

The Mallard

Issue 362

December 2021 & January 2022



Please see the centre pages for the many events of the Christmas season. We all hope everything goes as planned and that we can celebrate this happy season together. Merry Christmas to you all!



‘Wear it Pink’ Fundraiser for Breast Cancer

Thanks to the generosity of many tennis players and village people, over £500 was raised for two Breast Cancer charities in October, which was ‘Breast Cancer Awareness’ month.

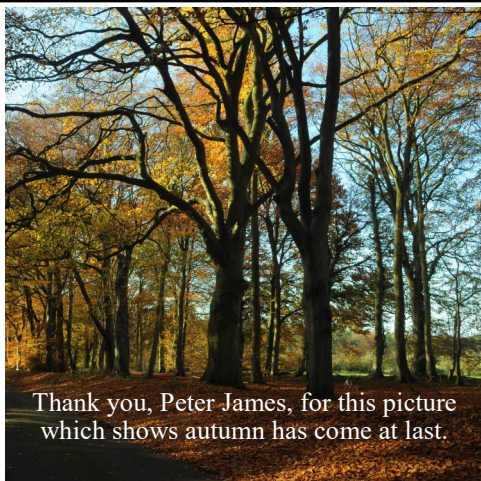
Both the WOWs (Women on Wednesday) session and the Thursday Improvers group dressed in pink, bought raffle tickets and, of course, scoffed a few cakes to help raise this impressive amount!

Many thanks to Mark and the Cartshed team for donating a raffle prize, to our coach Ashley for his support, to Debs Lambert for helping at the hall and to everyone who contributed.

‘WOW’s Group with Ashley.



PUMPKIN FEVER breaks out at the Dabbling Duck. Well done everyone for your wonderful creations. So imaginative!



Thank you, Peter James, for this picture which shows autumn has come at last.

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

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Deadline for the next issue
17th January 2022

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REPORTS ON NOVEMBER EVENTS

It is so good to see that more and more events are now being organized. We thank all the people who have taken the trouble to get things up and running and all of you who have supported and attended. Update below..

Community Lunch

Thank you to all of our customers. This has become a fun filled couple of hours with excellent food. There is no lunch in December and, provisionally, the next lunch is Tuesday January 25th. February's date is Tuesday, 22nd. We will be contacting all our regulars individually, with the menu, in mid January.

Thai Food Stall

Thank you to Michelle West for the brilliant idea to try food stalls outside the Bar. The Thai food stall was a great success and Nidy has been re- booked for Saturday, January 29th from 4pm to 8.30pm. Put the date in your diary please. We are also talking to other possible vendors.

Pop Up Restaurant

The Pop Up restaurant in the Village Hall was a great success with forty people attending. Thank you to caterer Sarah Shapeero-Lown. The event will be repeated in the Spring with a different menu. See up to date details in the February Mallard and on Facebook. Thanks to Sandy, Debs and other helpers.

CHURCH Coffee Morning

The coffee morning we held on the 6th November for our Food bank raised £342. This is a lovely amount and will go a long way as we head into winter and the festive season. Thank you to all who helped and supported us.

'The Big C' BINGO

We would like to thank all who gave prizes, all who attended the bingo for Big C and everyone who helped in any way. We are pleased to say we made £1,067 for this worthwhile cause. Best wishes to all. Julie and Chrissie.

An amazing result! Well done!

Please Note: The next edition of the Mallard will be delivered at the end of January. This issue is December 2021 and January 2022 combined. Happy New year to all our readers!



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GREAT MASSINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

News from the Steering Group



In last month's 'News from the Pre-steering Group' I was optimistic that our application to an organisation called 'Locality', for funds to cover our costs for the next few months, would be successful. The optimism was well-founded since we have now been given the level of support we asked for. The grant will run until the end of March 2022. Amongst other things, the funding will allow us to make a parish-wide survey of issues that will inform the preparation of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This will be needed because the principal responsibility of the Parish Council and its Steering Group is to ensure that the NDP reflects the hopes and concerns currently held by residents and other interested parties concerning the future of Great Massingham.

Our intention is to distribute the survey this coming February.

The survey form will include some explanatory text and finish with several short, open-ended questions to which we hope you will respond. Paper copies of the survey form will be distributed with the February 2022 issue of *The Mallard*.

We also intend to make the survey available online and link this to our planned Facebook page, to the Parish Council's website and to the village website.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY!

A strong response will help make sure the NDP is highly representative. We can only reflect your views if you tell us what they are!

For more information about the NDP please e-mail gmndplan@yahoo.com or telephone 01485 520 056.

Mike Jackson on behalf of the Parish Council NDP Steering Group.

GREAT MASSINGHAM YOUTH CLUB

**WE HOPE TO REINSTATE THE GMYC
VOLUNTEER HELPERS NEEDED
CAN YOU HELP IN SOME WAY?
WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

CONTACT: greatmassinghamyouthgroup@gmail.com

THANK-YOU!

CRAFT & CHAT December & January

2022 dates
13th December and
10th and 24th January
at 2pm
at the
Village Hall Bar

Mobile Library Visits
14th December and
11th January 2022

Volunteers required to empty litter bins.....

The Parish Council is looking for volunteers to empty the small litter bins round Scotsman Pit and the centre of the village. The full bin bags have to then be left beside either the large bin opposite the Dabbling Duck or the large bin on the green in front of the shop. All bin bags will be provided by the Parish Council.

The large bins are emptied on Wednesdays
so the small bins need to be emptied on Tuesdays.



**For further information or to register your interest please contact
Sue Nash (Chair of the Parish Council) on 01485 520476.**

Farewell to the Lorry Back and Outdoor Store at the Village Hall



After many years of service as an outdoor storage unit, the lorry back in the overflow car park of the village hall had become a safety hazard and a bit of an eyesore. One of the rear doors had fallen off and the floor had rotted through, revealing the rusty chassis.

After consulting with Atlas Metal Recycling Company, it was decided to break up the lorry back for scrap and two skips were delivered – one for the recyclable metal, which should help offset the cost of the skip hire and one for the other components.

The wood lining was of good quality so was stripped out and donated to Tapping House Hospice for them to use in their craft shed.

Our thanks go to Great Massingham Fire and Rescue Service for removing and breaking down the aluminium superstructure and to Nigel Brown and Chris Stokes for the loan of equipment and their help dismantling and chopping up the floor and substantial steel chassis.

Thanks also to Deb Lambert who has expended a lot of effort in rearranging and clearing out the storerooms in the Hall itself. Our current thinking is that we no longer require an outdoor store to replace the old unit, which will free up space and improve the look of the overflow car park.

Phil Ward on behalf of the Trustees

Calling All Students in Great Massingham Area.....

Sue Nash and Olaf Brun have, for many years, been trustees of the 'Great Massingham Charities' an organisation that has, over the years, provided support for students with various expenses.

They have written the message below in the hope that they can identify students to support this year round.

**Please get in touch if you qualify for an award.
They would love to hear from you.**

"The trustees of the Great Massingham Charities invite students to apply for grants to assist with university or technical college expenses during the current year. Applicants should be 17 or over, have good GCSE passes, and have lived in the village for most of their lives.

Those interested should contact olaf.brun@yahoo.co.uk by email, and supply a short C.V. and, if possible, a photograph."

Sue Nash & Olaf Brun



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Gert & Daisy.... Well, how are yew awl? As we write this we are thinking about what people would like for Christmas and we really must git on with the Christmas shopping. Not knowing what ter buy is the problem – most of the grandchildren are gitting too owld fer toys. Looks like we will all be able to get together this year as normal. Think we will ask everyone to take a test before they come in though! By the toime yew read this, we will both hev hed our boosters and should be as safe as we can be.

We were very sorry to hear that Derrick Rae has passed away. We will miss seeing him whizzing around on his scooter. Our thoughts go out to Shirley and the family.

Daisy went ter the Remembrance Service at the Church – luvly ter hear Alexis playing the Last Post. Luckily that dint rain til the end of the outside bit!

Sid is going ter the Isle of Wight with a bus load from the village. We hope they hev a gud toime. He moight notice sum changes when he gits back. Daisy moight hev hed sum workmen in!

Bonfire noight was quoite quiet but maybe a lot of people went ter organised events.

Daisy hed a family bonfire and fireworks party loike before – not larst year of course. It wus a bit windy but there wernt no rain, thank goodness. Ken yew remember when we used ter hev the fireworks noight in the village up the hall? That wus gud fun.

Mr Bickerton has a new buk owt about a worm. He went ter the school and red it ter the children – Gert’s grandson Timmy sed he really enjoyed it. Perhaps we cud buy all the grandchildren one fer the tree present? Well dun Andrew.

Coronation Club is gitting tergether on the 8th December. We are lukking forward ter that. Also, we are dewing a quiz fer the Firemen ter help raise funds fer the Christmas parcels and the Benevolent Fund. Thas on Friday 3rd December up the hall. Please come along and support that worthwhile cause.

Talking of the Fire Station hev yew seen the Firemen’s new erection? Yew ken see it all the way from the village green apparently. Rumour is that’ll be on the market as a second home fer a million pounds in 2022!

Lovely news – the cupple who live in Mrs. Flower’s house in Weasenham Road hev hed a lovely baby girl called Pippa. Congratulations Alex and Minka. Mrs Flower would be so happy.

Happy Birthday ter Daisy’s granddaughter Daisy on the 9th December. Hope she hev a luvly day. Also, Happy Birthday ter Daisy’s daughter-in-law Rebecca at the end of December. Gert hev her grandson Timmy on the 8th, granddaughter Molly and sister Jayne later in December and granddaughter Lucy on 1st January. Phew! Hope we hint forgot enywun.

We wud loike ter wish everywun a luvly Christmas. We hope we ken git tergether not loike larst year. Please stay safe and we wish yew all a Happy and Healthy New Year. Don’t forget ter let us know if there’s anything we ken help yew with. We know we say that every month but we do really mean it. Tek care and stay safe. *Gert and Daisy.*

Still no quiz words so another little thing from Keith Skipper’s book ‘Larn yarself Norfolk’. Maybe we ken sort sum quiz words next toime.

CURRENT RATE

A girl swimming in the sea off the Norfolk coast was having trouble getting ashore owing to the undercurrent. She called to a boatman to come to her assistance. He took no notice and she eventually reached the shore unaided.

She asked the boatman sharply why he hadn’t answered her call. He replied “Larst gal I help, she only gimme harf a crown. We git five bob fer a body.”

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Christmas 2021 - Village and Local Events

Santa is coming to Great Massingham again this year!

'Santa Dash' is on Friday 10th December. Santa will arrive on his sleigh at about 4.30pm and will park on the green opposite the Church for a little while before moving on to Harpley. Santa and his helpers will be raising funds for:-

Greyfriars Academy, King's Lynn

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital

The Foodbank

Cancer Charities

He is also donating raffle prizes to Great Massingham Primary School so that funds can be raised.

Come and see Santa and his helpers.



Great news!

THE DABBLING DUCK CHRISTMAS MARKET IS BACK THIS YEAR!

Saturday December 4th ...10am until 4pm

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St Mary's Church Gt. Massingham Carol service

Sunday 19th December
3pm

Including our Nativity Play
"The Grumpy Inkeeper"

Everyone is very welcome & we really do hope you can join us.



St Mary's Church Gt. Massingham

Dec
24th

4.30pm



We would like to invite everyone to join us for our **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm
Please wear something orange if you can!!!

This joyous service is the start of Christmas with excited children receiving their Christingle followed by a candlelight procession around the Church.

The collection will go to The Children's Society

CHURCH SERVICE DETAILS

Sunday 28th November is the first Sunday in Advent. Please join us at our Family Service at 9.30am when we will be lighting the first candle on our Advent Crown.

Please note: During our Christmas services, when processions with children and adults around the church will be taking place, we would please ask that you try to keep a sensible distance from others and follow the one way signs around the church.

Masks are not mandatory. However, you may feel more comfortable wearing one.

We start with our Christmas celebrations on Sunday 4th December with Carol Singing on the village green. Please note: We depart from our usual service pattern this year in that we will have a service at 10am on Christmas Day instead of Midnight Mass. There will not be a service on the 26th December. Details of all our services are on page 13.

FREE ENTRANCE

2021 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

**FAKENHAM
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DONATIONS TO CHARITY



25TH NOVEMBER TO 2ND DECEMBER
10AM TO 8PM (12 NOON TO 8PM ON SUNDAY)

This popular event is back. It has raised many thousands of pounds for charities over the last twenty years, mostly in small coins! All ages can enjoy this festival as there is disabled access and admission is free! Refreshments and scrummy home-made cakes available as well as tombola, raffle and Christmas Bazaar.

Over the years we have decorated a tree for the Epilepsy Society and we are raising money for them again this year. If you get the chance to visit this colourful event, we would be really grateful if you could save a few coins for our tree! We are Number 36 on the map, up towards the Nave Altar on the right. If you see this message in time.....

Please go along to enjoy the magical atmosphere and get into the spirit of Christmas.

Many thanks from Ali Ward and Penny Thornton



Great Massingham Historical Society 2022 Calendar

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Christmas gifts.

Available from Massingham
Stores & Post Office, at some
village events and from Peter
James, 63 Castle Acre Road.



VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS DATES

**Fireman's quiz
3rd December**

**Christmas Draw
24th December**

**Family Disco
New Year's Eve**

WOW! Andrew's visit to the School makes the Lynn News.

Andrew Bickerton is known to us all in Great Massingham; he has contributed so much to our community. In the November Mallard we mentioned the launch of his latest book, his third composition, called '**Wilfred the Worm Who would not Wiggle**'.



It is a simple story to entertain and educate, with a wildlife theme and message.

Andrew visited our village school to read parts of the book to the school children. They loved it!

The book will make an ideal Christmas gift. Why not get in touch with Andrew or see him at the Dabbling Duck Christmas Market on the 4th December.

**Excellent value at
£6.50**



Westacre Theatre needs your help please.....

The Theatre's programme of performances and events are very carefully planned so there should always be something to suit most tastes. Indeed, many of the people who regularly support the Theatre live in the Massingham area. After all, it is only

about a quarter-hour's drive in the car.

For a whole variety of reasons, a number of the helpers from before the pandemic are unable to return, which has left several gaps in the roster. But each activity needs volunteers to ensure it runs smoothly.

Just a few hours now and again would make all the difference; you would become part of a well-oiled team.

Open all year round and standing in rolling Norfolk countryside complete with landscaped lagoon, this is a wonderful facility to have close-by. As with so many things in life, it's a two-way street. The well-equipped rooms and beautiful grounds are ideal for use by local communities.

But the Theatre does need those willing hands to keep everything on an even keel. They hope you may consider giving a little of your time to making the venue sustainable for you, your children and grandchildren to enjoy.

***You can easily get in touch with them by
phoning 01760 755007 or***

by emailing admin@westacretheatre.com

Please give this serious thought and make that contact.

MAGPIE CENTRE SEES LAUNCH OF NATIONAL LOTTERY FUND GRANT

It was a red letter day on Tuesday, November 9, at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, when trustees, volunteers and members of the local community welcomed Heidi Haxeltine, National Lottery Fund Community Funding Officer, Peterborough and Norfolk area, to celebrate the launch of a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The grant, payable in quarterly instalments over three years, is to help develop and expand new activities at the Centre, including Equine Assisted Learning Therapy, which benefits people living with mental health challenges; training for a new instructor to deliver this programme; support for Tea With a Pony, aimed at people with dementia or age-related reduced mobility, and a new website for West Norfolk RDA.

We are delighted to have this important support and thank everyone who supports our organization. Thank you.

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Message to Parishioners from Joy Smith



What are you going to do for Christmas, after last year when we had to almost put Christmas on hold? It will be good to be able to celebrate the birthday of our Lord in our churches and our homes and to see family and friends but, of course, the pandemic has not gone away. Many of us have had our vaccinations and boosters. Things seem more hopeful but we still have to be careful. Things have changed - they are not the same, although many do not see a change at all.

That was how it was at the birth of Jesus. Have you ever asked yourself why so few people noticed Jesus' birth? Why, when the moment of salvation and hope, which had been so long expected, finally arrived, did it pass so many people by?

The answer I think is simple – because everything looked the same. The world was, apparently, exactly as it had been before: they were expecting something spectacular but it was far from that. Admittedly the appearance of angels in the sky would have been amazing but they are only seen by a few shepherds in the fields.

The angels' song, however, points out that, barely noticed though this birth may have been, it was the moment for which God's people had waited for so long, the long awaited moment had come and the world had changed forever - even if it didn't feel any different. It is worth holding on to this truth through the seemingly never ending times of the pandemic we are in. In happier, less stressful times, it is easy to imagine that we know that the world changed for the better with Jesus' birth because of the joy we feel or the justice we see around us. At happier times we might feel the joy of Christmas.

But it is worth remembering that at the time of Jesus, for most people, nothing seemed to have changed. The world appeared as dark and as hopeless as it always had. At the heart of the Christmas story lies the truth that it might have looked that way to most people but, as the angels revealed to the shepherds or as the star revealed to the magi, how things seemed was not how they were.

Hope had stirred. Love had been born. Immanuel – God with us – was in the midst of them. The world had changed forever, even if they couldn't see it. This year, let us hold fast to this with every fibre of our being – how things seem is not how they are. There is hope and love in abundance and God still is with us through it all, whether it feels that way or not.

With every blessing from all of the Ministry Team *Joy Smith Licensed Lay Minister*

CHURCH NEWS

Little Massingham... GOOD NEWS! Our new gates are fitted and they look superb. New interior lighting is soon to be installed followed by new heaters which will make everything brighter and warmer. Our **Carol Service** will be held on Sunday 12th December at 3pm. Everyone welcome. During the course of the year there are many people who help to keep the Church and churchyard tidy. We thank the Fox family maintaining the grass areas, Thelma our organist and all who clean and decorate the church with the lovely flowers to keep our beautiful church looking at its best all year.

Great Massingham.... For details of our Christmas services see pages 9 & 13. We have many people to thank who help and support our Church. Thanks to Pip, Bob, Marcello, Keith and all others who help keep the Churchyard tidy. We also thank Dale for clockwinding and keeping the time accurate, Rev'd Julian, Judy, Margaret and others for church cleaning, Anna and all who help with the flowers, Anna, Janice, Chrissy & June who manage the Food bank, Chrissy and Carly for the yard sale and the proceeds for church and Martin for building repairs. THANK YOU! Christmas wishes. *Stephen Hudson*

Church Services December 2021 & January 2022			
Date	Time	Service	Location
Wed. 1 st December	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 5 th December 2 nd Sunday in Advent	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Gayton Congham
Friday 10 th December	7.00 pm	Carols Service	Ashwicken
Sat. 11 th December	3.00 pm	Carols in the Stable	Cliffe en Howe Rd.
Sunday 12 th December 3 rd Sunday in Advent	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Carol Service	Congham Grimston Great Massingham Little Massingham
Wed. 15 th December	9.00 am 7.00 pm	Holy Communion Carol Service	Grimston East Walton
Thurs. 16 th December	6.30 pm	Rotary Carol Service	Gayton
Fri. 17 th December	6.00 pm	Carol Singing	Outside - Congham
Sat. 18 th December	6.00 pm	Carol Service	Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 19 th December 4 th Sunday in Advent	9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist Family Holy Communion Morning Praise Carol Singing Carol Singing	Harpley Great Massingham Grimston Great Massingham Outside - Roydon
Tues. 21 st December	7.00 pm	Carol Service	Grimston
Wed. 22 nd December	6.00 pm	Carols in the Porch	Harpley
Friday 24 th December Christmas Eve	4.00 pm 4.30 pm 11.30 pm	Christingle Carol Service Christingle Service Midnight Communion	Gayton Great Massingham Grimston
Sat. 25 th December Christmas Day	8.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship	Gayton Great Massingham Grimston
Sunday 26 th December	10.30 am	Group Holy Communion	Gayton
Sunday 2 nd January 2022	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston Congham
Wed. 5 th January	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 9 th January	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion	Congham Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham
Sunday 16 th January	9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Family Holy Communion Morning Praise	Harpley Great Massingham Grimston
Wed. 19 th January	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 23 rd January	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Holy Communion Celtic Service	Ashwicken Great Massingham Little Massingham Gayton Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 30 th January	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Group Holy Communion Afternoon Tea Service	East Walton Gayton

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Useful Numbers		
Organisation	Contact	Phone No.
Allotment Association	Gill Goold	0750 824 2223
Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Council	James (Jim) Moriarty	07879 492400
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	To be advised	
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 and Ken Perry	Sue Nash 07802 670 711
Guide Trefoil Guild	Shirley Rae	520 259
Massingham Historical Society	Peter James	521 706
Tennis and Multi-Sports Club	Clare Parker	520 469
Parish Council	Sue Nash (Chair) & Sarah Harvey (Clerk)	Clerk 01328 823391
Pre-School	Pip Armitage	07807 185 746
Police	Non-emergency	101
School	Kirsten Stibbon	520 362
Village Hall	Hall & Bar & Debs Lambert	520 588
Village Stores and Deli	Mark and Kerry Eldridge	520 272



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Biodiversity Project News

During November, volunteers worked to reduce some of the brushwood that had been piled in the wood and used it as a mulch around the ferns and elsewhere. Thanks are due to Bob Bones for the loan of the shredder and to Martin, at Rectory Row, for providing power. Another job has been to replace the missing and rotted posts that mark the mown edge of the green, around the wet and rough meadow areas. The bird feeders have been cleaned and topped up in readiness for winter.

Several people have commented that birds were rather thin on the ground in their gardens during November. This is probably owing to a combination of

mild weather and abundant natural food.

As the weather becomes colder birds do become more reliant on garden feeders but it is important to give them a good scrub periodically to avoid them becoming a hub for spreading infection, a problem that can affect green and goldfinches, in particular. Finally, at the Biodiversity Project, there is a new seasonal guide to what can be seen around the site with a focus on fungi and evergreen plants.



Tim Baldwin

DECEMBER FILM NIGHT

Tuesday December 14th

Note the change of day this month

7pm for 7.30pm at the Village Hall

‘A Christmas Gift From Bob’



A struggling street musician finds himself the target of an animal welfare investigation that threatens to take away his beloved cat at Christmas.

JANUARY 2022 FILM NIGHT

Thursday January 20th

7pm for 7.30pm at the Village Hall

‘The Courier’



A true-life spy thriller starring Benedict Cumberbatch. A British businessman unwittingly recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts....

Some December 2021 & January 2022 Dates at a Glance

Date	Event	Time	Place
3 Dec	Fireman's Quiz	7pm	Village Hall
4 Dec	Christmas Market	10am to 4pm	Dabbling Duck
13 Dec	Craft & Chat	2pm	Village Hall Bar
14 Dec	Mobile Library	From 12.35	As Timetabled
10 Dec	Santa Dash	4.30 pm	Village Green
14 Dec	Film Night	7pm for 7.30	Village Hall
10, 24 Jan	Craft & Chat	2pm	Village Hall Bar
11 Jan	Mobile Library	From 12.35	As timetabled
17 Jan	Historical Society	7.30 pm	Village Hall
20 Jan	Film Night	7pm for 7.30	Village Hall