

FINNINGHAM NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2024

September-October-November

GARAGE

SALES

7 SEPT., 10-12

finningham.com



Friends of Finningham

The editor opines...

The closure of the White Horse has left a hole in our village. For ten years Lorna and Steve provided a welcome and an excellent pint but they were fighting against the current. No longer is beer the essential lubricant for every social activity, our pubs are closing at a rate of about 2 a day. It is a tough business in tough times, I admire our publicans for the grit they have shown and wish them the success they deserve wherever life takes them next. The pub will be sold, maybe it will live again.

Our "Games on the Green" was a great success and blessed by perfect weather. There is general agreement that it should become an annual event, you can look forward to another game of rounders next year.

The attempt to move the village website to another host was finally tipped into the "too hard" basket, it's address will continue to be finningham.com. My sincere thanks to Thomas Beer for his time and expertise in helping with this project.

Ian Armstrong

Your newsletter is produced by Friends of [Finningham](#).

Contributions for the winter edition must reach the editor by 20th November. Email: ianbacton@aol.com phone 01449 780215

Disclaimer: No guarantee is given for the accuracy of information in the newsletter. Tell us about our mistakes!

Front Cover: Church Walk

Back Cover: The beacon is lit (and a line from John McCrae's poem
"In Flanders Fields")



The Finningham Sports Trophy is proudly held by “Miller Massives” after their emphatic win in the rounders tournament.

+ + + + + + +

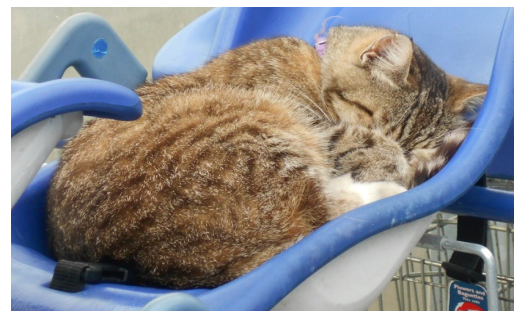
Oscar the multi-tasker



Meet and greet



Security (one eye open)



Trolleys (sleeping on the job)

+ + + + + + +

CPR Course

The Friends of Finningham would like to thank Catherine and Colin for giving up their time to run two free CPR courses in the Church. Sadly these were not very well supported. Recent data suggests 70% of Cardiac arrests happen in the home so it is very important to know how to do CPR and to know where your nearest defibrillator is kept and how to use it. (It is at the crossroads).

CHURCH NEWS

Ready to meet you with delicious food and drinks at the TEA ROOM in the church during the GARAGE SALES SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 10am.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 6th October at 11am. Our village HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 3rd November ALL SOULS service

10th November 10.50am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Around the War Memorial with refreshments in the church.

Sunday 1st December STIR UP SUNDAY. Make your Christmas pudding at this lively service.

Saturday 14th December. 10.30am CHRISTINGLE MAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday 15th December 3pm CAROLS AND CHRISTINGLES

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 9.30am

All welcome. Looking forward to seeing you.

Parish Pylon Meeting

As promised and advertised around the village and in various Facebook pages, your Parish Council held a Pylon Update meeting in the Church on 11th July.

In spite of the comments made on the Friends of Finningham Facebook page asking "what is the Parish Council doing about it...?" the attendance at the meeting was not great. In fact, it bordered on the embarrassing as we had invited a number of important people who are heavily involved in the campaign against the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Line.

However, the debate was very lively and a lot of information was passed on to the assembly on how to object effectively. What was stressed is that everyone should forward their own objections to National Grid and not just leave it to others.

Naturally, your Parish Council have submitted their own, very detailed objection. Which we hope will have the desired effect.

We acknowledge that some people do not find the proposal daunting and look at the overall picture and recognize the fact that what National Grid is planning is necessary for the country's energy stability.

From a very parochial point of view, the increase in volume of HGV and other traffic through our village and on our already poor condition roads, does not bear thinking about.

By the time this issue of the Newsletter goes to Press, it will be too late to submit any comment to National Grid.

We can only hope that our combined arguments make National Grid consider alternatives to the proposed Pylon Line.

Tony Kilbee



**FINNINGHAM
COFFEE MORNING
at
ST
BARTHOLOMEW'S
CHURCH**

**LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
from 10AM**

(Beginning on SAT 28th SEPT '24)

**Delicious food. Books for sale.
Bring your friends and make new
ones**

**For more details contact
Marion Bell 07504779748**



**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, WESTHORPE
REDEDICATION OF OUR CHURCH BELLS**

The Steering Group for the A-peal for Mary Tudor Bell Restoration Project would be delighted for you to attend the Service of Rededication on
WEDNESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT 6.00 pm
at the Church.

The Rt. Rev'd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich will officiate.

At the conclusion of the service, the bells will be rung and refreshments served. We do hope you will join us for this celebration.

Coffee Caravan on the green:

Tuesday 3rd September (?), Tuesday 30th September, 10-12

November 5th : with David Wadlow at 5 Russet Close

December 3rd : with Dorothy and David Negus, Appletree
Cottage

**Advertise your
Business here**

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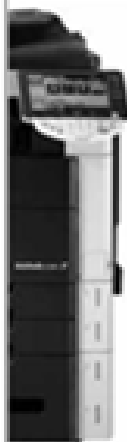
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Finningham's Annual Garage Sales On Saturday 7th September 10am - 2pm

**Garage sales around the village of
Finningham selling all sorts of things from
bric-a-brac, plants, children's toys, tools, to
good quality clothing.**

**Maps will be on sale at the tea room in the
church cost 50p. Proceeds from sale of
maps will go to the church fabric fund**



What's On - at a glance:

September: Tuesday 3rd Coffee Caravan

Saturday 7th Garage Sales, 10 - 2.

Saturday 21st Traditional Music Day, Stowmarket

Friday 27th Quiz Night, Westhorpe 7pm for 7.30 start

Saturday 28th Coffee in the church, 10am

Monday 30th Coffee Caravan 10 - 12

October: Friday 11th Bingo Night, Westhorpe Village Hall, 7.30

Friday 18th Sounds Fun, Westhorpe 7.15-9.15

November: Saturday 2nd, Art and Craft Exhibition, Westhorpe, 10 - 4

Monday 4th Friends of Finningham meeting, 7.30 in the church. All are welcome!

Tuesday 5th Coffee with David Wadlow, 5 Russet Close 10-12

December:

Tuesday 3rd Coffee with David and Dorothy Negus, Appletree Cottage 10-12

Saturday 7th Christmas Lunch 12.30 at the Stoke Ash White Horse

WESTHORPE HOSTS: A QUIZ FOR EVERYONE



**Friday 27th September 2024
7:00 FOR 7:30PM START**

£6 per person

Enter as a team (max. 6) or individually

Go to Westhorpe website for ticket details:

westhorpe.onesuffolk.net

or call Alison 07972 415205

**WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL
WITH PAID BAR AND RAFFLE**


Ear We Go
Mobile Ear wax removal
Microsuction & Irrigation

*My name is Georgie
Please call, text or email for an
appointment
07921550958*

Earwegol2@gmail.com



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Christmas Wreath Workshop

Make your own Christmas Wreath

Westhorpe Village Hall

Church Rd, Westhorpe, Stowmarket IP14 4SY

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

7.00pm- 9.30pm

£40.00



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 non refundable deposit is required on booking

Please contact Michelle on 07962062791

or email michellemead1963@gmail.com to book

Limited places available - Maximum 30 spaces

I would like to thank my friends of Finningham who so kindly supported and donated to the half marathon that I walked in aid of Cancer Research UK in memory of our dear daughter Alison.

I raised £1,626.25.

My sincere thanks to you all.

Margaret Miller

Christmas Lunch

I appreciate it is only now August and it is a bit early to be thinking about Christmas but this will be the last Newsletter that will go out before the booking needs to be in.

The Christmas Lunch will be held as previous years at the White Horse Stoke Ash on Saturday 7th December at 12.30pm. This will be a two course lunch either starter and main or main and desert. You will be able to see the menu on their website when it becomes available.

The cost is £12.00 per adult, children 12 and under free and is open to all residents of Finningham. The balance of the cost is covered by The Friends of Finningham.

This is a great opportunity to meet up with your neighbours and get to know people living in the village.

For the benefit of new people moved into the village the Friends of Finningham is financed by the 59 club and fund raising events. If you are interested in joining the 59 club please let our Editor know. I am not sure if there are any spare numbers.

Places are restricted to 52 so it will be first come first served. I will be taking bookings from **1st November -23rd November**. The pub requires numbers 14 days beforehand. So no late bookings can be accepted.

Payment is by cash and can be put through my inside letterbox (open the porch door) my address is : Kimberley, Gislingham Road.

Mary Webb
Chairman

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I would like to book the following places for the Christmas lunch on 7th December, 2024

Names.....

Adults.....

Children 12 and under

Amount enclosed.....

National Service – Part two

In the last issue of your Finningham Newsletter I recalled how I survived my basic and trade training in the Royal Air Force. It must have been fairly unremarkable as I have no strong memories which keep me awake at night or make me feel warm and fuzzy all over.

As the last newsletter hit your doormats, Rishi Sunak announced that a form of National Service will be introduced. I can confirm that he did not make the announcement to coincide with the publication of your newsletter. I wonder whether the new administration will take a similar course of action.

I told you that I had been posted to RAF Eastleigh. There appears to be two places with the name of Eastleigh in the UK: one in Devon and one in Hampshire. I could get home from both of these locations. However, my posting was to a suburb of Nairobi, Kenya!

When being posted abroad service personnel were given embarkation leave. However, that leave had to be extended. The British Government was in conflict with a Colonel Nasser, the president of Egypt, at this time. As we were not doing too well, our troops in Egypt were being withdrawn in haste. That left no aircraft available to fly me to Kenya. The departure, in the end, was delayed by at least 3 or 4 weeks.

For my first flight ever, I was taken to Blackbushe Airport, Surrey. Are you picturing a sleek, shiny aircraft similar to one you might use to take you off to Spain for your annual holiday? Think again. I recall it was a propeller driven aircraft. Bear in mind that I am not into things mechanical. All I know is it wasn't a jet plane!

The journey started. We stopped firstly at Valetta, Malta to refuel. As we came into land the heat hit us. Think of the summer, the Mediterranean and being clothed in a thick, heavy uniform. I was melting. I had time to have a strip wash before reboarding and flying to Kano, Northern Nigeria for a "night stopover" to allow the pilots to have a 15 hour break. We arrived in the morning and left in the evening! We were put up in an out-of-town hotel where a friendly (and probably bored) British manager took me and my roommate into Kano where we had our first real sights of Africa. There are three images that I still retain: a slum area: a mosque: and a dead donkey at the side of the road. Not wholly impressive! Our next stop was to Fort Lamay in French Equatorial Africa (now called Chad) and then onto Entebbe, Uganda before the last hop to the civilian Airport in Nairobi, Kenya.

We were greeted by RAF personnel where our UK currency was exchanged for Kenyan shillings. I had the princely sum of 2/6d. That is the equivalent of twelve and a half pence today but it went a very lot further then than it does today!

We were bussed to camp and it was our first glimpse of African wildlife as, in the distance, we could see giraffe and zebra as we travelled along a six lane dual carriageway, which I believe was called Queen Elizabeth Way. A very modern road for those days, let alone in Africa.

As well as carrying out my duties as a Tape Relay Operator there were general duties that you had to carry out. The situation in Kenya had been unstable but was much improved by the time I arrived but it was still necessary to be careful. Children of serving personnel were ferried to and from school by Land Rovers and I, on occasion, had to act as 'shot-gun'. I collected a rifle from the armoury for this role but was not issued with bullets!

RAF Eastleigh was an operational airport and was patrolled 24/7. A rifle was issued when I patrolled the camp at night. One of the tasks during the patrol was to give an early alarm call to the catering members who needed to be up early to prepare breakfast. Not every member in the billet needed to be woken so those who had booked an early call would hang a towel over the end of their bed. If they forgot to do that there was a good chance that the wrong person would have a rude awakening and I would have a few more new words to add to my vocabulary. On one occasion I entered a billet in the middle of the night and noticed a glow at the far end of the billet plus a smell not usually associated with a billet full of young men. On closer inspection the red glow came from a red hot house brick and the smell was scorched wood. On the brick was an iron. No thermostats on irons in those days. Somebody had forgotten to unplug the iron. It had heated the brick which, in turn, burnt a hole in the table!! The brick was used as a means to smooth the surface of the iron and to protect the wooden table!!

It was not all work and no play. There was a swimming pool and we had our own radio station where I presented programmes. In the UK there was a live, weekly BBC radio programme called Two Way Family Favourites which, I believe was broadcast on a Sunday. Jean Metcalf presented the programme from Germany and Cliff Michelmore from London. Britain had a large contingent of troops in Germany at this time and this was a means for families and our troops to keep in touch. It is a reminder on how communications have improved over the last 60/70 years. No internet or mobile phones in those

days! At Christmas other locations across the world were included, including the Forces Broadcasting Network in Kenya. We stopped our own programmes on camp because the FBN also ran a charity request event where listeners pledged money for a particular record to be played. Friendly rivalries build up where people would pledge money to have a gramophone record smashed on air. In those days the record library consisted of actual gramophone records which were brittle and prone to develop cracks and made them unplayable. It was these discs that were smashed. It was fun being in the studio and helping with the broadcasts and getting to know all the presenters. The charity was Radios for the Blind.

Not everybody on the aircraft out to Kenya were allotted to Signals. In fact, only Tony and I were housed in the same billet. The personnel changed as each individual's 2 year term came to an end. There was therefore a wealth of knowledge about Kenya and places to visit and how best to get there. Some of the colleagues stick in my mind. Dave and Roy, whose beds were each side of my bed space and Jack and George, who were identical twins. The twins were so different in character. They both liked a drink. George would go weak at the knees after a few bevvies and giggle whilst Jack was more likely to end up in a fight. An additional character in the billet was Mtinda, our dhobi boy. We all paid him to do our washing although he would voluntarily do other jobs for those lads he liked. He tended to like those of us who treated him as a human being. He called me Bwana Glasses: Dave was Bwana Guitar and Roy was Bwana Pase Pase. Pase Pase in Swahili meant quickly. Roy walked with short, quick steps. Mtinda was not a boy but a man in his 30s with two boys of his own.

Signals was a 24/7 365 operation so we did shift work. On day one, you worked in the morning and the evening. Day two you worked in the afternoon and the night. Days three and four were your own free time. Weekends were quieter so only half complement was needed on duty. This had its advantages because if Thursday and Friday were your normal days off and it was your turn not to work on Saturday and Sunday you could go off on trips for 6 days without using any of your annual leave. I took advantage of that.

It seems I do not have space this time to tell you about how I took advantage of my time off in Kenya. You will have to wait for the next issue of your Finneringham Newsletter to find out about what I got up to outside camp.

David Wadlow

BUS SERVICES

FINNINGHAM TO STOWMARKET, THURSDAYS

457 service, 9.21 from Wickham Road near the White Horse

Return journey 12.50 from Bury Street, near the crossroads

FINNINGHAM TO DISS, FRIDAYS

456 service, 10.01 from the White Horse (eastbound)

Return journey 1.15 from Diss bus station

FINNINGHAM TO BURY ST EDMUNDS, WEDNESDAYS

320 service, 9.50 from the White Horse (westbound)

Return journey 1.25 from Bury bus station, stand 3

Travel with a friend!

Soon we will have a new daily bus service to Stowmarket, it may have started by the time you read this. I will be driving it - but I've yet to see a timetable. Ian

SOUNDS FUN

Meeting monthly at Westhorpe Village Hall. First session Friday 18th October
7.15pm to 9.15pm

Entry fee to be decided

DO YOU ENJOY

- ✓ Singing on your own, with others or just listening?
- ✓ Playing or listening to a musical instrument?
- ✓ Reciting, reading or listening to poetry and short stories?

Then this is what you have been waiting for.

Sing, play or read the things that you like and the rest of us will sit back and listen or possibly join in.

Whether you have performed at the Albert Hall, Wembley Arena, or at home in your shower, young or not so young all are welcome

The idea is to be supportive and encourage those who enjoy any of the above but may lack confidence sharing their talents with others in a non-judgemental environment and as the name of the group suggests we come along to have fun.



“To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.”

80 years since D-Day