

Finningham Newsletter

March to April 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

BOOK REVIEW

Lee Child

Agatha Christie has Hercule Poirot, Ian Rankin has John Rebus and now, thanks to a gift to me of a book, I know that Lee Child has Jack Reacher.

Lee Child was born in Coventry, brought up in Birmingham and now lives in New York, U.S.A.

Make Me by Lee Child

Jack Reacher is a retired US Military Policeman who, strangely has no fixed abode and his wardrobe consists of the clothes he stands up in. He has no place to go, and all the time in the world to get there, so a remote railroad stop on the prairie with the curious name of Mother's Rest seems perfect for an aimless one-day stopover.

But there are strange goings on that nobody wants to talk about. As a retired cop he eventually puts all the clues together and finds out what the locals do not talk about.

The Hard Way by Lee Child

Whilst looking through the wide selection of books at the Coffee Morning and Book Sale in the church (which is held in the morning of the last Saturday in each month) I came across this book.

Jack Reacher is this time in a New York café when he may have witnessed part of a kidnap plan. The wife and step-daughter of a character with a shady past, have been snatched when out shopping at Bloomingdales. As an ex-US Army CID, Jack Reacher has an eye for detail and observation and agrees to help track down the kidnapper(s).

The trail leads to Norfolk where finally all the pieces fall into place.

These books are now back and available to buy (at a stupidly low price!) so why not visit the Book Sale in the church on the last Saturday each month?

If you don't find a book you like you can always have a cuppa and a piece of homemade cake!

David Wadlow

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Finningham White Horse

Opening times

12 noon - 11.00pm (Monday to Saturday)

12 noon - 10.30pm (Sunday)

Live Music

Haiden Grigor Band - 4th March

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Dog Club

I had a zero response from dog owners regarding when and how often a dog club should meet so assume no-one wants to do it!

If that's not the case you can drop me an email at

andy@inspirehomeandgarden.co.uk

Andy



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FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the Spring issue

Well what a cold one it has been, the recent dip in temperature and that little blast of snow has our central heating and log burner on full time. We hope you have all been keeping warm and with a bit of luck, Spring is just around the corner and hopefully it will be bringing warmer temperatures ... fingers crossed.

In this issue there are a lot of activities in the village. It's going to be a busy month, don't forget mothers day, but watch out, there may be fools lurking about.

We would like to thank you for all of the great contributions we are receiving, please keep them coming. **Richard & Lorraine**

FROM THE CHAIR

FOF meeting

FOF have a meeting scheduled for Thurs 2nd March at 7.30 in the Church

STOP PRESS

Wearing something light at night.

A villager has had a couple of very near misses while coming home at night, narrowly missing pedestrians, dressed in dark clothing on unlit, no pavement roads. One guy had to jump into the ditch! Very scary for all concerned.

Carrying a torch, or another good idea is to carry a white plastic carrier bag. Please be safe, be seen.

We need your contributions

We are looking for contributions for the next issues, so if you have anything 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 **21st April 2017**

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EVENTS AND NOTICES



Coffee Caravan

Venues and dates for winter months

10am - 12 noon

7th March

In the Church

Hosted by David & Marion Bell

4th April

Village Green



COFFE MORNING AND BOOK SALE

LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

St Bartholomew's Church

10.30 - 12.30

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

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Do you or someone you know need extra support during a power cut?

Although power cuts don't happen very often when they do they can be worrying. UK Power Networks is the electricity network and it provides a 'Priority Services Register' for people who might need extra help in a power cut. Older people, families with very young children, and people with specific medical conditions are among the many people who are eligible to register for free support.

You can find more details and register by visiting ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport or calling 0800 169 9970.

GISLINGHAM WI

Gislingham WI

We have started 2017 in full swing with 30 members paying their subscriptions for the year.

In February Moira Hammond our WI representative for Associated Country Women of the World spoke to us about the work that they do for the disadvantaged. We as a WI collect pennies for friendship and she explained where our money is used to help others.

Our March meeting is a trip to the National WI Craft Fair at Alexandra Palace on Wednesday 29th March. We are going by coach from Gislingham and at the moment we have 7 places free.

Should anyone who is not a member of the WI but would like to join us the tickets are £33 for the day including entrance fee. This should be an interesting day with +300 stalls to browse.

Our meeting on Wednesday 19th April is entitled 'Frock Horror'.

We are especially interested in younger people joining us, firstly to keep us young and secondly we need new, vibrant ideas to keep pace with the modern world. So do think about it. Just come and give us a try.

Aileen Kilbee, President, Gislingham WI

LIVES REMEMBERED

Vivien Beak - 20th February 1917 - 1st September 2016

Vivien Beak was a familiar face around Finningham in her later years. She lived at Talbot Cottage, backing on to the River Dove in Gislingham Road, from 1997 until suffering a stroke in 2010 at the age of 93. Her last 6 and a half years were spent in a nursing home. She loved Finningham and enjoyed gardening, walking her little dog and chatting to various friends in the village.

Before moving to Finningham, Vivien had been a Westhorpe resident for over 60 years, raising her family at Shrubbery Farm. She had read Economics at Girton College, Cambridge, a rarity for her generation. She married George Beak and moved to Westhorpe in 1937 where they brought up their five children. Vivien was a very keen gardener but also found time to get involved locally in public life. She served as a JP, a District Councillor and eventually as Chair of Hartismere District Council. Vivien was also a School Governor at Bacton.

She is greatly missed by her family and friends.

Martin Elliot

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Finningham History Group

At the meeting in January, Peter Everall made an interesting presentation of the 1939 census of Finningham, examining the list of residents in each road. Compared with the previously published 1911 census, many of the listed names can be recalled by those present.

For anyone searching for Finningham 1939 census should be aware that our village has been wrongly recorded as FARNINGHAM

Events being considered for the summer include

- A walk thorough Haughley in May. Attention is drawn to the talk about Haughley Castle at Bacton VH on 21st May which may provide some useful background.
- A talk / walk around Westhorpe in June
- Guided walk of Harwich old town in September crossing from Felixstowe by ferry

Bacton & Cotton History Society

(meetings 7.30pm Bacton Village Hall)

- March 21st **Haughley Castle.**

On Haughley village sign there is a castle, yet none to be seen in the village save for a 30 foot mound which marks the site. Edward Martin will describe such castles and this one in particular which an invading army captured in 1173.

- April 18th **Anglo Saxon royalty @ Exning**

An archaeological dig north west of Newmarket revealed 20 Anglo Saxon skeletons together with jewellery etc which indicated their high status.

Andrew Peachey who carried out the dig, talks about the finds which date from 650AD and may be connected with king Anna, who ruled East Anglia in the 7th c

Wickham Skeith History Group

(meetings 7.45pm Wickham Skeith Village Hall)

- 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

MARCH MEETING

– 7.30 PM TUESDAY 28TH

As gardeners, most of us are aware of the decreasing numbers of butterflies. This month we are delighted to welcome Rob Parker, who will be speaking about Butterfly Conservation. Admission £1 members/£3 non-members.

APRIL MEETING

– 7.30 PM TUESDAY 25TH

SOUTH WALSHAM

We are escaping the village hall on the first of our outings this year and are off to Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden. Entry to the garden is £5.50 and is payable on arrival. A coach has been booked for the journey at no extra cost to WSGC members; however, non-members will be charged £10. The coach will leave Wickham Skeith at 10am and leave Fairhaven at 3pm.

This is sure to be very popular so to book your place call Rosie 01449 765908 or Eddie 01379 788504.

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.



MOTHERS DAY

Mother's Day History

Origin of Mother's Day goes back to the era of ancient Greek and Romans. But the roots of Mother's Day history can also be traced in the UK where a Mothering Sunday was celebrated much before the festival saw the light of the day in the US. However, the celebration of the festival as it is seen today is a recent phenomenon and not even a hundred years old.

Earliest History of Mothers Day

The earliest history of Mothers Day dates back to the ancient annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to maternal goddesses. The Greeks used the occasion to honor Rhea, wife of Cronus and the mother of many deities of Greek mythology.

Ancient Romans, too, celebrated a spring festival, called Hilaria dedicated to Cybele, a mother goddess. It may be noted that ceremonies in honour of Cybele began some 250 years before Christ was born. The celebration made on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple of Cybele lasted for three days and included parades, games and masquerades. The celebrations were notorious enough that followers of Cybele were banished from Rome.

Early Christians celebrated a Mother's Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. In England the holiday was expanded to include all mothers. It was then called Mothering Sunday.

History of Mother's Day: Mothering Sunday

The more recent history of Mothers Day dates back to 1600s in England. Here a Mothering Sunday was celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter) to honor mothers. After a prayer service in church to honor Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to pay tribute to their own mothers.

On the occasion, servants, apprentices and other employees staying away from their homes were encouraged by their employers to visit their mothers and honor them. Traditionally children brought with them gifts and a special fruit cake or fruit-filled pastry called a simnel. Yugoslavs and people in other nations have observed similar days.

Custom of celebrating Mothering Sunday died out almost completely by the 19th century. However, the day came to be celebrated again after World War II, when American servicemen brought the custom and commercial enterprises used it as an occasion for sales.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Events at St Bartholomew's Church Come and join us

Sunday 5th March at 9.30am :

Mattins with Andrew Strickland
A peaceful half hour of hymns and Prayers

Sunday 19th March at 10 am:

Holy Communion with the Reverend Pamela Robson
Followed by Refreshments

Sunday 26th March at 10.30 am:

OUR MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE
With Andrew Strickland and Marion Bell
Flowers for the ladies, activities for the children
& Refreshments

Palm Sunday 9th April at 10.00 am:

Benefice Holy Communion with the Venerable John Cox
Followed by Refreshments

Sunday 30th April at 6 pm:

Our Flower Festival Songs of Praise
with Andrew Strickland.
Come along and choose your favourite Hymn!

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday 11th June at 3 pm:

There will be a **PET SERVICE** outside the church followed by activities and refreshment/produce stalls.



APRIL FOOLS

Family friendly April fool pranks

If your kids are practical jokers, turn this April Fools' Day into a family affair. From the minute they wake up, until they crawl back into bed at night, they'll never know when the next joke is coming.

Obviously we want to stay away from any pranks that leave our kids in tears, unless those tears are from laughing too hard. So whether your kids are the ones pulling the pranks or they're on the receiving end, these April Fools' Day jokes are silly and fun and will have everyone giggling.

1. Swap Sleepers

If your kids are heavy sleepers, carry them into their sibling's bed and let them wake up in a different room to start April Fools on the right foot.

2. Frozen Breakfast

Put cereal and milk in a bowl and let it freeze overnight. When your hungry kids try to dig in, they'll get quite the surprise.

3. Juice Joke

Anyone want juice? Your family will try taking a drink of this juice and find out it's really Jelly

4. "Eye" See You

Give your kids a laugh at lunchtime by attaching googly eyes to everything in their lunch box.

5. Toilet Paper Message

Unroll the toilet paper and leave a funny message for the unsuspecting user. My personal favourite: "You're going to wash your hands, right?" Roll the toilet paper back up and wait to see who ends up getting the message.

6. Bugs In Your Ice

This oldie but goodie prank is easy to make at home with this tip. Add almost boiling water to the ice cube trays and toss in a few plastic bugs. The hotter the water, the more clear the ice will be when frozen

7. Pillow Prank

Just when they thought April Fools Day was over, here's one last prank. Remove the pillows and fill their pillowcases with several partially inflated balloons. When they put their head down to sleep, they'll realize you got the last April Fools laugh. Obviously if you have younger children, you'll want to take the balloons out of their room before they drift off to sleep... with a smile on their faces.

8. Bug in their cereal

Buy one of those realistic looking bugs and put it in the cereal box. When your kids pour their morning cereal, it will show up in one of their bowls. Yuck!

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Finningham Church Flower Festival

THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

The annual Flower Festival will once again be held in the Church on the early May Bank Holiday.

We are hoping that our usual flower arrangers will be willing to participate.

There will be a meeting held in the church on

Saturday March 4th at 10 am.

We would also like to have some new people volunteer and we will be pleased to welcome you to attend the meeting.

This Festival is a very important part of the Church fund raising activities and we need it to be bigger and better each year.

So do come along to the meeting. The more the merrier and the more outstanding the church will look.

Aileen and Dilys

Children at the Flower Festival

An easy and individual way for the children to join in is to get a tray, pot or container of any size and create a garden in it.

There is no lower or upper age limit So come on, let your imagination fly!

Come to the meeting in the church on
Saturday March 4th at 10.00am

or simply bring your creations along

**on Thursday 27th, Friday 28th
or on the morning of Saturday 29th April.**

For more information text or ring Marion (Mobile 07504779748)

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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

Finningham Facebook page

is growing and going from strength to strength. We now have 91 likers / followers plus others who pop in for a catch up. Spread the word and lets hit the magic 100 mark!

We recently had cause to put out appeals for a missing cat who had recently had surgery but had gone missing. Luckily he was found safe and well. The second serious appeal was a missing child who again, happily turned up safe and well. We had a message from his mother so it just shows we do have some coverage and urgent messages can get out there quickly! I now have a great tool at my disposal called Police Connect. Police appeals, updates and warnings are emailed and text to me and I can immediately post these to Facebook. Neighbourhood watch as we know it no longer exists and this is its replacement. If there is something we need to know from the police this is the quickest way to inform everyone. If you see these messages, please pass on to neighbours who may not be on Facebook. Remember also this is YOUR Facebook page. You can advertise your business, sell unwanted items, ask for help, tell people about events in fact anything you like. Just remember its a family page!

The latest scheme to improve life for everyone in Finningham is our very own Community Speed Watch (CSW)

Now the weather has slightly warmed and the ice has melted we finally got out to monitor the speed levels through our village.

Our first outing with the speed gun was to the entrance of the village green to monitor cars travelling past the crossroads and down past the children's playground.

In less than an hour we had 7 vehicles exceeding the limit, with one particular driver speeding past a woman with her 2 young children and their dog at 41mph and who made no attempt to slow down for them or us with high visibility coats and a speed gun. Offenders details are passed to the police who will write to drivers with a warning about their speed. Anyone recorded at over 50mph will receive a knock on the door from an officer and appropriate words of advice given... if a driver receives 3 letters (from any CSW in the country) They can be liable for prosecution.

If you are aware of a regular speeder and know a rough time they come through each day, let us know and we'll wait for them.

Anyone who wants to join us as part of the team please let me know. There is no regular commitment to turn up, we just randomly set up when we have some spare time.

The signs that have to go out plus the sight of high visibility coats makes almost every driver slow down, even if they were below the limit anyway so simply by being out there, traffic is slowed which at the end of the day is the whole point. Next time we plan to stand up near the water tower where drivers seem to think its a racetrack. One vehicle we clocked speeding and would have had a knock on the door from an officer, turned sharply into Wickham Road so we couldn't get his details. Whether he saw us or was turning anyway we shall never know but hopefully they now know there is a CSW scheme in the village and think twice next time. Thank you to those who gave us the thumbs up and waved. Its nice to know we have your support in keeping our village safe for all.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page for more updates. Andy

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NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Finningham Parish Council

It was very gratifying to see such a large turn-out at the January Parish Council Meeting. Prompted by the depth of feeling in the Village regarding Andy Brownlie's Community Speed Watch initiative.

The Parish Council made it clear that it was not against the idea, it was just that certain procedures had to be followed before spending public money, however laudable the project. A number of people took the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the problem of speeding and heavy vehicles in the village and it was agreed that the CSW would be a good way of trying to mitigate it.

However, before spending the money (both from the Parish Council funds and those of the Friends of Finningham), a trial period with borrowed equipment was considered a wise move.

Since the Meeting was held, the Parish Council has arranged a loan of this equipment and it has been delivered to Andy for immediate use (once he and his team have finished their training).

Unfortunately, only certain areas have been approved as acceptable sites for the CSW to operate and the Gislingham Road junction at the Old Bakery is not one of them. This leaves the question of how to control the speed there and other entrance roads to the village.

Perhaps we should make 2017 Finningham's Road Safety year and erect signs and banners all over the village. We would welcome the views of anyone who has any good ideas on this.

Churchyard & Cemetery Grass Cutting

Although the chill of winter is still upon us (at least it is as I write this), time has come to think about this year's Mowing Rota.

Many thanks to those who gave their time and effort last year to keep the areas neat and tidy; a tribute to the Village. I hope that you will all be able to continue this year.

If you are unable to continue in 2017, please let me know before I compile the Rota. In addition, if there is anyone who would like to offer their services, I should be delighted to hear from them. There are a couple of spare spaces on the Rota that need to be filled. As I have said before, you would only be called upon twice during the grass growing months and the task takes between 1 ½ to 2 hours.

In compliance with the Parish Council's Gender Equality Policy, this request is open to ladies too!

Tony Kilbee



GREY MATTER MOVERS

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BARTHOLOMEWS

CARAVAN

CLUB

COFFEE

COUNCIL

GREEN

HIRE

HISTORY

HORSE

LOWDOWN

MARQUEE

PARISH

PUB

SEASONAL

VILLAGE

WHITE

49+10 BONUS BALL CLUB RESULTS

December to January
Congratulations to the following winners:

<u>Date drawn</u>	<u>Ball number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
3 rd December	31	Mary Webb
10 th December	20	Rita Leggett
17 th December	8	Ian Armstrong
24 th December	12	Bob Storey
31 st December	25	Lucy Owen
7 th January	38	John Allen
14 th January	33	Suzanne Rush
21 st January	51	Vacant
28 th January	20	Rita Leggett
4 th February	22	Aileen Kilbee

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, 42, 47, 51, 54, 56, 57, 58 & 59**
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



EASTER

Easter is the celebration

of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead.

Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

In the Gospels, the precise details of the Easter narrative vary slightly, but none of these variances are critical to the main story. In fact, it is argued that the variances are simply matters of style and not substance. Despite the variances, the key aspects of the Easter story all match. Above all, they agree that the tomb of Christ was indeed empty, which is the most essential fact.

Based on direct evidence from the mid-second century, it is believed that Easter was regularly celebrated from the earliest days of the Church.

The Easter date is movable and always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter in the Roman Catholic Church is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Most Catholics attend Easter Vigil at midnight, although the services can be lengthy because many sacraments are performed, such as baptisms and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, during the Mass. Services during the daytime on Easter are shorter and well attended.

Sunrise services are common, but are distinctly Protestant. Sunrise services are gathered before dawn and reflect the arrival of the women at Jesus' tomb early in the morning. The services take place outdoors, often in church yards, cemeteries, or in parks, and are timed so the sun will rise during the course of worship.

Traditional family activities vary by region. In the United States, children often hunt for Easter eggs, which are often brightly-dyed hard boiled eggs, though they can be plastic eggs filled with candy or small denominations of money. Candy is a traditional gift for Easter as children often break their Lenten fasts with sweets. Adults tend to share bouquets of flowers, greeting cards, and may gather for a family meal. Such celebrations are often secularized and focused on children and family rather than the religious aspect of the holy day.



INSIGHTS

True Romanies

True Romanies (NOT modern 'travellers' who live on caravan sites) first arrived in this country in Tudor days. Legend has it that the very first Romany child born on British soil was a girl, who was appropriately named 'Britannia' and many of the Lovell family claim descent from her. It is thought that the Romany people originally inhabited regions in and to the north of India, but were driven out by successive waves of invaders and were forced to take to the road.

Despite their bad reputation, in times right up until the second world war and just after, the Romanies were often an asset to the rural community, providing a useful labour force at harvest time and turning their hand to the production of hurdles, wattles, staves and other natural wood items which were once essential to the farmers. They also gathered and sold the heath and hedgerow fruits which now go to waste each autumn. As a child I can remember the scoops of cheap bilberries on offer outside the fruit shops, a rare and expensive sight nowadays.

Being hunter-gatherers, they had a profound knowledge of the flora and herbiage of the countryside: they knew all the medical and nutritious properties of the plants which grow freely in our meadows and forests.

Indeed, Nicholas Culpeper, whose 'Complete Herbal' has long been considered the accepted work on the subject, derived most of his lore from them, though he never acknowledged it.

They once had their own customs, religion and language, but perhaps I will write of that on another occasion.

David Bell

Rainfall

I recorded about 19 inches of rain in my garden last year, compared with 16 inches the previous year and the wettest month was May.....Alf Hardwick

WANTED

Do you want or need something ...

let us know via our email address
newsletter@finningham.com

Or

Call us on 01449 781048

BOTTLE TOPS

Bottle Tops

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting the plastic milk bottle tops. The money raised from the recycling of these tops goes towards the Matthew Project in Norwich which supports young people with alcohol and drug problems. You can find out more information about the work they do on their website. I am continuing to collect the bottle tops and anyone who would like to support this project can drop the washed plastic milk bottle tops off at my house: Kimberley, Gislingham Road.

Once again thank you for your support.

Mary Webb

4 SEASONS

The Star of Dorking

It was certainly chilly for a while, but it hasn't been a hard winter. It's not surprising, the Met Office and NASA agree that the world is warmer than it has been since records were first kept in the 1880s. The debate about climate change will continue, but I accept that there is a problem - and I'm part of its cause.

For me a high point of the winter was making the acquaintance (via You Tube) of Alma Deutscher, this was thanks to a news item about the opening of her opera *Cinderella* in Vienna on 29th December. In case you too had never heard of her (there can't be many of us) please let me introduce you. Alma, who has just turned 11, lives in Dorking, Surrey with her English mother and Israeli father. She and her sister are home-schooled. At 2 she began to play the piano, at 3 the violin, and soon her parents were surprised to find that some of the tunes she was playing were her own.

As performer and composer Alma has won standing ovations on stages around the world. To see something of what she can do click into You Tube and go to "Intermezzo with Arik, Alma Deutscher, 3 Jan 2014" (it lasts half an hour). This child will astonish and delight you - and banish any lingering traces of the winter blues.

Ian Armstrong



SEASONAL LOWDOWN

Easter eggs

Also called Paschal eggs, are decorated eggs that are often given to celebrate Easter or springtime. As such, Easter eggs are common during the season of Eastertide (Easter season). The oldest tradition is to use dyed and painted chicken eggs, but a modern custom is to substitute chocolate eggs wrapped in colourful foil, or plastic eggs filled with confectionery such as chocolate. Although eggs, in general, were a traditional symbol of fertility and rebirth, in Christianity, for the celebration of Eastertide, Easter eggs symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus, from which Jesus resurrected. In addition, one ancient tradition was the staining of Easter eggs with the colour red "in memory of the blood of Christ, shed as at that time of his crucifixion." This custom of the Easter egg can be traced to early Christians of Mesopotamia, and from there it spread into Russia and Siberia through the Orthodox Churches, and later into through Europe through the Catholic and Protestant Churches. This Christian use of eggs may have been influenced by practices in "pre-dynastic period in Egypt, as well as amid the early cultures of Mesopotamia and Crete".

How to make Salt dough eggs

Supplies

- batch (or two) of salt dough
- rolling pin
- ruler, to measure dough thickness
- shape cutter
- spatula
- straw, for making holes
- parchment-paper covered baking sheets
- spray or acrylic paint
- paint pen, optional
- clear sealer, optional
- twine, ribbon

Ingredients for Salt Dough

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/2 cup water

- ♦ Stir together all three ingredients until a dough forms. Kneading the dough a couple times can help make it smoother.
- ♦ Roll it out to 1/4 inch thick and cut out desired shapes.
- ♦ Place the cut-outs on the parchment-covered baking sheets. Remember to make a hole so you can hang the ornaments — a straw works perfectly!
- ♦ Bake at 250F for 2 hours.
- ♦ Once the shapes are adequately baked, dried and then adequately cooled, it's painting time. I like using spray paint because it's faster and easier but acrylics work just as well.
- ♦ Allow the paint to thoroughly dry. Use paint pens to add polka dots or lines of decorations to the eggs. Optional: To further protect the color and design, add a clear coat sealer.
- ♦ Loop twine or ribbon through the holes and hang.

WHAT'S ON - MARCH 2017						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2 FOF meeting at St. Bart's	3	4 Flower Festival meeting White Horse Live Music	5 St. Bart's Mattins
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	18	19 St. Bart's Holy Communion
20	21 Bacton & Cotton History Society Tea @ Bart's Fish and Chips	22	23	24	25 Coffee Morning & Book Sale	26 St. Bart's Moth- ering Sunday Family service
27	28 Wickham Skeith Garden Club Fish and Chips	29 Gislingham WI outing to Alex- andra palace	30	31		
14						

WHAT'S ON - APRIL 2017						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4 Coffee Caravan Fish and Chips	5	6	7	8	9 St. Bart's Benefice
10	11 Parish Council Mtg. Fish and Chips	12 Wickham Skeith History Group	13	14 White Horse Karaoke	15	16 St. Bart's Holy Communion
17	18 Bacton & Cot- ton History So- ciety Tea @ Bart's Fish and Chips	19 Gislingham WI	20	21 Newsletter copy deadline	22	23 White Horse Cheese n' stuff & Quiz
24	25 Wickham Skeith Garden Club Fish and Chips	26	27	28	29 Coffee Morning & Book Sale	30 St. Bart's Flow- er Festival Songs of Praise
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