

The Mallard

Issue 376

April 2023

Thank You for our Daffodils!

Signs that Spring has arrived.

You might have noticed that 'The Phantom Gardeners' have been at work around the village. An anonymous donation of daffodil bulbs has resulted in some planting for all to enjoy. Initially, many are around Scotsman's Pit, but as the spring weather arrives, there will, hopefully, be many more clumps of colour to brighten our lives. Look out for them.



Preparations for

The Coronation of King Charles III Saturday 6th May 2023



The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that, in collaboration with local businesses, an event to celebrate the King's Coronation will take place on Saturday 6th May from 2pm to 10.30pm on the village greens. This will tie in with events also planned by the Village Hall (see below) that are to take place across the bank holiday weekend, allowing you, your family and friends to attend as many planned events as you wish. (*see page 6 for more details*)

The King's Coronation Weekend at the Village Hall

On Sunday 7th May, as part of the celebrations for the King's Coronation, the Trustees of the Village Hall are asking the affiliated sports clubs to organise tournaments and games to provide a Sunday get-together for the Village.

Please come along and enjoy an afternoon of watching or participating in sport on, what we hope will be, a sunny May afternoon. There will be a barbeque and the bar will be open. Final details in the next issue.

Mallard News

This parish magazine is published every month for the residents of Great and Little Massingham with the support of the Great Massingham Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and Massingham Village Hall Trustees.

www.greatmassingham.net

e-mail:

mallard.editor@btinternet.com

Editor: Bev. Randall.

6 Abbeyfields
Great Massingham
01485 520 899

Website : Contact the Editor - Details above.

**Deadline for the next issue
17th April**

In this Issue

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- The Coronation Plans
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- Village Spring Clean
- Community Cars

Please join us

**MENU
£8**

Community Lunch
Massingham Village Hall Bar,
Tuesday April 11th Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm
Chicken and ham cobbler, roast potatoes and vegetables. Chocolate roulade and cream for dessert.

Come & meet friends for a chat. The Bar will be open.
To book lunch please contact Deborah Lambert on 07493 406 501 or, email on mrsdl1965@gmail.com by Friday 7th April

VILLAGE HALL BAR Wanted – Assistant Bar Manager Key Tasks

- To help manage the Bar Service ensuring that members and their guests are served promptly and courteously.
- To ensure the Bar is well maintained and is adequately stocked with the necessary goods
- To help take and organise bookings for the Village Hall
- 16 hours/week

Please speak to Deb or phone her on 07493 406501 for further details or to express an interest



Coronation Celebration Heirlooms Car Boot Sale



Sunday 14th May 2023 (9.30am to 2.30pm)

By kind permission of the Chief Executive
of Fakenham Racecourse Ltd

Admission **£5 per person**, Children under 16 **free**
Refreshments available, **free** car parking

In aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity

Registered Charity No. 1146420



THIS MONTH - 7th April
At Great Massingham
Village Hall.

Doors open at 7pm
Eyes down for 7.30pm

QUIZ NIGHT

Village Hall Bar

Every fourth

Thursday

This month:

27th April, 7.30 pm

Rural Crimes Police Officer Contact

PC Chris Shelley 07900 407 106
Christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk

VILLAGE HALL MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE

Please see advert on page 14



GREAT MASSINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Public Consultation Event Reminder

As announced last month, we are inviting residents to a drop-in consultation event in the Village Hall where we will display our policy ideas and invite your comments on what we have achieved so far.

The dates are **FRIDAY 19th MAY and SATURDAY 20th MAY, 11 am to 9 pm.**
Please make every effort to attend and help us tailor the Plan to meet the needs of the whole community. More information will be released next month.

Mike Jackson on behalf of the NDP Steering Group: Tel: 01485 520 056

ELECTION IN MAY - Need for Photo Identification - Update Photo ID – help for people without online access

Since the article in the last issue some drop-in sessions at the libraries in Hunstanton and Downham Market have been organised to help anyone without suitable photo ID.

They are as follows:

Hunstanton: every Wed 9am -12pm, up to the 19th April with a longer session on 25th April from 10am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.

Downham Market: every Thurs. 2-5pm, up to 20th April with a longer session on 25th April 10am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.

Applicants need to take their National Insurance number or other documents such as utility bill, council tax statement or birth certificate.

Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

UK driving licence or passport

Bus pass

Blue badge

PASS proof of age card

If you do not have internet access, call 01553 616200 for a paper form to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate or to request a postal vote.

Hope this all helps.

Craft & Chat Dates for April

2pm at the Village Hall Bar

April 3rd and 17th

May dates to be confirmed

Harpley Community Choir

Mondays 7.30pm to 8.30pm, Harpley Village Hall

All welcome and we particularly wish to encourage more male singers and young people (over 11 years)

Great Massingham C of E Primary School 100 Club winners



The winners of the February Draw 2023

1st prize

Mrs P Sillis

2nd prize

Dot Ford

3rd prize

Caroline Boyden



Julian Thomson : A memorial service to celebrate his life will take place, in **St. Mary's Church**, at **2pm**, on **Saturday 22nd April**. All welcome.

**PLEASE 'PICK UP'
WHEN WALKING
YOUR DOG.**

Friends of St. Andrew's Little Massingham News.....

An evening with acclaimed cellist, Orlando Jopling in Little Massingham Church-Friday, 19th May 2023

As a result of a collaboration between Oliver Birkbeck, who lives in Little Massingham House, and the Friends of St. Andrew's Little Massingham, (FOSALM) the village is delighted to be hosting the world-class conductor, composer and Cellist, Orlando Jopling who has agreed to provide a one night solo Bach Cello Concert in Little Massingham church, on Friday, the 19th of May, starting at 7pm. Orlando is well known for his performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Ballet, The English Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Opera House. This very special and unique event, which will be raising much-needed funds for St Andrews Church, is something not to be missed.



Tickets priced at £25 which includes a glass of wine, can be purchased from the FOSALM website - www.fosalm.org - in cash at the door on the night, or through

Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/3YzCdbx>

It will be an unforgettable and very enjoyable evening so please book your places early! More information can be provided by the Chairman of FOSALM, Terry Holloway, at: terryholloway.33@btinternet.com

Thank You.... A huge thank you to Skye and William who have delivered the Mallard copies for us during the past year. They are now taking a well earned break! Thank you.

New Mallard Editor.....

My planned date to step down as editor, after 18.5 years, is the end of September. Please come forward and volunteer.

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PARISH COUNCIL - MARCH MEETING

The meeting held on Monday 13th March was attended by seven Parish Councillors, eight parishioners with apologies from our Borough Councillor, Jim Moriarty.

Parish Council Website - www.greatmassingham-pc.info

The new website is now LIVE and has replaced the previous one. The website address as stated in the previous months article has had to be slightly tweaked, with the addition of a hyphen, because the website address that was to be used was mysteriously purchased a few days before the new domain name was registered.

Now that the old website has expired, the new site will start to appear in search results over the coming weeks. If it doesn't appear on the first page of a Google search, please try typing the new website address into the address bar of your browser.

If there is anything you would like to contribute to the content or place on the website, please forward any suggestions to Sarah via email: gmparishclerk@gmail.com or by post, Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW.

King's Coronation Celebratory Event

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that, in collaboration with local businesses, an event to celebrate the King's Coronation will take place on Saturday 6th May from 2pm to 10.30pm on the village greens. This will tie in with events also planned by the Village Hall that are to take place across the bank holiday weekend, allowing you & family and friends to attend as many planned events as you wish. **Please put this in your diary!**

The event on the green is free and will include a number of live music sets, a range of family activities and refreshments, including fish and chips, an outside bar and BBQ and a range of cakes provided by The Cartshed Tea Room.

Should you wish to make a contribution towards the event or make a donation towards a local charity, collection buckets will be made available on the day.

Village Greens and Car parking

In collaboration with the Village Hall the Parish Council is in the midst of organising appropriate signage for both the village hall and the village centre in order to encourage visitors to use the village hall car park for parking.

Signs will be placed on the greens in the village centre and at the entrance to the village hall to encourage visitors to make use of the available car parking and to deter vehicles from being parked around and on the village greens. Smaller signs will also be placed on the existing wooden bollards around the greens to also deter parking.

Following a further meeting with Norfolk County Council Highways temporary reflective posts will be installed adjacent to the bunded areas created last year, to allow the area to establish and discourage parking.

CIL Funding for Play Area

The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining funds from the CIL Infrastructure Fund to assist with the cost to replace the existing play Train, within the toddlers' Play Area and for safety surfacing to be installed underneath the trackway. The play Train is to be replaced with a play Fire Engine spring rocker as pictured in the December edition. Thank you to all those various community groups who very kindly provided a letter of support to accompany the application. This was much appreciated and helped significantly towards our application success. The work should be completed within the next six months.

The Next Parish Council Meeting will be at the Village Hall on 17th April at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to join the meeting and there is an opportunity to make comments or ask questions during the first part of the meeting.

To contact the Clerk, Sarah Harvey, phone 01328 823391, email gmparishclerk@gmail.com or write to Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW.

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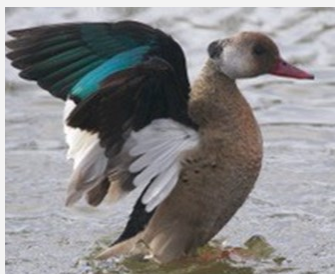
Massingham Wildlife Notes



The most familiar wildfowl that we see around the village ponds or pits are the greylag geese, mallard and their several domesticated forms. Variations on the mallard theme can vary from all white to almost black, with just a white chest patch but the drakes always show the curled feathers just above the tail as a giveaway to their identity. Many would say that we have more than enough of these species in the village already, but it is always interesting to note when something different turns up. Recently a pair of Cana-

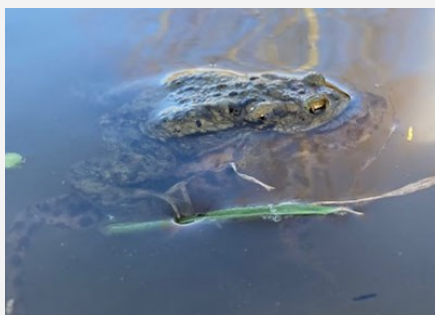
da geese have been touring around many of the ponds from Scotsman's Pit to Weasenham Road. Canada geese were introduced to Britain in the 17th century and are well established on many lakes, gravel pits and in urban parks. In Norfolk, they are mainly found in The Broads and along the north coast and it is perhaps surprising that they are not seen here more often.

More exotic has been a pair of Brazilian teal recently seen on Scotsman's Pit and first noted by Gavin Cole.



These will be escapes from a wildfowl collection and someone relatively local may be missing them. They have certainly not migrated from South America where they are more or less resident! The drone (above and left) has a distinctive white face and red bill, the duck a smaller face patch and dark bill. Like many ducks, there are bright flashes of colour in the wings that are not very evident

when at rest. Thanks to Peter James and Robin Arbenz for the excellent photos. Local toads started migrating back to their breeding ponds last month. They are triggered to move by both temperature and humidity which have varied greatly in recent weeks. The numbers recorded in Great Massingham have crashed since 2019 but toad patrols have had some busy nights at Little Massingham, particularly at Hall Farm



and along Church Lane. Early in the season, totals of around 80 toads were rescued from the road on busy nights. After the cold spell in the first half of March, a rise in temperature triggered some large movements with over 300 recorded on the busiest night! We are also keeping an eye out for toads returning to Scotsman's Pit where numbers have been low in recent years. This pair was seen swimming at Scotsman's Pit in April 2022.

Tim Baldwin

St Mary's Church Clock Appeal

Progress Report

Just to say thank you to everyone who has donated towards the church clock fund.

We have reached £450 to date and still collecting. Thank you for your generosity.

Please support the BINGO event.....



Prize BINGO
at Gt Massingham
Village Hall
on Saturday 22nd April.
Doors open 6.45
eyes down 7.30.

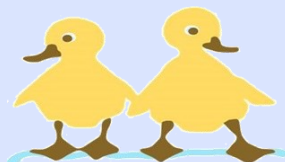
All proceeds for the repair of the church clock. Donations of prizes for bingo and raffle would be appreciated.

Everyone welcome.

Contact Peggy 520393

Chrissie 520173

Ducklings Preschool for children age 2-4 years



Ofsted Registration EY268556
Charity Number 91991

**for sessions from
September 2023**

Contact Pip the Manager
ducklingspreschool@aol.co
or text 07807185746

Message from the Preschool Charity Trustees

Good News for Families !

The spring budget recognised the importance of early years education and childcare. (See right)

From September 2024, working parents of children age 9 months will be able to access 15 hours a week/570 hrs a year free childcare. "We are going to need a bigger preschool!" said Lindsey Tibble, treasurer.

The Preschool Trustees are looking at how preschool can develop to meet the needs of families in Great Massingham.

Childcare Choices

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
information on

2 year old funding

3 AND 4 YEAR OLD FUNDING

30 HOURS FUNDING

Tax Free Childcare saves 20% on fees
Preschool fees kept at £12 per session
for 2023 Non Funded places.

Great Massingham Historical Society April 21st 7.30pm, Village Hall

King's Lynn to Wells by Philip West.

Phillip takes us on an animated journey featuring old & relatively new influences that have impacted our coast.

Also a brief look at the mystery of buried gold, growth of a new town and maritime trade, both legal and illegal.

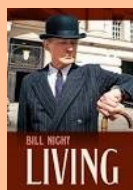
May 26th - A short AGM followed by Dr Sarah Spooner talking about 'The History of Norfolk Footpaths'

Please post your blue tokens in the Charity Box at Swaffham TESCO (See p 16)

FILM NIGHT

**Thursday April 20th,
£5, at the Village Hall
7pm for 7.30pm start**

'Living'



Starring Bill Nighy, this is a story of an ordinary man, reduced to years of oppressive office routine to a shadow existence, who in the eleventh hour makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into something wonderful.

If you need help getting to and from Film Night, call Denny on 07887 927691.

Do you Have any Information for Mike and Michelle?

Mike and Michelle Barrett are interested in the history of their home, the old Railway Inn, Station Road, Little Massingham. It was also known as The Railway Hotel. If you have any information, photographs or stories you'd like to share, they would love to hear from you. You can contact them at m.barrett.uk@btinternet.com

Just to jog your memories, some of the previous occupants were:-

Eliza Chamberlain 1881, Edgar Chamberlain 1883, Robert Ellis 1888 - 1890, Robert S Field 1891 - 1892, Robert Mason 1894 - 1909, Elizabeth Mason 1909 - 1916, William Softley by 1922, Cecil Henry Bocking 1950, Jack Lawrence Sparkes, 1968.

Fakenham Choral Society

Come & Sing Day

Saturday 15th April 2023
at Fakenham Academy

Celebrate Nelson's Mass in Nelson's County

The Come & Sing Day is open to all voice parts and costs £15 (under 21s £3), which includes score hire.

Singers are asked to register by the 10th April 2023 either through the Fakenham Choral Society website www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org or by contacting Rosemary Dear via email: rosemary_dear@hotmail.com or ring 01328 851776



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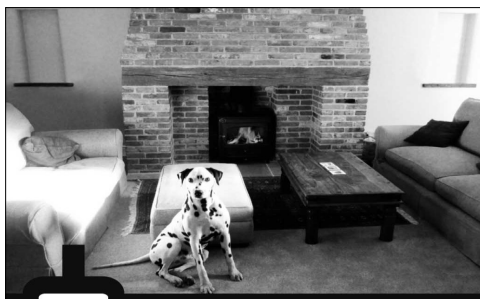
for much more information and to book

www.westacretheatre.com or TEL: 01760 755 800

Here is a brief summary of 'What's on When' in March'.

- **Easter Holiday Activities and Events for Young People.** Join us in the Easter holidays for a mixture of drop-off and accompanied workshops and sessions.
- Easter Costumes & Capers Drama Workshops Monday 3 April & Wednesday 5 April 9am - 3pm Ages 8-11s & 12-14s (working in age-appropriate groups) £45 p/day
- Westacre's Woodland Adventures Tuesday 4 April & Thursday 6 April 10am - 12pm Ages 2 - 6s (accompanied) 1pm - 3pm Ages 7-11s (drop-off) £15 p/place
- Spinning Wheel Theatre Company present The Velveteen Rabbit. Join the Velveteen Rabbit after a chance encounter that makes him a favourite in the toybox... lot of love, Saturday 15 April 2:30pm Adults £12 Under 16s £10 Under 5s £5
- On Screen in the Studio (NT Live): 'Good' by C.P.Taylor. Stars David Tennant. 20 April 7pm £12 Pre-screening supper available (booking essential)
- The Play's The Thing Theatre Company present Hidden Stories A double-bill of new one act plays. Friday 21 April 7:30pm Adults £16 Under 16s £10.

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Message for Parishioners from Rev'd Judith



Spring brings us an annual burst of hope - expressed in nature by new green shoots and emerging new life.

In the RSPB reserves, the reed beds are quivering with new bird-life. In our villages, toads emerge from hibernation for their spring migration to breed where they were born - and the toad patrols are on full alert.

We certainly could do with a burst of hope at the moment.

*"Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days had lain."*

Gardeners too are stirring in their potting sheds, planning for the year ahead. Our lawnmower has been dusted off and as we work, Rufus is always close by, chasing squirrels! Springtime activity in our churches is similar to that of gardening: doing a bit of spade-work, digging and spring-clearing out, trying to summon up some creative energy for new planting, new ideas for fundraising and outreach.

If you have **ever** thought of getting a bit more involved in church life in **any way at all**, now is the perfect time. We **really do** need your help and support. Are there any musicians out there? People who would like to join in the flower rota? Any unexpected/intriguing skills for cleaning? Have a word with a churchwarden or myself. Do come to our Sunday services, especially as the weather gets warmer! You will be assured of a friendly welcome.

With Easter falling early this year we can enjoy a leisurely stroll towards late Spring/Summer as we begin to welcome the new season of visitors to our beautiful county - and the joy of rural life, writ large in our villages: cafes, pubs, shops and medieval churches. We are so blessed to be living here, surrounded by the natural beauty of the countryside.

*"Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat that springeth green."*

'Hope springs eternal in the human breast...' hope that is nourished every Easter by coming afresh to the story of Jesus's death and resurrection: the sacrificial love which invigorates and sustains our churches, the **hope that will never die**; the redeeming, life-giving power of God in Christ Jesus at work in our lives. As we become older - and wiser perhaps? - Easter will resonate with us differently, uniquely for now.

Over the past months we have lost many people from our villages. We are still reeling from the sudden, untimely death of our dear friend, neighbour and colleague Reverend Julian Thomson. A memorial service to celebrate his life will take place,

in St. Mary's Church, at 2pm, on Saturday 22nd April.

Julian wrote: **"Be truly glad - there is wonderful joy ahead!"**

April is in fact the **most joyful** month, despite what the poet TS Eliot says, and the Easter season lasts for five whole weeks into May and Ascension Day. So, despite the huge challenges we face, walk with a spring in your step and hope in your heart.

Happy Spring-cleaning, Happy Gardening! And most of all **Happy Easter!**

With love, Reverend Judith.

Church News....

A Memorial Service for Revd Julian Thomson will be held at St Mary's on Saturday 22nd April at 2pm. You are invited to come along and celebrate his life.

Maundy Services on, Thursday 6th April, will be held at St Mary's, Great Massingham and also St Nicholas, Gayton. **On Good Friday** there will be services at Grimston and Little Massingham. See all the Easter details on facing page. ***Happy Easter to you all.***

Easter Church Services - April 2023

Date	Time	Service	Location
Sunday 2 nd April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Holy Communion Donkey Service	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston East Walton
3 rd April	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Grimston
4 th April	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	Roydon
5 th April	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
6 th April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Agape Service	Great Massingham Gayton
7 th April <i>Good Friday</i>	10.30 am 2.00 pm	Meditation for Good Friday Liturgy of the Cross	Grimston Little Massingham
8 th April <i>Easter Eve</i>	6.00 pm	Easter Vigil	Ashwicken
Sunday 9 th April <i>Easter Day</i>	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Harpley Great Massingham Grimston Gayton
Sunday 16 th April <i>Second Sunday of Easter.</i>	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Songs of Praise Morning Praise	Harpley Great Massingham Grimston
Wed. 19 th April	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 23 rd April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Service Celtic Service	East Walton Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 30 th April <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Great Massingham
Wed. 3 rd May	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 7 th May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Songs of Praise Holy Communion Holy Communion	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston Gayton
For more news please visit our benefice website at www.ggmbenefice.uk			

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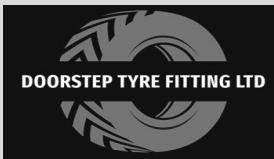
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Useful Numbers

Organisation	Contact	Phone No.
Allotment Association	Daisy Robinson	07979 723 288
Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Council	James (Jim) Moriarty	07879 492400
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	Peter Wadham	520 796
Church Contacts	Revd Judith Pollard	01485 601 251
Community Car Scheme	Office	520 823
Coronation Club	Jill Whitmore	520 609
County Council	Stuart Graham Dark	07450 679 355
Dabbling Duck Pub	Mark Dobby	520 827
Doctors	Massingham Surgery	520 521
The Film Night	Arthur Allen	520 628
Fishing Warden	Paul Smith & Ken Perry	PC Clerk 01328 823391
Trefoil Guild	Shirley Rae & Rita Gostling	520 259 & 520 730
Massingham Historical Society	Jeanne Robinson	520 455
Neighbourhood Plan	Mike Jackson	520 056
Parish Council	Peter James (Chair) & Sarah Harvey (Clerk)	Clerk 01328 823391
Pre-School	Pip Grange	07807 185 746
Police	Non-emergency	101
School	Kirsten Stibbon	520 362
Tennis and Multi-Sports Club	Clare Parker	520 469
Village Hall	Hall & Bar & Debs Lambert	520 588
Village Stores and Deli	Mark and Kerry Eldridge	520 272



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Pupils Enjoy Hearing Author's New Book

Great Massingham Primary celebrated 'World Book Day' over two days, recently. Children came to School dressed as their favourite characters on the Wednesday and the Thursday of the World Book Week. Local children's author, Andrew Bickerton, visited the school to read his latest book called 'Wayne Goes Wild'.

It tells the story of Wayne, a wasp, who wants to be famous but starts behaving very badly after eating ripe plums! He eventually learns that friends are more important than fame.

The book was launched on March 25th at a special event, at the Village Hall.

At £6 each, the books are good value and the story is well worth reading. This book is part of a series of books with various wildlife as the central characters and always with a good message.

Great Massingham Historical Society is selected at TESCO's

If you happen to shop at TESCOs in Swaffham you will see that the Great Massingham Historical Society is one of the chosen organisations, during April, to benefit from the Swaffham TESCO Charities token support.



Please support if you are in the store and post your blue tokens in our section of the charity box, found at the door.

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN on 1ST APRIL

Meet at the Well at 10 am.

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at massinghamcommunitycars.co.uk or
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Some April 2023 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
1 April	Village Spring Clean	10 am	At the Well
3/17 April	Craft & Chat	2 pm	Village Hall Bar
7 April	BINGO	7 for 7.30	Village Hall
11 April	Community Lunch	1pm	Village Hall Bar
17 April	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Village Hall
20 April	Film Night	7 for 7.30 pm	Village Hall
21 April	Historical Society	7 for 7.30 pm	Village Hall
22 April	Memorial Service for Julian	2 pm	St Mary's Church
27 April	Quiz Night	7.30 pm	Village Hall