

The Mallard

Issue 384

December 2023/January 2024

Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Our Christmas 2023 Edition covers both December 2023 and January 2024. You will find many interesting events on pages 8 and 9 to help celebrate Christmas.

Please try and support as much as you are able.



Below: Some of the Pumpkin Competition entries from the 31st October outside The Dabbling Duck.

Right: Postbox Topper created by the Craft and Chat group. Skillfully made for last year's Remembrance Day it adorned the Postbox once again this year. Watch out for the Christmas Topper and new toppers for 2024.



Photo Credit: P James



Photo Credit: P James

LIGHTS ON THE GREEN SWITCH ON

**Saturday 16th December
at 6.00 pm.**

**The Dabbling Duck will be
providing mulled wine.**

Please note: There is a fault in the system which may mean the lights do not work in wet weather but we will hope for the best.

December Village Hall Events

12th December Community Lunch.

15th December Tea Dance 3.00 - 6.00 pm

16th December Prize Bingo 7.00 pm

New Year's Eve Family Disco 8 - 12.30

Members free, non members £5.00



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.

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**Deadline for the
next issue**

**17th
January 2024**

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QUIZ NIGHT AT THE DABBLING DUCK

The Dabbling Duck pub held its quarterly quiz for charity on 14th November. It was held in aid of Tapping House – The Norfolk Hospice in memory of Gill Gould, a late resident of Great Massingham. It was extremely well attended with ten teams competing for a Sunday lunch main course for six.

Thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity we raised an incredible £656.00 on the night.

Big thank yous are in order for the pub for allowing this to go ahead, our brilliant quizmaster, Malcolm Tibble, to Ruby Gould for turning up on what must have been a very emotional evening, to say a few words, to representatives of Tapping House who were in attendance and for organising a brilliant raffle and, last but not least, to Lexi Brun for coming out on a training night to play "The Last Post" in memory of Gill and, in our own way, mark armistice.

Robert Taylor

SHOE BOXES - A BIG THANK YOU

Wow, thanks everyone who gave me donations, boxes and shoe box items. Thanks to you, 51 shoe boxes have gone to countries in Europe where there is war and great poverty. These children will be so pleased to receive one, often the only present they will get this Christmas. Please continue to let me have small toys, balls, writing pads and crayons, hats etc., anything not war related, as I will be starting next years boxes in the new year. Thanks from the children and myself.

Jenny Borley

Calling all Students in Great Massingham

The Trustees of the Great Massingham Charities invite applications from first or second year university students for grants amounting to a few hundred pounds each. The students should be enrolled on courses to read maths or science related subjects or modern languages, but not social sciences. Residents of Great Massingham only.

Applications should be made to Olaf Brun by email, (olaf.brun@yahoo.co.uk) giving personal details and a description of the subject being studied.

Olaf Brun

FANTASTIC SUPPORT FOR POPPIES

Great Massingham Craft and Chat group would like to thank everyone who bought the handmade Remembrance Poppies in the shop and gave donations for the Royal British Legion.

All the poppies were sold in about a week and a total of £170.05 was donated!

Sue Nash





COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Things have begun to look more promising with two new drivers and some “retired” ones coming back with us which is great news for the scheme.

We continue to have mostly requests for medical trips but there are still the shopping trips, hairdressers and sundry other journeys which are just as important to our passengers.

There seems to have been a rise in the number of journeys to the Norfolk and Norwich and whilst not a problem for us, some of the appointments have been for lengthy treatments and so waiting time for drivers has been lengthy. We are trying to find a better way of covering such trips that causes the least disruption to a driver’s day. We will let you know when we come up with a “Cunning Plan”.

Don’t forget that we are still wanting more drivers to spread the load, so if you could spare some time we would love to hear from you.

Best wishes for Christmas from all of us at Community Cars.

Neil Steed

HARPLEY CRAFT CLUB

Harpley Craft Club which is run by Harpley Community Events are extremely proud to share their latest project for Remembrance Day with a beautiful hand crocheted and knitted poppy display at the heart of Harpley Village, within the Almshouses garden. The display consists of a flow of poppies, a seated soldier with a beautiful carved wooden sign ‘Lest we forget’ along with a tribute to all the fallen soldiers of Harpley from both the First and Second World Wars. This project has prompted many emotions within the Craft group as we see and feel the loss of our heroes, with some families sadly losing different generations of family members across both wars. We encourage visitors to call in at the local village pub The Rose & Crown to contribute to the British Legion by purchasing a poppy, some of which have been hand crocheted by the Craft Club.

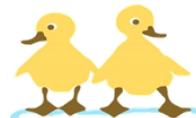
If you are interested in joining the Craft Club and want to be a part of the next project then why not come along to the Village Hall – we meet every other Tuesday between 7pm and 8.30pm – there is no fee and you can drop in and out as it suits. Contacts are Janice Unsworth and Vanessa Barton 07384 729921.



See more pictures on p.4

Rural Crimes Police Officer Contact
PC Chris Shelley 07900 407 106
Christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk

Ducklings Preschool Great Massingham



ducklingspreschool@aol.com
07807185746

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Email Preschool to arrange a visit



The Sad passing of Geordie Todd - Many thanks From Glenda
Glenda wishes to thank everyone for their cards, letters and kind messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Geordie. He would have been so proud of the amount of people who attended his funeral.

Thanks to the firemen (past and present) for making it special and to Judith and Kevin for your part in the service.

Many thanks also to the ladies who cooked and prepared cakes and a special thank you to Jemma, from the Cartshed, who prepared all the savouries.

Donations in Geordies's memory for the Fire Fighters Charity and Help for Heroes have, so far, amounted to over £700. Many

thanks to you all for your kind support.

Finally, a big thank you to Emma at Fakenham & District Funeral Services Ltd for the excellent arrangements. **THANK YOU.**



See Article on p.3

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GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Seven Parish Councillors along with eleven members of the public and the Borough Councillor Alistair Beales attended the meeting on the 20th November. Following the October Parish Council meeting, Mark Eldridge handed his resignation to the Chair, following time served as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council thanked him for giving up his time and all that he had contributed during his time on the Council. The Local Election Rules 2006 require the Casual Vacancy to be advertised on the Notice Board and Parish Council Website for a period of 14 days. If within the 14 days of the date of the notice a request, in writing, that an election should be held to fill the vacancy, signed by ten local government electors of the Ward is given to the Proper Officer (BCKLWN), then an election will need to be held. If no such request is received by the Proper Officer (BCKLWN), the Parish Council will take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Three quotations for a new ground maintenance contractor were received and considered at the meeting with the Parish Council agreeing to appoint HHA Grounds Maintenance. The first cut will take place in March 2024. The Council continues to investigate the feasibility of installing protective matting in high traffic areas on the greens to assist in alleviating the problem of parking in the village centre. The Play Area has recently undergone the annual inspection which was overall very positive. However, the Council intends to look at ways of making further improvements to the Play Area in the New Year, with the help of CIL/Awards for All funding. The Parish Council intends to submit a bid to the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme to assist with the purchase of village gateways for Lynn Lane. Other entry/exit points to the village currently have these in place and following concerns by Lynn Lane residents in relation to speeding in particular it was considered that this may assist in alleviating the issue. Highways have also agreed to the installation of a post so that the SAM2 sign can also caution and monitor speeding vehicles coming down Lynn Lane.

There will be no meeting in December. Both the annual budget and the precept requirement will be discussed and approved at the January meeting, which will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 8th January, 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

“Let’s give a Hug” on Saturday 4th November

Rain, rain and more rain welcomed the launch of our ‘Let’s Give a Giant Quilt Hug’ project on November 4th. But what a fabulous and colourful St Andrew’s Church awaited the visitors who were determined to make it. The weather was appalling, but those who did make it were treated to some spectacular and colourful quilts.

Enthusiastic quilt makers are still offering to help make quilts to encircle the circumference of the church next May. It is going to be an incredibly colourful event when it happens. The funds to restore the roof of this mediaeval building - on the at Risk Register of Heritage England - are beginning to come in but we still have a shortfall of just over £82,000 to restore the roof and more does need doing to the building. The church really does need a hug and some cash along with it! More at fosalm.org.



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Evening 5.30pm - 9pm
Sunday Midday - 8.00pm

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HARPLEY COMMUNITY CHOIR

FUNDRAISING CONCERT



THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH @ 7PM

At St Lawrence Church Harpley
Fundraising for local
organisations, Harpley Church,
School & Village Hall
An evening of music by ABBA, Simon &
Garfunkel, Cat Stevens and many
more....with mulled wine and mince pies

**NO TICKET SALES
DONATIONS ONLY ON AT THE
EVENT**



**Afternoon Tea
Friday 15th
December
3pm-6pm**

£5 tickets must be bought in advance from
Sandy Francis 521787

This event is run by Massingham Historical Society
in Massingham Village Hall

All food and cups of tea/coffee included in the price

Glasses of wine and raffle tickets available on the day



**16th December
At Great Massingham Village Hall.
Doors open at 7pm
Eyes down for 7.30pm**

**St Mary's Church
Gt Massingham**
Come & view the Christmas trees
At Our
Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday 9th December
10 - 12
All our usual delicious cakes
with some Christmas treats 🍪
Plus simple gifts &
decorations to buy.
A warm welcome to all



**MENU
£8**

Community Lunch Massingham Village Hall Bar

Tuesday 12th December

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Traditional Christmas Lunch

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 **Tuesday 5th Dec.**

Merry Christmas from all at St Mary's
Christmas Church Services
Sunday 17th
December
3pm
A traditional service of Carols &
Lessons
Refreshments will be served after
the service.
Sunday 24th December 4.30pm
Chris tingle service
In aid of the Children's society.
Peace & Goodwill to all.



CRAFT & CHAT DATES

From 2pm to 4pm
Village Hall Bar
Monday 11th & 18th December,
8th & 22nd January 2024

FILM NIGHT

Thursday 18th
January

7 for 7.30pm

"Nowhere Special"

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Denny 07887 927 691.*



QUIZ NIGHT AT GREAT MASSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 25th January 2024 to be held in
the bar of the village hall at 7.30pm.

Entry is £2.00 per person or £4.00 for
non-members.

Either come along as a team, maximum of
six, or join a team on the night.

No need to pre-book.

The following are dates for your diaries:

22nd February, 28th March,
25th April, 23rd May, 27th June, 25th July and
22nd August.

MASSINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARCHIVE EVENING

Friday 19th January

**Come along & see our collection of photos,
documents, research
studies & maps.**

Village Hall 7.30pm

**Any donations of photographs
or documents would be welcome,
they can be scanned & returned**

Members Free, Guests £3.00 Bar open



FOSPGM

The weather is always a big influencer on FOSPGM and the wettest month on record ever! has limited our activities. But overall 2023 has been a successful year and we continue to make progress.

The FOSPGM 2023 annual report is available now to be read, or downloaded. Visit the Friends of Scotsman's Pit Great Massingham Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3364826473637007/?mibextid=oMANbw>

Thank you everybody for your continued support. We all look forward to the day the work is complete!

Bob Bones, Chairman of FOSPGM





WHAT'S ON AT WESTACRE THEATRE?....

for much more information and to book
www.westacretheatre.com or TEL: 01760 755 007

*Lamphouse Theatre presents: **Treasure Island***

A silly, funny, festive family show, full of preposterous pirates and dozens of dubloons!

Friday 1 December 7:30pm Tickets Adults £19 & Under 16s £10

*James Phelan presents **The Greatest Magician: An Evening of Wonders***

A dazzling, 5-star rated show promises to leave you dumbfounded!

Saturday 2 December Tickets Adults £19 & Under 16s £10 (recommended age 12+)

*Creative Workshops at Westacre Theatre: **Seascapes with Bryony Knight***
 Learn how to paint a seascape in oils, using traditional oil painting techniques.

Sunday 3 December 10am - 3pm £95 per person (including materials)

*Screening in the studio: **The Cary Grant Season - Bringing Up Baby***
Wednesday 6 December 2pm Tickets £12

*Screening in the studio: **The Royal Opera House - The Sleeping Beauty***
 Filmed live in 2017 & Choreographed by Marius Petipa
Sunday 10 December 2pm Tickets £14

Christmas at Westacre Theatre!

Re-discover the magic and wonder of the original Grimm Tales in this colourful production suitable for ages 6 - 106 years!

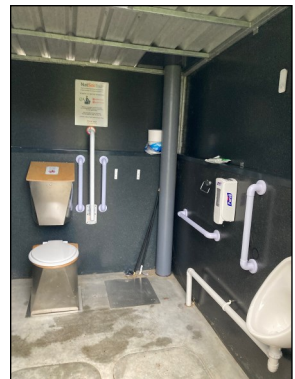
December 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd at 7.30pm

December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th at 3pm

Adults: £16 Under 16s: £10

ST.MARY'S CHURCH GREAT MASSINGHAM

We are delighted to announce that the long awaited toilet has been installed. It is an environmentally friendly compost toilet which is suitable for wheel chair users and situated at the rear of the church with a new solid gravel path for access. From the initial estimate of £70,000 for this facility, the costs had increased to circa £170,000 which would have been very difficult to fund. As this compost toilet was a cheaper alternative to one constructed within the church, we will be able to upgrade the existing paths to allow disabled access. Grateful thanks go to all those generous people who made this a possibility with their donations. The toilet is for anyone using the church for services, events and activities.



Advent Course 2023

Candles, Carols, Shepherds and Angels.

We are holding an Advent Study Course, beginning on Thursday 30th November then 7th, 14th, and 21st December at the home of Dickie and Rosemarie Bowers Orchard house, Lynn Road Grimston.

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Church Services

December 2023



Date	Time	Service	Location
Advent Sunday Sunday 3rd December	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Advent Carol Service	Roydon Harpley Grimston Little Massingham
Wed 6th December	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
2nd Sunday in Advent Sunday 10th December	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Songs of Praise Songs of Praise	Congham Gayton Little Massingham Great Massingham
3rd Sunday in Advent Sunday 17th December	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm 3.00 pm 7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist Morning Praise Holy Communion Carol Service Carol Service Carol Service	Harpley Grimston Great Massingham Gayton Great Massingham Roydon
Tuesday 19th December	6.00 pm	Carol Service	Grimston
Wednesday 20th December	7.00 pm	Carol Service	East Walton
Friday 22nd December	6.00 pm	Carol Service	Congham
Saturday 23rd December	6.00 pm 6.00 pm	Carol Service Carol Service	Harpley Gayton Thorpe
Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December	8.30 am 10.30 am 4.00 pm 4.00 pm 11.30 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Christingle Carol Service Christingle Service Midnight Communion	Congham Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham Grimston
Christmas Day Monday 25th December	10.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Family Worship	Ashwicken Harpley
Sunday 31st December	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Ashwicken

For more news and alterations to services please visit our benefice website at
www.ggmbenefice.uk

Message for Parishioners from Joy Smith



Dear Parishioners

Are you ready for Christmas is a phrase we often hear this time of year, well in truth my answer is usually I haven't even started getting ready.

Advent Sunday on 3rd December heralds in 4 weeks of preparation even through the shops and supermarkets have been advertising things for Christmas since September. Advent is the season for preparing not only to celebrate the birthday of our Lord but also to prepare for is coming again.

Its the time of year when "*It's a Wonderful Life*" often is on television. It is the quintessential Christmas story with a hero and a villain and we all know that the good guy wins in the end. That Christmas Eve in Bedford Falls reminds us all of Christmases past as we look to the coming of the baby Jesus this year, and Christ who is to come in the future. Like George Bailey, we sometimes focus on the negative. Our world today can present us with many reasons to lose hope, our TV screens are full of war and destruction and so much negativity. We can become so tied up with all that is bad and with distractions that make it easy to miss the true meaning of the Christmas season. But in fact, this is the season of light, whether from the lights of the Christmas tree, the glow of the Advent wreath candles, the flame of the Menorah, or perhaps simply our wonderful Norfolk skies on a rare day of sunshine in December. If only we can take time to stop and gaze in wonder. All of these can remind us of the presence of God and the promise of hope that is fulfilled in this holy season.

Remember that behind the packages and the lights is the radiance that is our God. See the hope in the faces of the people around you. See it in the faces of your family and friends and fellow workers. See it in your own face when you look in the mirror. Doing this will allow each of us to welcome that little baby on Christmas, the way that Mary and Joseph so willingly welcomed him into their lives. And know that God so lovingly welcomes us into His.

May the peace of God rule in your dreams.

May your joys be fulfilled and your prayers answered.

May you have healing, health, happiness, and prosperity in the New Year.

Have a quiet Advent, a Merry Christmas hope for the New Year with every blessing from all of the Ministry Team

Joy Smith Licensed Lay Minister

January/February 2024 Services For Great & Little Massingham	Time	Service	Location
7th January	10.30 am	Songs of Praise	Little Massingham
14th January	10.30 am 10.30 am	Morning Prayer Songs of Praise	Little Massingham Great Massingham
21st January	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Great Massingham
28th January	10.30 am 10.30 am	Family Service Holy Communion	Great Massingham Little Massingham
4th February	10.30 am	Songs of Praise	Little Massingham

Shop window

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Boarding for dogs in the comfort of our home
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Email: c.riches21@btinternet.com

website: www.christines-norfolk-cottages.co.uk

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Great Massingham Village Hall and Bar Opening Hours

Wednesday to Friday - 7pm to 11pm

Saturday 3.45pm to 11pm

Sunday 12 noon to 6.30 pm

*With some flexibility for special events
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**Memberships
due from the
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The fee is £12.50
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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	Alistair Beales	By email only
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	Peter Wadham	520 796
Church Contacts	Stephen Hudson	520 450
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	PC Clerk 01328 823391
Trefoil Guild	Shirley Rae & Rita Gostling	520 259 & 520 730
Massingham Historical Society	Jeanne Robinson	520 455
Neighbourhood Plan	Jess Cunningham	By email only
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	Steven Gould	07557 357415
Village Hall	Hall & Bar & Debs Lambert	520 588
Village Stores and Deli	Mark and Kerry Eldridge	520 272

Justin Anderson

General Gardening and Pest Control

For any enquiries please contact Justin on:
 Mobile: 07879 087497
 Email: justinanderson0876@gmail.com

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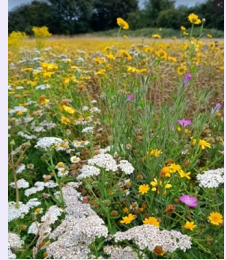
BIODIVERSITY PROJECT NEWS

It has been a quiet couple of months at the Biodiversity Project since the pond dredging was carried out. The dredging and access for it involved removing a lot of vegetation



that we would normally be cutting back through the Autumn. Some further dredging of the dyke has now been carried out in conjunction with that along Weasenham Road and the water flowed away freely during the heavy rains we have had. Plans for the next few months involve maintaining some of the open views of the pond from the green and installing an additional sleeper style seat to look over the pond on the north side.

Volunteers helped out with cutting and clearing the meadow at the Village Hall during last month. The cut material was piled up and then removed to reduce the nutrient that is returned to the soil as poorer soils encourage flowering plants rather than coarse grasses. The photos show the cut meadow with a reminder of how it appeared during the summer.



Tim Baldwin

 Great Massingham Area Community Car Scheme

**IF YOU DRIVE A CAR AND
CAN SPARE A LITTLE
TIME.....**



**Please call us
01485 520823**

Please see our advert left about the
URGENT need for

Community Cars drivers.

There is a real driver shortage!

If you are interested in volunteering for the scheme, please get in touch.

Neil Steed 07854114635 or

Neil.steed@btinternet.com

**MOBILE LIBRARY NEXT VISITS
22nd December 23 & 19th January 24**

Outside 59 Station Rd 1.35 to 1.50 pm

Sunnyside 1.55 to 2.15 pm

Outside the Church 2.20 to 2.40 pm

Weasenham Rd 2.45 to 2.55 pm

Some December 2023 & January 2024 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
9 Dec	Christmas Coffee Morning	10am to 12 noon	St Mary's Church
11/18 Dec & 8/22 Jan	Craft & Chat	2pm to 4pm	Village Hall Bar
12 Dec	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	Village Hall Bar
15 Dec	Afternoon Tea	3pm to 6pm	Village Hall
16 Dec	BINGO	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
31 Dec	Family Disco	8pm to 12.30pm	Village Hall
8 Jan	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Village Hall
18 Jan	Film Night	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
19 Jan	Historical Society	7.30pm	Village Hall
25 Jan	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall Bar