

FINNINGHAM NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025
JUNE-JULY-AUGUST

Find us online at finningham.com

The editor opines...

Summer came early, it gave us a perfect evening for the VE Day Commemoration which was very well attended. The weather was less kind for the flower festival but this too was a resounding success. I am once again impressed by the huge amount of time (and money) that many of you put into this event every year.

It is good to once again see lights on in the pub. It is open on Fridays and Saturdays "from 3pm till closing."

At the recent council meeting the subject of antisocial behaviour was raised, in particular a spate of graffiti, an ongoing difficulty in getting some dog walkers to clean up after their animals, also an unusual level of damage to and loss (theft?) of sports equipment from the box on the green. Fortunately these are all relatively minor problems, perhaps they will resolve themselves. It isn't a perfect world and never was.

At the same meeting Tony Kilbee stepped down from his chairmanship of the parish council, a position he has held for (I think) 19 years. He has also, for at least as long, been an active member of Friends of Finningham, and for many years its chairman. I know that I speak for the village in extending my sincere thanks for his exceptional service to our community. Thanks also to John Charter who has stepped up to take on the role of council chairman.

I hope to see you at our Games on the Green.

Ian Armstrong

GAMES ON THE GREEN

FINNINGHAM SUNDAY 22 JUNE

Please join us for an afternoon of games, starting at 2.30. There will be a variety of games for all ages, the main event being a knock-out rounders tournament. We are hoping to see entries from our neighbouring villages, and there is a trophy for the winning team. To enter a team of 8 contact Ian Armstrong, phone 01449 780215 or email ianbacton@aol.com - or you can just turn up! Teams can be formed on the day. If you would just prefer to watch we look forward to seeing you. Feel free to bring a picnic and drinks, perhaps a chair. An ice cream van will visit at around 4 o'clock.

A tug-of-war competition will round off the afternoon.

It's free! (But donations to Friends of Finningham are always welcomed).



Your newsletter is produced by Friends of Finningham. Contributions for the autumn edition must be received by 20th August.

Email ianbacton@aol.com, phone 01449 780215

A HEARTFUL THANK YOU

Our Flower Festival this year once again, was a huge success. With everyone attending having a happy time with so much to see and do.

Despite the variable weather and road closures we made £4010, an amazing amount! Thank you.

St Bartholomew's roof is very grateful!

Without the coming together of our community the event would not take place.

SO, THANK YOU:

to those wonderfully talented, very young, young and young at heart people who created the amazing flower displays in the church which were very much admired and enjoyed by the visitors.

to the kind person who created and freely donated our programme and the signs for the displays in the church.

to the people who were 'Meeting and Greeting' visitors at the church door.

to the team of people who erected the marquee, put all the tables in place and then took it down on Monday.

to the teams of people who worked in the marquee over the 3 days. Sometimes too hot, sometimes too cold! Selling tickets, cakes, plants and more.

to the bakers and gardeners who donated delicious cakes, preserves and plants for sale in the marquee.

to the people who so generously gave raffle and tombola prizes and more.

to the people who erected banners and many signs guiding visitors to the Tea Room, toilet and more.

to the providers of the Tea Room. The endless baking and opening up of their home so visitors could enjoy Homemade Teas.

to those who advertised the event with posters, contacting the radio, newspapers, Facebook etc

Last but not least to our visitors. Without you all this work would have been in vain.

We wish you all a lovely Summer with every Blessing.

Marion



There are many more photos
(in colour) on the website.

Go to finningham.com/st-bartholomews-annual-flower-festival

In response to the request for Recommended Contractors , Graham Davie says of Durrant Renovations “Damian is an excellent carpenter, fixed my badly fitted kitchen frames and doors quickly, efficiently and at reasonable cost. Highly recommended.”

Email durrantrenovations@gmail.com phone 07951 198424

Advertise your business here

Full page ad £25, half £15, quarter £8.

Prices are per edition, for a black and white ad.

OR - for £150 you can sponsor an edition, i.e. pay for printing

Friends of Finningham- Fundraising Walk in aid of Church Roof Repairs

When walking through the churchyard I am sure lots of you will have noticed that the church roof has the need for some long-overdue repairs some which are already underway. The church is the only building that we have in the village to use for events, the only other place is the Village Green. Whether or not you are a churchgoer you may or may not be aware that the church is not just used for church services but can be used for many other things e.g. coffee mornings, a place to meet up with friends for a social evening, concerts, Parish Council meetings, Friends of Finningham meetings to name but a few. So it would be such a shame to see it fall into disrepair.

The cost of repairing the church roof will be in the region of £20,000 The Parochial Church Council are actively looking to see if they can obtain a grant towards the cost of this work. But there will be a shortfall. Monies raised from the flower festival will also go towards this work.

The Friends of Finningham have decided to hold a fundraising walk on Sunday 6th July to raise money towards the roof repairs.

The walk will begin at 10am at Street Forge Workshops . There will be additional Parking at Thornham Magna Village Hall which is the other side of the road.

Should anyone wish to have lunch afterwards it is up to individuals to book with one of the local pubs.

There are 3 options as to where you can leave the walk: at 4, 5, or 6 miles.

The cost of the walk is £5 per adult, children and well behaved dogs free. We appreciate that some people may not be able to do the walk but would still like to donate. Donations and entry forms can be put through my door at Kimberley, Gislingham Road, Finningham. Donations can also be made direct to this bank account:

**PCC Finningham Fabric Fund (Walk)
Account no. 00361821, sort code 30 98 23**

Mary Webb
Chairman
Friends of Finningham



I/we would like to take part in the fundraising walk. We understand that this is entirely at our own risk.

I enclose £ ____ . There will be ____ adults and ____ children in our party.

Signed on behalf of the group _____

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National Service -5

The occupants of my billet changed regularly as those conscripts coming to the end of their stint went home. Most of them shared stories of the places that they had visited. A trip to the Nile in Uganda was one of them. I decided that I would make that my next trip. It involved hitch-hiking, which is always a chancy thing to do. There is no guarantee that anybody would stop for you.

I was told that when you reached a particular town (this is where I wished I had kept a diary: I would then be able to tell you the name of the town!) if you waited at a particular street corner at 4pm, a Land Rover would give you a lift into the Game Reserve. Sure enough, I got the lift and stayed with a family. They were the only family there and their neighbours were the wildlife.

In the morning the driver took me to the ferry on the Nile. As we were driving through some tall grass, he stopped. About 30 feet away was an enormous bull elephant. I, in my innocence, was not scared but the driver was very nervous and kept the Land Rover in gear ready for a speedy get-away. We got to the ferry without further incidents.

Have you a picture in mind of what the ferry might look like? I imagine whatever the picture you have, it would be nothing like the real thing. It was a wooden platform with ropes attached to pull it from one side to the other. It could only take one car at a time. However, it got us across the river which was only about 30 yards wide. The driver dropped me off and said that he would not be coming back that way. I was not too concerned because I knew that there was a hotel nearby where I could spend the night.

There was a small boat that made trips along the river to view the wildlife on the banks. I could not afford to hire the boat by myself so waited in the hope that I could join a group. I waited. I saw nobody. And I waited. And waited. It came to the point where it was too late to do the river trip so I trudged off to the hotel to book a room for the night. Bearing in mind that I had not seen a soul all day, I was surprised that they "had no vacancies". I had already spied a small round, mud hut with a pole in the middle holding up a thatch type roof. That would be my room for the night! I collected kindling to make a fire to heat up my tin of baked beans. The smoke also stopped the bugs living in the thatch from coming down to feed on me during the night!!

I was surprised how noisy the hippos were during the night. Plenty of grunting sounds.

I did not have to wait too long the next morning for a car to appear on the other side of the river and then parked my side of the river. It was an Asian family and I have no idea how they managed to pack so many people into such a small car. I joined them on the trip along the Nile and they generously refused my offer to pay my way. I was excited and delighted to see the wild animals so close to the water's edge. Being on the river you were able to get closer to them than on terra firma.

After another night in my hut, I did not have to wait too long for a car to arrive, travelling in the direction that would take me back to Kenya. They were two business men who took me out of the game park where I wanted to go right and they were going to the left. They dropped me off and said they would be coming back that way later in the day and would gladly give me a lift into Kampala, Uganda if I had not already secured a lift. As they drove off in a cloud of dust, I realised I had left my camera in their car.

I proceeded to walk to the town, knowing that I had all day to get there. A schoolboy gave me a lift on the back of his pushbike for a short distance. It was not the most comfortable of lifts that I experienced.

The road ended at a T junction. On one corner was a police station and I was in there giving my details as I was sure that they would notice my camera and pop in there to report that they had my camera. As I left I spied their car at a petrol station at the junction. Evidently they each assumed that the camera belonged to each other.

They duly took me to Kampala and I returned, safely to camp in Nairobi.

Next time I will tell you how I celebrated my 21st birthday.

David Wadlow

What's On - at a glance

Friday May 30, 7pm. Rebuilding the Sutton Hoo ship, £8. Westhorpe.

Saturday 31 May, Coffee and Books, 10am in the church.

Monday 2nd June, Friends of Finningham meeting, 7.30 in the church.

Tuesday 3 June Coffee Caravan on the green 10-12

Friday June 13 BBQ and Pub Night, Westhorpe

Thursday 19 June 7.30 Sounds Fun, Westhorpe

Friday June 20 7pm Family Bingo, Westhorpe

Sunday 22 June Games on the Green, starts at 2.30.

Saturday 28 June, 10am Coffee and Books, in the church

Tuesday 1 July Coffee Caravan on the green 10-12

Sunday 6 July. Fundraising walk.

Saturday 12 July 7pm Fun Race Night , Westhorpe

Thursday 17 July 7.30, Sounds Fun, Westhorpe

Saturday 26 July 10am, Coffee and Books, in the church

Also Westhorpe Café 10-1

Tuesday 5 August Coffee Caravan on the green 10-12.

Friday August 15 Pub Night 7-10pm Westhorpe

Thursday 21 August 7.30 Sounds Fun, Westhorpe

Saturday 30 August 10am, Coffee and Books, in the church

Looking Ahead:

September 5 Elvis Impersonator Night Westhorpe

BUS SERVICES

Finningham to Stowmarket: Weekdays from **Wickham Road near The Old Post Office**. Return journey departs Stowmarket at 1pm.

Fares: single £2, return £3.70, local "short hops" £1.50

Free for concession card holders. This is the timetable:

Monday Wednesday and Friday

Gislingham shop	0945	Stowmarket, Bury Street	1300
<u>Finningham</u>	0948	Railway station	1304
Mendlesham clinic	0959	Stowupland Crown	1314
Mendlesham King's Head	1000	Mendlesham King's Head	1326
Stowupland Crown	1012	Mendlesham clinic	1327
Railway station	1022	Finningham	1338
Stowmarket, Bury Street	1026	Gislingham shop	1341

Tuesday and Thursday

<u>Finningham</u>	0945	Stowmarket, Bury Street	1300
Westhorpe, bus shelter	0948	Railway station	1304
Wyverstone, Church Hill	0950	Stowupland Crown	1314
Bacton store	0953	Mendlesham, King's Head	1326
Cotton Methodist Church	0955	Mendlesham clinic	1327
Trowel and Hammer	0957	Trowel and Hammer	1334
Mendlesham clinic	1004	Cotton Methodist Church	1336
Mendlesham King's Head	1005	Bacton store	1338
Stowupland Crown	1017	Wyverstone, Church Hill	1341
Railway station	1027	Westhorpe, bus shelter	1343
Stowmarket, Bury Street	1031	Finningham	1346

Finningham to Bury St Edmunds: Wednesdays, 320 service, 9.50 from the White Horse (westbound). Return journey departs 1.25 from Bury bus station, stand 3.



WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

**MAY
30**

Rebuilding A Legend Longship Talk

Sutton Hoo Saxon Ship Talk by David Keeble, tickets £8 per person, 7pm.

**JUNE
13**

BBQ and Pub Night

Licenced cash bar and BBQ. Free entry ticket required. 7-10pm.

**JUNE
20**

Family Bingo

Starts at 7pm. Tickets £5 per adult, children free entry.

**JULY
12**

Fun Race Night

Starts at 7pm. Tickets £3.50 per adult, children free entry.

**JULY
26**

Westhorpe Cafe

10am-1pm, homemade cakes and refreshments available. No ticket required.

**AUG
15**

Pub Night

Licenced cash bar, free entry, 7-10pm.

**SEPT
5**

Elvis Impersonator Night

Entertaining evening of classic popular Elvis hits.

Visit westhorpe.onesuffolk.net for
more information or to secure tickets.

A dedicated team of Village Hall volunteers work hard to preserve this valuable village resource. They raise crucial funds for its maintenance while organising enjoyable events for everyone.