas and advice with each other, training needs and work together towards well trained sociable dogs. Eventually build up to maybe agility and other ideas.

Can people please email me ideas of what they would like to get from a dog club and when and how often the meet ups should be.

Thank you kindly

Andy

Email me at andy@inspirehomeandgarden.co.uk



STOP PRESS

We need your contributions

We are looking for contributions for the next issues, so if you have any thing you would like including e.g. upcoming events, pictures, art, observations, points of view etc. we would love to receive them.

Please email them to **newsletter@finningham.com**

The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is the **17th February 2017**

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Finningham White Horse

Opening times

12 noon – 11.00pm (Monday to Saturday)

12 noon – 10.30pm (Sunday)

Find us online

Facebook search “Finningham White Horse”

Every Tuesday

4.00pm - 7.00pm Fish & Chip van

Second Friday of the month

Karaoke from 8.00pm

Last Sunday of the month

Cheese 'n stuff from 2.00pm

bring something, eat something

Pub Quiz from 8.00pm

FROM THE CHAIR

A brighter Finningham

As I write this in December just approaching Christmas, I have now been leaving Finningham in the dark and returning long after sundown for the last two months. It is a pleasure to see a range of different Christmas lights whilst driving through the village. Even in the far flung outposts such as Rob Hall corner, residents have made a real effort to brighten up our village for these dark weeks in the year.

At FOF we have made a small contribution by lighting up a couple of small trees outside the church. Our thanks go to J. Lawes for the generous discount. My challenge to Finningham is to see if we can make a greater effort to brighten up the village next December. Thankfully modern LED lights use hardly any electricity so even a mean old Scrooge like me can't really complain.

The older residents Christmas meal was held a couple of weeks ago and was a great success. At FOF we want to continue with this event into the future, so please support our fundraising events over the next year.

Colin Winter

Chair, Friends of Finningham

From the Editors

Well that's the end of 2016, it has been an interesting year outside of the centre of the universe, more commonly known as Finningham. We have had Brexit, Trump, wars, refugee crisis, political uncertainty and loss of some legendary talent (not in any particular order of importance).

However with a new year brings optimism and that gets me asking what will 2017 hold, who knows, but with a bit of luck we will all see.

That said we wish you all an amazing New Year, 2016 wasn't all that bad with some fantastic events around the village - the Queens birthday celebrations, garage sale, seniors lunch, Finn fest, Christingle and the history group to name a few.

Anyway we hope you have had a great Christmas and are looking forward to 2017, so keep warm and take care.

Richard & Lorraine



EVENTS AND NOTICES



Coffee Caravan

Venues and dates for winter months

3rd January	Val Rowell's House Hosted by Val Rowell
7th February	Holly Cottage Walsham Road Hosted by Dilys & John Sewell
7th March	In the Church Hosted by David & Marion Bell



TEA @ BART'S

2.30 - 4.30pm

Held in St Bartholomew's Church on the
3rd Tuesday of every month.

We are always looking for new faces.

Let's make Finningham

a welcoming and social place to live.

COFFE MORNING AND BOOK SALE LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

St Bartholomew's Church

10.30 - 12.00

Come along and have a coffee and try some of the cakes the
ladies of Finningham bake.

Plenty of books to choose from and bring along any books you
have read and would like to donate to our growing library.

Why not bring a friend or neighbour with you and meet other
people who live in the Village.

EVERYBODY WELCOME

GISLINGHAM WI

70 years strong

At our AGM in November, after 4 years as our president, Dilys Sewell stood down and I have taken over the job. Big shoes to fill but with the help of the Committee I shall do my best.

Gislingham WI is now into it's 71st year, having celebrated our 70th birthday and Christmas at a party held in the Village Hall. 50 people attended and we had a sit down meal, followed by great entertainment.

2017 starts with our first meeting on Wednesday 18th January when we pay our Annual subscriptions of £39. We are hoping to see some new faces in the New Year when you will certainly be given a very warm welcome. We have a jam packed programme planned and some outings which will be announced throughout the year.

Do come along and visit for a taster for £4. There is no obligation to join but you may find you like us and would like to be part of a worthwhile organisation.

Here's to a great 2017. Aileen Kilbee President – Gislingham WI

LIVES REMEMBERED

Geoff Meads - 17th August 1930 to 1st November 2016

A keen supporter of a number of charities, and a real gentleman of the old school, Geoff Meads has passed away. Lately of Kent House in Gislingham Road, he was 86 and had spent the last 27 months at Baylham Care Centre near Needham Market. This followed a major stroke he suffered the day after losing his beloved wife and soulmate, Angela in August 2014. They had been married 42 years. Angela had previously suffered a stroke which limited her movement and confined her to a wheelchair at home for two years. Geoff became her carer, with help four times a day, new arrangements which naturally greatly disturbed their former life.

Longer term villagers may remember the couple walking around the village with their family, two white Westies called Angus and Fergus, their "boys". Geoff loved his pipes, his whiskies, his music, the Royal Family and politics. Both he and Angela enjoyed Prime Minister's Question Time and keenly involved themselves, offering their own opinions loudly.

Geoff's funeral took place at Risby on 9th December. The couple bequeathed their entire estate to their favourite charities, the RNLI, RSPCA, Blind Veterans, and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Thanks to Val Rowell and Rita Plummer for their assistance.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Finningham History Group

What have we been up to this year?

The group has been out and about with

- A walking tour of Diss
- A Finningham village walk in a summer evening guided by Peter Overall.
- Guided visits to Christchurch Mansion and the Transport Museum in Ipswich



Events for Winter 2017

Finningham History Group

(11th January @ 7.30pm Finningham White Horse)

General meeting to include

- Visits /Events for 2017
- Presentation on 1939 Finningham Census
- Video of Ipswich Remembered



Bacton & Cotton History Society

(meetings 7.30pm Bacton Village Hall)

- January 17th Zeppelins over Suffolk. A Talk by Mark Mower on the Zeppelin raid on Theberton in 1917
- February 21st Kemps Jig. A story told with live music of Will Kemp's Morris dance from London to Norwich in 1578

Wickham Skeith History Group

(meetings 7.45pm Wickham Skeith Village Hall)

- 18th January Mike & Seonaid Forrester's engaging presentation of life in the US in the 19th century entitled "On the Trail". Was there more to being a cowboy than beans & coffee? Mike & Seonaid will be answering that & other questions in authentic costume, with a chance to sample some food & drink of the time.
- 15th February Peter McGee & Graham Mack from Elmswell History Group talking about "The Lost Aerodrome" - the WWI aerodrome near Elmswell.
- 15th March Joyce Kimber talking about "Life Upon the Wicked Stage"

EVENTS AND NOTICES



WICKHAM SKEITH GARDENING CLUB

ALL MEETINGS HELD

IN WICKHAM SKEITH VILLAGE HALL

UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE

JANUARY MEETING – NO MEETING

FEBRUARY MEETING – 7.30 PM TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Short AGM followed by an interesting presentation on 'Snowdrops' from Ben Potterton, Blacksmiths Nursery. This is sure to be very entertaining!!

BOOK REVIEW

A Prisoner of Birth - by Jeffrey Archer

This is a story about a young man, Danny Cartwright, who is accused, charged and found guilty of murdering his best friend when they were out celebrating his engagement to his best friend's sister at a wine bar.

There is no doubt about his innocence but when four prosecution witnesses are a barrister, a popular actor, an aristocrat and the youngest partner in an established firm's history, who is going to believe his side of the story.

Danny is sentenced to 22 years and is sent to Belmarsh prison, the highest security jail in the land, from where no inmate has ever escaped.

But everyone has underestimated Danny's determination to seek revenge and his fiancée's relentless quest to win justice.

It is apparent that Jeffrey Archer has used his own personal experiences to put together a very enjoyable story.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

The Finningham Church Christingle/ Nativity Play

We rolled back the centuries on Sunday 11th December at Saint Bartholomew's when the church once again became the beating heart of the village. The church had never been so full for a service since the eighteenth century – and in those days you were fined if you didn't go to church! And the reason we were all there was to witness the children presenting a most charming and moving re-enactment of the Nativity story.

Hugh was the guiding star who led us all to the stable where Lucy (Mary) and Jesper (Joseph), not forgetting Charlotte, their Donkey, displayed the new-born Christ child in his manger.

A host of Angels, led by Emma (Gabriel) and including Mary, Stella and Georgina warned the shepherds Alex and Eleanor, then led the three kings, Charlie, Tiggy and Otterly to the scene where they presented their gifts and worshipped.

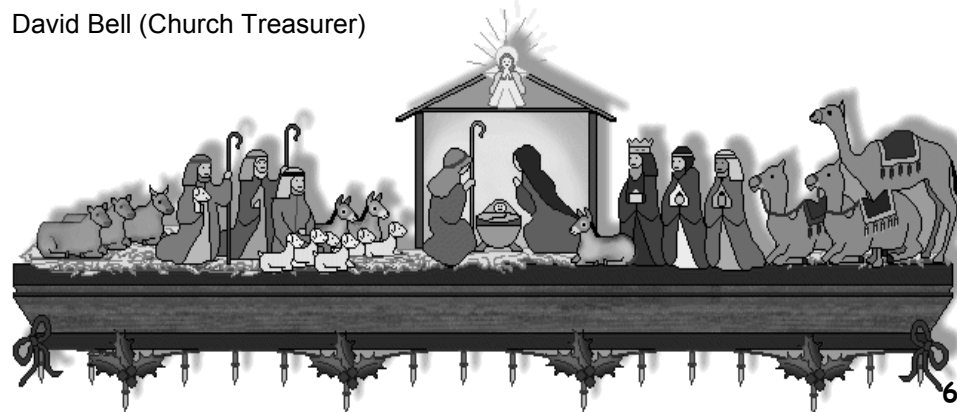
After the prayers for the children of the world and the work of the Children's Society (the collection raised £213.42p for the charity) led by Andrew, the children took their lighted Christingles and paraded down the nave and around the font to welcome Jesus, "the Light of the World" into our midst.

Such was the interest and excitement among the congregation that Lily and Pauline, our "refreshment ladies", were rushed off their feet to serve the many who stayed behind after the service to enjoy tea and biscuits (and a few sweeter things!).

Heartfelt thanks are due to Marion, who wrote and narrated the script and directed the children, and also to Di Barker and "The Open the Book Project" who very kindly lent us the costumes and many props.

We all now look forward to next year when we hope that the children will once again entertain us and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas

David Bell (Church Treasurer)



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

The Year at St Bartholomew's Church

Having decided that the church must play more of a part in the community of Finningham, we are very happy to report that 2016 opened a new era in the life of this venerable old building. The cafe/booksale, organised and run by the "Friends of St Barts" has gone from strength to strength, not only raising much-needed funds for the church, but proving to be a very popular monthly social gathering. Furthermore, certain improvements to the facilities offered in the font area have resulted, such as the carpet, kindly donated by the Elliots, electric fan heaters donated by Kay and curtains provided by Val, so that we are well on the way to making the area more cosy and homely.

In terms of the church services, much progress has been made in attracting more villagers into our "happy band of pilgrims". The Festival services, such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Day, have attracted attendances in the region of fifty, almost filling our little church, a wonderful sight to see. And we have had TWO weddings, one of which so filled the church that it was a case of "standing room at the back".

The Flower Festival was as popular as ever and, although this was our main fundraiser, we were immensely grateful to all those villagers, largely non-churchgoing, who responded to our standing-order appeal. As a result, our Fabric Fund, dedicated to maintaining the church building and paying for the insurance and repairs bill, is in a very healthy position, sufficient to ensure the continuance of the church for the immediate future. Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed! **David Bell, Church Treasurer**

FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEWS, FINNINGHAM

SUNDAY 15th January, 10am
HOLY COMMUNION with REV PAM. ROBSON
Followed by Refreshments

SUNDAY 29th January, 9.30am
MORNING PRAYER with Andrew Strickland
A tranquil half hour of prayers and hymns

SUNDAY 19th February, 10am
HOLY COMMUNION with IAN JACKSON
Followed by Refreshments

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2016

Spirits were high

After two years of poor support, it was very gratifying to see the wonderful attendance at the latest Finningham Seniors' Christmas Dinner. Held at the White Horse, Stoke Ash, over 40 members of the community were treated to first class traditional Christmas fare. Spirits were high and everyone agreed that it was a great way to start off the festive season.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



HEATHERS

Soft Furnishings Limited

Quality without compromise

Curtains, upholstery, loose covers and materials. Providing quality furnishing for more than 25 years, Heathers soft Furnishing Ltd hand craft unique items for home décor and for commercial and domestic clients in East Anglia. We are a family run business located in Stowmarket



We are open Monday - Saturday (9am to 5pm)

[Www.heatherssoftfurnishings.co.uk](http://www.heatherssoftfurnishings.co.uk)

To arrange a consultation call 01449 612 502

Suffolk Computers

Our locally based computer engineers offer friendly and technical assistance for all your computing needs



Free Diagnosis

Site visits

Upgrades

NO fix NO fee

Tel: 01449 782195 / 07834 709970

Email: sales@suffolkcomputers.co.uk

Website: www.suffolkcomputers.co.uk

Bacton Solutions Ltd.

Pest Control Services



Professional **pest controllers** of public health and nuisance pests

- Rats and Mice,
- Flies (including Cluster Flies)
- Wasps, Fleas and Ants
- Moles and Pigeons

Tel: 01449 782195 / 07834 709970

Email: sales@bactonsolutions.co.uk

Website: www.bactonsolutions.co.uk

MARQUEE & TABLE HIRE

Friends of Finningham have the following for loan.

Marquee	- 40ft x 13ft (12m x 4m)
Festival Tent	- 22ft x 16ft (6.8m x 5m)
Party Marquee	- 20ft x 10ft (6m x 3m)
Folding tables	- 6ft x 2½ft (1.8m x 0.8m)

Below are suggested donations - Held at last years level again.

Marquee	£60	Village residents	£70	non residents
Festival Tent	£70	Village residents	£80	non residents
Party Marquee	£30	Village residents	£40	non residents
Folding tables	£5	Village residents	£6	non residents

A refundable deposit of £100 is required.

Loan period is normally up to four days and delivery and collection by arrangement

Further information available at the point of hire, for enquires and bookings please contact

Ian Armstrong - 01449 780215 or 07879 670949

We do not have an erecting service therefore it is the hirer's responsibility to provide sufficient labour to erect and dismantle marquees under the supervision of a FOF member.

Terms and conditions apply.



NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

URGENT!

It has come to my attention that there has been a spike in burglaries in Diss specifically but in general, all over.

This is that time of year when evenings are dark and we all have new products in our homes so I have put together some tips to keep your homes safe this winter.

Get your lights on timers so they come on while you are out when its dark.

Leave a radio on but choose a station with lots of talking not music.

Ensure window locks are used and remove the keys.

Make sure your sheds and garages are locked and secured. Sheds are a particularly soft target yet are filled with power tools, mowers and the like.

Keep an eye on neighbours houses especially if you know no-one is home.

Lock your side and back gates so no-one can get into your back garden. train brambles, roses etc. to grow along the top of the fence to put anyone off climbing over. Carpet gripper rods (that hold your carpets down) can be nailed to the top of your fence. No-one will want to climb over with those on there and if anyone asks, they are there to keep squirrels out the garden....

Don't leave valuables on show in your home. Handbags, laptops, games consoles and jewellery are all easily carried away and a temptation. hide them away from sight.

Don't leave valuables on show in your car when shopping. Buying presents, taking them to your car and going back to the shops again is asking for trouble. Hide them in your boot and check to see if anyone is watching.

Finally if you see anyone who looks suspicious then call 101 or if a crime is taking place dial 999.

Despite the police having little interest in Neighbourhood Watch now I am still continuing as coordinator so if you are not sure and just want someone to pop round to give advice on security or someone is hanging around and you want someone to come round and speak to them, feel free to call or text me on 07795 078125.

If you have any more security tips please feel free to post them on here and help your neighbours beat the burglars.

Have a safe and happy Christmas everyone



NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council News

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all. Hopefully, it will be a good one with all your dreams and wishes coming true.

As the Council move into 2017, we hope that we have served the Village the best we can with the resources available to us. We have a very limited amount of money to do all the projects we would like to and therefore, we have to try and prioritise them. One aspect that has been brought to our notice this year is the number of trees which required attention (and therefore, money spent on them). Many of them are getting old and require minor surgery to prevent them being a danger to passers-by.

Taking the slide out of service due to rot in the timbers was a big blow, especially as a new one costs in the region of £4000. We are still endeavouring to obtain a grant for this but it is a long and uphill battle.

Quite a while ago, we experimented with a Parish Council Surgery in the Pub on a Saturday morning, once a month. This was a dismal failure so, it was discontinued. However, we intend to resurrect it for a 6 month trial period at the Book & Coffee Sale, held in the Church on the last Saturday of the month. There will be at least one Councillor in attendance who will be available to take note of any questions and comments (good or bad) you have. Please come and talk to us; it is the only way we know if we are on the right track!



David Foster Heating

Local Heating & Plumbing Engineer

Boiler Servicing & Repairs
Boiler & Central Heating Installations
Water Softeners, Pumps, Valves &
Programmers fitted
Gas Appliance Installations
General Plumbing & Bathrooms

Tel: 01449 781477

Mobile: 07979 505618

e-mail: davidfosterheating@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Council

I write this in response to a recent question posed by a local resident – “What does the Parish Council do?”

A parish council is a civil local authority and is the first tier of local government. They are elected bodies, have variable tax raising powers, and are responsible for areas known as civil parishes.

All meetings are open to members of the public, in fact they are encouraged to attend, so you could find out by coming along to the next meeting. In the meantime, a good council:

- Plays a vital part in representing the interests of the community it serves
- Improves the quality of life of local people and the local environment
- Influences other decision makers, for example, in planning matters
- Delivers services to meet local needs
- Works with other groups in the community to develop the community and provide better services to the electors

We make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the community. Probably the most common topics are planning matters, crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

In Finningham, we have responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard, cemetery, village green, footpaths and byways; provision of litter, dog waste and salt bins. We provide and maintain recreational facilities (children’s play area, picnic benches), the war memorial, village sign and flagpole.

Councillors work to a Code of Conduct (often referred to as The Nolan Principles) which are: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, Leadership and Stewardship.

Meeting agendas and minutes can be found in the village notice board and on the village website www.finningham.com

Further information can also be found at www.gov.uk

Dilys Sewell (on behalf of Finningham PC)

GREY MATTER MOVERS

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

HEALTH TIPS

Do your bones tell you when bad weather’s on the way? Is your arthritis worse in winter?

With freezing temperatures and coughs and sneezes around, it’s important to take care of yourself. Especially if you have a chronic illness.

Do you have asthma or bronchitis? Remember to see your nurse or doctor for a winter action plan to manage your condition.

Feeling low during the dark December days? Get support from friends and family. Go out for walks in the sunshine.

More top tips

Here’s a few for you. Walk like a penguin. Yes really—it’s the safest way to avoid falling in icy weather.

And when you’re driving, apart from planning your journey and checking your route in advance of course, carry sunglasses in your car for that low winter glare.

Finally, don’t forget to wash your hands regularly. Good hygiene is quick, simple and the best way to help protect yourself from colds and flu, and, of course, the winter vomiting bug norovirus

49+10 BONUS BALL CLUB RESULTS

Congratulations to the following winners:

<u>Date drawn</u>	<u>Ball number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
1 st October	55	Lucy Owen
8 th October	27	Lesley Holland
15 th October	53	Vacant
22 nd October	23	Vacant
29 th October	42	Vacant
5 th November	27	Lesley Holland
12 ^h November	8	Ian Armstrong
19 th November	40	Aileen Kilbee
26 th November	17	Lily Elsey
3 rd December	31	Mary Webb
10 th December	20	Rita Leggett

The Bonus Ball Club provides the only regular income for Friends of Finningham to provide amenities, including the cost of printing this newsletter and support to projects for young and old within the village.

There are 11 vacant numbers available and they keep on winning

The available numbers are : **23, 28, 37, 38, 42, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57 & 58** to take up one, call or email Bob Storey

Telephone 01449 781651 or

Email robert.b.storey@gmail.com



PARISH COUNCIL

Your Finningham Parish Councillors are:

Chairman: Tony Kilbee, 01449 781075

The Old Chapel, Walsham Road, Finningham, IP14 4JG

Vice-Chair: Mary Webb, 01449 781628

Kimberley, Gislingham Road, Finningham, IP14 4HY

James Downie

St. Edmunds House, Broad Road, Bacton, IP14 4HP

James Miller, 01449 781265/07860 382816

Rob Hall, Walsham Road, Finningham, IP14 4JL

Dilys Sewell, 01449 782978

Holly Cottage, Walsham Road, Finningham, IP14 4JN

James Black, 01449 782965

Black Horse Barn, Walsham, Road, Finningham, IP14 4JN

Catherine Winter, 01449 781372

Holly Howe, Westhorpe Road, Finningham, IP14 4TW

Clerk : Natalie Hill, 07802 492495

Elmer Farm, Walsham Road, Finningham, IP14 4JN

Parish Council Meetings are held at

St Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7.30pm.

Dates of future meetings:

On every 2nd Tuesday of the month except for December and August, when there are no meetings

Annual Parish Meeting which is held in May on the same evening as the Parish Council meeting



SEASONAL LOWDOWN



The legend of St Valentine

The history of Valentine's Day and the story of its patron saint is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognises at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realising the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to his reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial, others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianise" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

MAKE AND DO

Christmas Pudding Wontons

You have, no doubt, already read many ideas as to how you can use up left-over turkey but what about the half eaten Christmas pudding?

Here is an idea that you may find useful.

Ingredients

- Christmas Pudding
- Filo pastry
- Chopped nuts/dried fruit/glacé cherries

1. Soak the dried fruit in any left over festive drinks.
2. Cut the filo pastry into squares approximately 6 inches x 6 inches (I know, that has given my age away!)
3. Take four squares of the filo pastry and brush with melted butter. Stack up on top of each other to form a star.
4. Crumble the Christmas pudding and mix in your choice of nuts and/or dried fruits. (To make the mixture lighter you can add some chopped apple or tangerine).
5. Form into small balls and place in the centre of the filo pastry. A glacé cherry in the middle adds an extra touch.
6. Fold the two top layers of filo pastry to form a parcel. Bring the other filo layers up to form a wonton.
7. Brush with melted butter and bake at 170°C (fan 160°C) for fifteen to twenty mins until golden brown.
8. Enjoy with cream, crème fraîche or custard.

David Wadlow

BUSINESS ADVERTISING

From £3 per newsletter

Supply your advertising copy by the 17th February.

£3 quarter page, £5 half page, £10 whole page.

Contact Richard Groundwell on 07969314141 or

email: adverts@finningham.com

THANK YOU

Charity Flowers

Pauline Goddard would like to thank all those who have purchased flowers, beans etc. from the table by The Wickham Skeith road last summer. The total this year is £260 and this money has been donated to two charities.

£130 has been sent to **Prostate Cancer UK** to assist in their development programme for a MRI test which should be more accurate than present methods.

Also £130 has been sent to **The East Anglian Air Ambulance**.

This makes a total of £1090 raised over the last 4 years.

Many thanks once again, this money has benefitted two worthwhile charities and hopefully with good weather, flowers will be available during 2017 and as usual all monies raised will be donated to charity.

4 SEASONS

Deer Watch

We have a muntjac that likes to sleep in a quiet corner of the garden, it is often on the lawn as night falls. I think we might need something stronger than butterfly netting to protect our cabbages in the spring – but so far our new friend has done no damage. These little deer come from tropical south Asia but have made themselves very much at home in England, they are now pushing north into Scotland. As well as being only dog-sized they are unusual in other ways, for example the bucks have short tusks (as well as antlers) which are effective weapons, and the fawns can be born at any time of year (there is no rutting season).

Whose idea was it to have Christmas in the middle of winter? Where I come from they have the sense to do it in the summer holidays, it is so much easier then. Mind you for those who aren't into rugby the "bleak midwinter" can get boring. Let's move it to mid-June, I shall put it to the local chapter of Dangerous Nutters Anonymous (they were cool toward Finningham Mean Time, very disappointing).

Let's have a referendum!

All the very best for Christmas and the New Year, Ian Armstrong



2016 FINNINGHAM PHOTO EVENTS



WHAT'S ON - JANUARY 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3 Coffee Caravan Fish and Chips	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Parish Council Mtg. Fish and Chips	11 Finningham History Group	12	13 White Horse Karaoke	14	15 St. Bart's Holy Communion
16	17 Bacton & Cotton History Society Tea @ Bart's Fish and Chips	18 Wickham Skeith History Group Gislingham WI	19	20	21	22
23	24 Fish and Chips	25	26	27	28 Coffee Morning & Book Sale Parish Surgery	29 St. Bart's Morning Prayer White Horse Cheese n' stuff & Quiz
30	31 Fish and Chips					

WHAT'S ON - FEBRUARY 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Coffee Caravan Fish and Chips	8	9	10 White Horse Karaoke	11	12
13	14 Parish Council Mtg. Fish and Chips	15 Wickham Skeith History Group	16	17 Newsletter copy deadline	18	19 St. Bart's Holy Communion
20	21 Bacton & Cot- ton History So- ciety Tea @ Bart's Fish and Chips	22	23	24	25 Coffee Morning & Book Sale Parish Surgery	26 White Horse Cheese n' stuff & Quiz
27	28 Wickham Skeith Garden Club Fish and Chips					