

# FINNINGHAM NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023

[finningham.com](http://finningham.com)



Friends of Finningham

It has been an ok sort of summer, some of you will have had rather sodden holidays. I complain about the weather as much as anyone but a look at the news usually reminds me to be duly grateful for Suffolk's usually gentle climate, long may it continue.

The Friends and our band of helpers would like to thank all those who supported the successful (and mostly dry) Family Fun Day. Also we would like to thank everyone who took part in the garage sales on 2nd September. We were very lucky with the weather for a change. We hope everyone had a successful garage sale. There certainly were a lot of people in the village and £170 was raised for the church. We would like your feedback, please let us know if you think we should do it again next year.

Friends of Finningham are in need of a secretary. Our next meeting will be in the church at 7.30pm on Monday 30th October, please come along if you wish to find out what the job entails.

Ian Armstrong, editor

Your newsletter is produced by Friends of Finningham.  
Contributions for the winter edition must reach the editor by 20th November. Email : [ianbacton@aol.com](mailto:ianbacton@aol.com) ,  
phone 01449 780215,  
or send to Cydia, Gislingham Road, Finningham IP14 4HZ

Disclaimer: No guarantee can be made for the accuracy of information given in the newsletter. Please tell us about our errors so we don't repeat them.

## CHURCH NEWS... ST BARTHOLOMEWS

As many of you know our Rector Philip has retired and we all wish him and his wife Denise every happiness in the next chapter of their life. Philip has worked tirelessly since his arrival in the Benefice in 2017. He has six churches to look after but was available to everyone whether they attended church or not. He and his wife Denise were the perfect team and will be greatly missed.

We will not immediately get a new priest in fact we may be without one for at least a year but Philip did everything he could to put things in place until February. So, St Bartholomews continues. Please save the dates of our special services and events starting with Harvest Festival. Don't miss stirring up your Christmas pudding. Great fun for all ages. Also our lovely candle lit Carols and Christingles.

All services including communion services are advertised in the Hexagon and this newsletter.

Come and join us. Come and see.

Yours, Marion

## CHURCH EVENTS

All ages welcome at St Bartholomew's  
FOR

- **Harvest Festival –**  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 11am
- **Act of Remembrance –**  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10.50am
- **STIR UP SUNDAY – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 11am**  
Come and stir up your Christmas  
Pudding
- **CAROLS & CHRISTINGLES –**  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm
- **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE – 9.30am**

**A warm church and a warm welcome.  
Refreshments after each event.**



**WESTHORPE ART CLUB  
AND CRAFT GROUP PRESENT AN**

**EXHIBITION AND  
SALE**

**ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH  
IN WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL  
10.00 TILL 4.00**



**Come along and see what we've  
been up to and maybe  
pick up a Christmas present**

**Refreshments will be available**

**Free entry**



the editor opines...

Living in the countryside means sharing our lives with abundant and diverse wildlife. Even within the village there are untended areas of almost-jungle where birds and animals live with little risk of being disturbed – but they are not safe when they stray onto roads or into our gardens. This grass snake (31 inches long) was found dead on the roadside near the cemetery, the mark on its head suggests it had been hit with a stick. Please enjoy and protect our wild creatures – or at least leave them alone. (Grass snakes are fully protected, as are adders.)

Our tubs have been re-potted! (Thank you Mandy and crew)



## The Bells of St Margarets

The good folk of Westorpe have again shown us what a small group of energetic people can achieve — by raising, with grants and local fundraising, the £29,000 needed to restore the ancient bells in their church. The 5 bells and their fittings have been lowered and sent off to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough to be repaired or re-cast. An new treble bell will be added, and the church tower restored.



With the help of a stiff westerly, might we be able to hear them in Finningham?



## WHAT'S ON ?

### **OCTOBER:**

Sunday 1st Harvest Festival 11am

Tuesday 3rd Coffee Caravan on the Green 10-12

Sunday 12th Act of Remembrance 10.50am

Sunday 15th Holy Communion service

Wednesday 30th Friends of Finningham meeting,  
7.30 in the church

### **NOVEMBER:**

Saturday 4th Westhorpe Art Club and Craft Group  
Exhibition (see page 13)

Sunday 5th All Saints Day morning prayer

Sunday 12th Act of Remembrance, war memorial  
10.50

Saturday 28th Westhorpe Hall and its Royal and  
Noble Connections (see page 18)

### LOOKING AHEAD: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 2nd Dec., Christmas Lunch, see pp14 & 15

Sunday 3rd Dec Stir Up Sunday, 11am in the church

Tuesday 5th Dec Wreath Making see page 13

Sun 17 Dec. Carols and Christingles, church 3pm

Christmas Day Service 9.30

28 Dec. Dick Whittington and His Cat (live streamed)

Saturday 13 January Open Mic Night see page 12



## Westhorpe Hall and its Royal and Noble Connections

A talk by Edward Martin  
Vice-President of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology  
and History

**Saturday 28 October 2023, 7.30pm**  
£7.50 (under 16s £3) payable on the door

Contact Suzanne to book tickets:  
suzannebeeke@gmail.com or 01449780301 (leave name  
and number of tickets)



**NW**  
NEW  
WOLSEY  
THEATRE

NEW WOLSEY THEATRE  
PRESENTS

# DICK WHITTINGTON

and his **CAT**



Written by  
**VIKKI  
STONE**

The  
**ROCK 'N' ROLL  
PANTO!**

**WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 28TH, 2.30PM  
ADULTS £7.50 CHILDREN UNDER 16 £5.00**

REFRESHMENTS FOR SALE  
TICKETS FROM ALISON WESTON 07972 415205  
[wvhbooking@hotmail.com](mailto:wvhbooking@hotmail.com)  
Live stream from the New Wolsey Theatre

## Brussels sprouts

I used to listen to Ken Bruce on BBC Radio 2 and enjoy the friendly banter that took place between Ken and his many regular listeners. Starting round about October Ken would start to be advised that now was the time to put the Brussels sprouts on so that they would be ready for Christmas.

I appreciate that Brussels sprouts are not to everybody's liking but that could be because we tend to overcook them but I think they have a buttery flavour. May I suggest the following recipe for your Christmas meal?

Firstly, don't cook too many. Depending on how many guests will be sitting down for the meal, and on how many other vegetables you will be serving, decide on 2, 3 or 4 sprouts per person. Cut them in half lengthwise and par cook them by steaming. (I use Lakeland steam cooking bags). Cook for a little less than the time shown on the bag.

Just before dishing up, melt some butter in a frying pan and fry the sprouts for a short time with flaked almonds.

Why not do a dummy run with your next roast dinner? Enjoy!

David Wadlow

### **Weekly Prize of £30**

Why not join the 59 Club? It will cost you just £1 a week and you could win £30. All the money raised is used by Friends of Finningham for social events, the Christmas meal and improving the village by planting flower tubs etc.

There will be 4 numbers becoming available in mid-December. If you would like to have one of these numbers, and be in for a chance of the weekly prize, then please

Contact: Carol Birch (Treasurer) [carolbirch@live.com](mailto:carolbirch@live.com)

Or phone 07973378208

# BUS SERVICES

**FINNINGHAM TO STOWMARKET, THURSDAYS ONLY**

457 service, 9.34 from the White Horse (westbound)

Return: departs 1300 from outside Argos.

**FINNINGHAM TO BURY ST EDS., WEDNESDAYS ONLY**

302 service, 9.50 from the White Horse (westbound),

Return: departs 1.25 from Bury bus station, stand 3.

The Friday service to Diss has been discontinued.



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# **OPEN MIC NIGHT**



**Saturday January 13th  
7.30 to 10.30pm**

**Westhorpe Village Hall**



**Free entry  
Bar**



Donations for Village Hall funds

Contact Paul Weston: 07860 376592  
paulwestonarchitect@gmail.com

## **Book Review: HITLER STALIN MUM AND DAD**

by Daniel Finkelstein, published this year, £25. Available from the library.

The author is a member of the House of Lords and was editor of The Times. His parents and grandparents, born in Germany and Poland, were caught up in the madness that swept 20th century Europe. He tells their stories and rings a warning that what happened to them could happen to his children.

“Absolutely, it could.”

After reading it you may wonder, as I did, why your education never included a discussion of the “blood libel”, the spurious basis of so much anti-Jewish violence. Also, why were you fed a version of history from which Britain’s role in restricting emigration from Nazi Europe was omitted? It is a significant, important book which will take you to hell and back. I read it twice.

Ian Armstrong

The coffee caravan will pay its last visit for 2023 on Tuesday 3rd October, 10 till 12 on the Green. Before the pandemic we had the winter coffee morning in villagers' homes (from 10 till 12) and we will be returning to that format. We will be giving January a miss for a number of reasons and overindulgence over the Christmas period is probably one of them!

The following have agreed to host the next three coffee mornings. If you would like to host one in March or April please let the editor know or come along to one of the coffee mornings and volunteer.

7 November - David Wadlow, 5 Russet Close

5 December - Dorothy and David Negus, Appletree Cottage

(This house faces onto the Green)

February - Aileen and Tony Kilbee

You are all welcome.

### *Christmas Wreath Workshop*



**Make your own Christmas Wreath**  
**Westhorpe Village Hall**  
Church Rd, Westhorpe, Stowmarket IP14 4SY  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
7.00pm- 9.30pm  
£35.00pm

**Come and create your own Christmas Wreath, the evening will include a demonstration, tuition, and everything you need to create your personalised wreath**  
**Coffee and tea will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own nibbles, soft drinks, wine etc**

**A £15 deposit is required on booking**  
**Please contact Michelle on 07962062791**  
**or email [michellemead1963@gmail.com](mailto:michellemead1963@gmail.com) to**

**book a space**

**Limited places available**

## The Village Christmas Lunch

The village Christmas lunch will be held on Saturday 2nd December at Stoke Ash White Horse — time 12.30pm. It is open to all residents of Finningham. This is a two course lunch e.g. Starter and Main Course or Main Course and Dessert plus Coffee/Tea and Mince Pie.

This is the perfect opportunity to meet your neighbours and learn more about what is happening within the village.

Cost £12 per adult, children under 12 free. The balance to be paid by Friends of Finningham.

Numbers are limited to 60 so it is on a first come first served basis.

To confirm your place at the lunch please complete the form below and return to:

Mary Webb, Kimberley, Gislingham Road with your payment in cash please - no later than Saturday 18th November, 2023. Unfortunately we cannot issue any refunds for no shows on the day.

Name.....

Numbers.....

Contact details.....

## STARTERS

Aspall Ham Hock Terrine with Spiced Apple & Cranberry Chutney & a Selection of Breads ◦

Wild Mushroom Risotto Balls with a Tomato & Sweet Chilli Jam (V)

Tomato, Chilli & Ginger Soup, served with Bread (V) ◦ +

Prawn Cocktail with Sweet Tomato Oregano Glaze on Crunchy Melba Toast,  
Mixed Leaves & Traditional Marie Rose Sauce (D) ◦

## MAINS

Roast Turkey served with Smoked Streaky Bacon around Pork &  
Chestnut Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Cranberry Gravy & Seasonal Vegetables (G) (D)

Venison Meatballs with Roasted Garlic Mash,  
Braised Red Cabbage & Redcurrant Gravy (G)

Slow Roasted Pork Belly Strips on a bed of Root Vegetable Mash &  
Braised Red Cabbage with Wholegrain Mustard Sauce & Crunchy Crackling (G)

Pan Fried Fillets of Sea Bass with 'Risotto' Style Roasted Red Pepper  
& Tomato Orzo Pasta, Rocket Leaves to Garnish (D)

Vegetarian Nut Roast with Vegetarian Gravy,  
Roast Potatoes & Fresh Vegetables (V)

Mushroom, Nut & Leek Filo Stack, Creamy Sauce with Crunchy Peanuts  
& Crisp Filo Layers, Baked New Potatoes & Rocket Leaves (V)

## DESSERTS

Seville Orange Marmalade Christmas Pudding with our Homemade Brandy Sauce (V)

Ginger Sponge Pudding, a Light Airy Sponge with Sticky Ginger Syrup & Double Cream (V)

Homemade Morgan's Spiced Rum & Raisin Ice Cream (G) (V)

Trio of Desserts. A taste of our favourites:  
Baileys & Mars Bar Cheesecake,  
Chocolate & Walnut Brownie with Vanilla Ice Cream & Frozen Coffee  
Tia Maria mousse

Pear, Almond & Blackcurrant Flapjack, Chewy, Nutty Flapjack with a  
Sticky Homemade Jam Base, served with Warm Amaretto Sauce (G) (V) (D) (Ve)



Finish with a Homemade Mini Mince Pie and Fresh Brewed Tea or Coffee

# Family Fun Day

August 26 2023

