

GISLINGHAM ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION (GAGA)

Report to Gislingham Parish Council - May 2026

In summary, GAGA has let all the 16 plots that are available. A variety of fruit and vegetables are being grown successfully and a positive and friendly spirit exists between allotment members. The boundaries are in good condition and we value the kind support and active assistance of the team at Thornham Walks.

All the allotments plots are let. We have some vacancies annually and reletting these plots is processed by the Secretary to GAGA. Notice of vacancies are often found in the Messenger or by contacting us directly. We appreciate the effort that is required with each allotment and look to develop alternative ways to allow a wide and flexible access to the plots consistent with our overall best interests.

In financial terms we operate on a low-cost basis consistent with our other responsibilities. That said, we actively look for new ideas to improve the allotments. After a slow and somewhat tedious start, we have adopted internet banking for most allotment holders. The flexibility in payment procedures has met with general approval.

Members are proactive in the upkeep and maintenance of the allotments. I can only say that the work gets done by members taking the maintenance initiative subject to the only caveat of cost.

We owe a great vote of thanks to all our friends at Thornham Walks for their kind and continued generosity in time and physical resources. In particular, I would mention the substantial help we received when a very large and very old tree fell down adjacent to our site boundary last September. We also thank Thornham Walks for their kind assistance and help in setting up an annual system for parking charges and rental charges. We hope that will save administrative costs and time going forward.

A wide variety of fruits and vegetables are grown at the allotment and there does seem to be some new initiatives tried on a year by year basis.

We support the increasingly close relationships with other clubs and activities in Gislingham and hope that this will continue.

On behalf of GAGA I would like to invite members of the Parish Council to visit us on occasion.

Eamonn Malone Chairman and Treasurer