

FINNINGHAM NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

March-April-May

Find us online at
finningham.com

The editor opines...

I am faced with a most welcome problem - there may be more contributions than can be squeezed into one newsletter! My thanks to you all, this makes my job easy - the newsletter can be expanded. As you will read, there is an interesting and varied program of events planned in both Finningham and Westhorpe. I hope a highlight will be our Games on the Green. Any rounders team hoping to take the Finningham Cup from its current holders (Miller Massives) will need to start training soon..

Ian Armstrong

Your newsletter is produced by Friends of Finningham.

Contributions for the summer edition must reach the editor by 20th May.

Email: ianbacton@aol.com phone 01449 780215

Advertising rates: full page £25, half page £15, quarter page £8.

For £150 you can sponsor an edition (pay for printing)

Lily Blanche Elsey 12-9- 1937- 12-01-2025

Sadly Lily passed away in the Norfolk and Norwich University hospital after a short illness.

Lily lived and grew up in Finningham and attended the local school which closed in 1984. She spent 85 years of her life in the village being a very active part of the community. She was Secretary to the Parochial Church Council for over 30 years and helped with and supported many village events over the years. She moved to Diss in 2023 to be nearer to her sister Barbara and son-in law Bob. Up until then a member of the Elsey family had lived in the village for over 150 years.

Lily's funeral took place on Monday 10th February at Finningham Church followed by burial in the village cemetery alongside other members of the Elsey family.

Front cover: the poplar grove at Eastlands

Back cover: Christingles service (photo: Perry Saunders)

Finningham Upcoming Events

The Friends of Finningham Committee has arranged some events for the coming few months. You are all welcome to join us so make note of the dates in your diary.

VE Day. 8th May 2025 will be the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. The Parish Council, together with many other locations throughout the country, will light the Village Beacon at 9.30pm. The committee has arranged for Wild Flour Pizza Company to arrive at 6.30 to ensure hunger is kept at bay. From 7.30 to 9, Kristina Bee will entertain us with live music to which we can all sing along. Bring a chair, get a pizza and enjoy the evening.

Games on the Green. Sunday 22nd June 2025. Following the hugely successful and fun event last year, you are invited to enter a rounders team of up to eight players. To register your team, please contact us by email to ianbacton@aol.com. No fee!!

David Wadlow



Mother's Day Craft Club

For all ages

Saturday 29th March

2 -4 pm in Our Church Finningham

Join us to make gifts for the special people in our lives for Mothering Sunday. We will be making cards, flower posies, decorating cakes and lots more.

Refreshments will be available.

Please bring an adult to stay and help you craft.



For more information please contact:

Revd Catriona: 07525920307

Or

Marion: 07504779748



The Season of Goodwill at St Bartholomew's

As we look back over the Christmas season in Finningham village we realise it has been a busy and joyous time for all involved in the church calendar. There were several well attended organised events that everybody seemed to appreciate. It was also lovely to welcome new as well as familiar faces in our beautiful church.

There were plenty of home baked refreshments offered after each service, so that our local community could get together for a catch up over a cup of tea and slice of delicious cake.

On the Sunday before Advent, there was a gathering for 'Stir up Sunday' which is five weeks before Christmas. The name comes from a prayer said by Anglicans in the past which is: 'Stir up,' we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people.' This is a way of reminding Christians to get ready for the arrival of Christ at Christmas.

Over time, the phrase also became linked with the preparation of Christmas pudding, a rich and fruity dessert that was traditionally made with thirteen ingredients to represent Christ and his twelve apostles.

The modern interpretation of 'Stir up Sunday' comes from the Victorians when families would stir a pudding mixture five weeks before the festivities.

The pudding is meant to be stirred to recognise the three wise men who travelled from east to west to meet Jesus after he was born – everyone taking part takes a turn to stir and make a wish.

The reason Stir up Sunday was chosen as the day to make Christmas pudding was because it gave enough time for the pudding to mature and develop its flavour before Christmas Day.

Finningham's Stir-up Sunday enabled the congregation to take part in making individual Christmas puddings which filled the church with a fruity, zesty aroma. Each family took a small pudding home to enjoy.

Later in December it was Christingle, which celebrates a coming together to share the light of Jesus. Thirty-five Christingle oranges were prepared and handed out. As the carols were sung the Christmas tree sparkled and shimmered in the light from the candles which adorned the Christingle oranges, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. It was a truly magical moment that truly reflected this wonderful time of the church year.

On a chilly winter eve, a week prior to Christmas, mulled wine, and mince pies at the ready, Church Elder Marion Bell shared her extensive and interesting knowledge on the history and characters involved with St Bartholomew's. Who knew we were so blessed to have buried in our crypt Lady Ellenor Fenn nee Frere. A person ahead of her time and a prolific author (1743 -1813) of fifty books to educate children and their mothers. Lady Ellenor was also known as one woman with three identities. The Frere family and Lady Ellenor are worth a google and a visit to the church.

Our lovely, kind Reverend Catriona took the Christmas morning service to a packed church to rejoice the birth of Jesus Christ. The traditional service of carols and readings celebrating the Christmas story was moving and reminded us of all to be grateful for the true meaning of Christmas.

We now look to the New Year at St. Bartholomew's with hope and faith in our hearts and prayers for a Happy, Peaceful, and blessed New Year within our local communities and the wider world.

If you haven't yet been to St Bartholomew's perhaps because you feel it's difficult to go where you don't know anyone, or maybe you feel that going to church can be a little staid, please come in to see a friendly face and share a cup of tea with us we can't wait to meet you.

Tina Saunders

EMMA OUR VOLUNTEER AT ST BARTHOLOMEWS

- Those people, and there were many, who attended our services during December, January and February may have noticed that the church was shining and fresh. Emma Coote who had volunteered at St Bart's for her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award had been polishing the pews, the pulpit, the lectern, brasses and generally cleaning before each service. Also cleaning around the organ to make it much pleasanter for John our organist. As well as all this she has delivered church magazines, helped with making Chistingles and the coffee morning. What will we do without her?
- Emma is a pleasant young lady willing to take on these tasks with a smile. We wish you luck in the other sections of your Bronze award.
- Thank you Emma.

The Friends of Finningham are trying to put together a tried and tested list of contractors which would be useful for new people moving into the village. If you know of someone who you would like to add to the list please forward the details to the editor.



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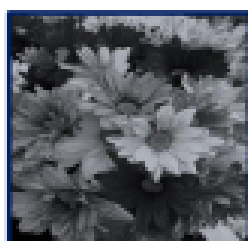
Christingles, Christmas puds...
Christmas in the church.
(photos: Perry Saunders)



© Perry Saunders

Finningham Flower Festival

**is being held in the beautiful
St Bartholomew's Church
throughout the Spring Bank Holiday weekend**



**Sat 3rd May 2-5pm
Sun 4th May 11-5pm
Mon 5th May 11-5pm**



**Come and join us in the church on
Sunday 4th May at 5pm
for a**

**Celebration of Creation with
Joyful Songs of Praise.
Children are most welcome!**

**Our theme this year is
“The World in Our Hands”
with over 25 flower displays to view**

**Visit the Marquee and enjoy shopping from the various
produce stalls, buy a plant and have fun on the
numerous stalls:**

The Big Raffle, Fun Tombola, and much more.

**Throughout the weekend we will be serving delicious
homemade cakes, sausage rolls, and cream teas so
please pop in to see us at**

Yew Tree House- just follow the signs

FREE EVENT IN FINNINGHAM



COME AND CELEBRATE ON THE
VILLAGE GREEN THURS MAY 8TH

WILD FLOUR PIZZA COMPANY ARRIVING

6.30pm

LIVE MUSIC – WITH KRISTINA BEE

SINGING 7.30 - 9pm

VILLAGE BEACON WILL BE LIT AT

9.30pm

**BRING A CHAIR, GET A PIZZA AND
ENJOY THE EVENING**

What's On - at a glance

Monday 3 March FoF meeting 7.30 in the church

Saturday 15 March 10am-1 Westhorpe Café with Antiques Valuation

**Saturday 29 March 10am in the church, Coffee and Books with
Mother's Day Craft Club (for all ages).**

Tuesday 1 April 10-12 Coffee Caravan, on the green.

Friday 25 April 7.30 Live Music, Westhorpe

Saturday 26 April 10am Coffee and Books in the church

Saturday 3 May 2pm-5 Flower Festival, in the church

Sunday 4 May 11am-5 Flower Festival

Sunday 4 May 5pm Joyful Songs, in the church

Monday 5 May Flower Festival 11am-5

Tuesday 6 May 10-12 Coffee Caravan on the green

**Thursday 8 May VE Day celebrations on the green. 6.30pm with live
music from 7.30, beacon lit at 9.30**

Saturday 24 May 10am Coffee and Books in the church

Saturday 24 May 10am-1 Westhorpe Café

Coming to Westhorpe Village Hall:

June 20 Family Bingo

July 12 Race Night

Sept 5 Elvis Night

Oct 11 Quiz

Nov 1 Art and Craft Exhibition

Nov 22 The Miracle, a theatrical production.

**READ ABOUT WESTHORPE'S REGULAR EVENTS ON THEIR WEB-
SITE : westhorpe.onesuffolk.net**

Live Music

Westhorpe Village Hall

Friday April 25th at 7.30pm

£5 via westhorpe.onesuffolk.net

Bar open

Performers will include John Evans, Paul Weston, Caroline Long, Alison Weston, Shums Aziz, Jane Scates, Jim Peart, Ricky Wilkinson, the Westhorpe Singers

VILLAGE HALL
westhorpe 
café

Homemade cakes and drinks

15th March 9am - 1pm (with Miller's antiques valuation from 9 till 11)

24th May 10am till 1

Christmas Lunch 2024

The Friends of Finningham Christmas lunch held on 7th December, 2024 at Stoke Ash White Horse was even more popular than ever which means this year it will be even more important to book early as numbers are limited.

The White Horse provided us with a lovely meal and the service was excellent. From the feed back I have received everyone seemed to have had a good time. In addition to good food and service the White Horse gave everyone who attended a £15 voucher to spend at the White Horse in either January or February 2025.

Our next big event will be the Rounders match on Sunday 22nd June on the Village Green it is not compulsory to participate but we hope you will come along and give your support, bring a picnic, a bottle of wine and enjoy the fun.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Our meetings are held in the church roughly every 6 weeks, dates are advertised in the newsletter, on the FOF facebook page and on the village notice board and are open to everyone. We welcome new members and ideas.

Christmas Tree

On behalf of the FOF Committee I would like to thank everyone who put baubles on the Christmas after the originally baubles went missing. I have put these away in a safe place for next year.

Mary Webb, FoF Chairman

Bishop & Miller

VALUERS AND AUCTIONEERS

SUFFOLK • NORFOLK



ANTIQUES VALUATION

Raising money at Westhorpe Village Hall

Church Rd, Westhorpe, IP14 4SY

Saturday 15 March 2025

9am - 11am

Whether you have single objects or a complete collection, come and speak to our valuers for an auction estimate. £5 per head for valuations (spectators welcome) with all monies raised going towards Westhorpe Village Hall.

**To book your valuation space please contact
Steven Rooney: stevenjohnrooney@outlook.com**

Refreshments available all morning, so come and support vital fundraising for the village hall, you never know what treasure you may unearth!

www.bishopandmillerauctions.co.uk

Hello, what's this? Two interesting letters to the editor! They are especially welcome (ed)

LIFT THY NEIGHBOUR!

An idea... Finningham is never going to be blessed with public transport and it is very difficult to get a taxi at short notice, but there are occasions when I might want to go for an evening out at one of our excellent local pubs — those at Cotton, Thornham Magna, Stoke Ash and Bacton all offer really good food - but don't especially fancy the drive back!

But what if one of my neighbours might give me a lift, if I gave them a lift when they needed to go somewhere? It doesn't need to be a pub, that could just be me! And what if it wasn't just two neighbours but a whole pool of neighbours who could put their hands up when another needs a lift somewhere? Maybe to the station, the garage, the shop...wherever?

The idea is to establish a list of people who are happy to participate and when a message goes out that a fellow Finninghamer needs a lift someone puts up their hand and obliges.

No money changes hands, that brings all sorts of problems, this is just a case of friends and neighbours helping each other out - and we'd keep a reasonable track that everyone is pulling their weight.

If you are interested in the idea please drop a message to davidogden62@gmail.com and we'll see if we can get this going.

David Ogden

I live in Finningham and heat my home with LPG.

I have bi-annual discussions with my supplier about price on a 2 year contract; currently 48p per litre in year one, increasing to 58p in year two with a standing charge (for the bulk tank) of 27.39p per day.

The LPG market is essentially controlled by the big 3; Flogas, Calor and Avanti and a small number of independents. It is also not subject to government oversight i.e. OFGEN therefore obtaining a competitive quote at the end of a 2-year contract can be difficult, as suppliers are often unwilling to negotiate until you can demonstrate better prices are available to you.

From social media it would appear LPG customers are paying between 40p to 89p per litre plus tank rental charges for the same service and product. Following negotiation with my supplier of an increase to 58p/litre I decided to explore the market and consider how I could secure a better price.

My first step was a price comparison site, which I later found to be linked to one of the major suppliers. I looked to find a local community buying group, sadly none appear to exist in this area. Community groups are commonplace in the heating oil market and after a very interesting and informative conversation with the founder of such a group in rural Northants, I decided to explore the possibility of establishing a “not for profit” community buying group.

I believe that if we as a community could buy LPG in bulk for 20 to 30 households we could negotiate a better price than we can achieve individually.

The purpose of this letter is;

- 1 Establish the level of interest locally.
- 2 Share information on price, T&Cs, and personal experience of supplier negotiations.
- 3 Identify if there is anyone in the area with detailed knowledge of the LPG market and is willing to help.

If you are interested please contact me at **grahamdavie@mail.com**

Graham Davie

National Service – Part 4

Hopefully, you will recall that I had been on a tour in a game reserve in Kenya with Roy and Dave who had beds each side of me in the billet.

The game reserve was in an area where there was plenty of shade and we erected the tent in an open area. The tent was made up of two parts. The inner part in which you slept and an outer covering, which I think is called a fly sheet. It is intended to create an airflow between the two layers and keep the inner tent cool. We did not bother with the outer layer. There was an old, fallen tree nearby and in the distance a herd of elephants and the baboons had also gone off to bed.

Old hands in the billet assured us that it was okay to camp out in the wild so long as you kept a fire going outside the tent. We settled down for the night with a roaring fire going.

I woke during the night to the sound of breaking branches and the snorting of elephants. The fire was no longer roaring. I could see through the mesh vents in the apex of the tent that the fire was glowing faintly. I just laid there waiting to be trampled on by elephants when they caught their feet in the guy ropes.

At first light we gingerly lifted the edges of the tent to see what wildlife was lurking nearby. Nothing. A herd of elephants was about 200 yards away. Sounds carry a long way in the dead of night, it seems!

We packed our tent and continued on our journey to the coast just north of Mombasa where we found a village on the shore of the Pacific Ocean. It was idyllic. It was a remote village with no road access. We had to weave around palm trees to get there. As we approached the children looked at us in wonder and the ladies scurried into the mud huts. The village elder visited us and showed us around the village. I recall the school. It had a thatch roof and one wall which was home to the blackboard.

This time we just used the fly sheet so that one side was fixed to the ground and the other open to the elements, looking out to sea. Wonderful. Swimming in the ocean whenever we felt like it.

It was time to return to camp. Most of the roads were not tarmacked out of the larger towns. They would develop potholes and to repair them, lorry loads of murrum (red earth) would be piled up at the side of the road ready to be

spread over the road way. On our drive back to Nairobi, we were finishing off some of our food supplies and Roy spilt some condensed milk down his front so used the spoon to scrape it off his top. That meant no hands on the steering wheel and we ended up hitting a pile of murum. I thought the van was on fire because the cloud of dust in the headlights sent up this cloud of red. We quickly got out of the van and realised there was no fire but we were perched on a pile of murum.

We were relieved when we saw headlights approaching. We looked forward with relief that we would have help to get us back on the road. It was a minibus which meant more hands to make light work. Our hopes were dashed. The minivan was carrying a number of nuns!. We thanked them for stopping and let them go on their way.

We were able to get our undamaged van back on the road to safely return to camp.

I have two other trips that I made that I would like to tell you about, but there is not enough space this time.

David Wadlow



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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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 departs 9.50 from the White Horse (westbound). Return departs 1.25 from Bury bus station stand 3.

Connecting Communities Bus Service: This is a wheelchair-accessible bus that can be booked for journeys within Suffolk by phoning 01449 614271. The cost is around half that of a taxi.

Rural Connect A door-to-door bus/taxi funded by Mid Suffolk District Council, providing transport to facilities in Eye and Diss. Phone 01449 700792 or email

andrea.lewis@communitiestogether-ea.org

Fares To Eye £4.50

To Diss £6.50

Rebuilding A Legend

The Story of the Sutton Hoo Saxon Ship



**A Talk by David
Keeble of The Sutton
Hoo Ships Company**



**Friday 30th May, Starting at 7pm
Westhorpe Village Hall**

£8 per person

**Go to Westhorpe website for ticket details:
westhorpe.onesuffolk.net**

**PAID BAR
EVENT IN AID OF WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL**

