

The Mallard

Issue 357

July 2021

Normal Practice Resumes with two Village Activities!

Gt Massingham Village Yard Sale

Invites you to Take Part

Sunday 22nd August

From 9 am. Please Join NOW!

Thank you to Carly Ilott for agreeing to assist Chrissie Warnes with the running of this year's Yard Sale, so that it can go ahead.

They will share the duties, with Chrissie in charge of handling the booking messages & advertising and Carly will collect fees and be responsible for all the other tasks.

**All enquiries & to book call Chrissie Warnes
on 07771 643 416 or 01485 520 173**



GOOD NEWS! WELCOMEBACK TO THE MOBILE LIBRARY

Norfolk's Mobile Library is now back visiting

Great & Little Massingham on **Tuesdays**, every four weeks, after being suspended during COVID restrictions. Times & Locations are listed below.

The next two planned visits are on :-

27th July and 24th August.

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis.

For enquiries about this route please call

01603 222 303

Use it or lose it!



12:35 - 12:55	SHRUBLANDS	Little Massingham
13:00 - 13:15	MIDDLE FARM	Little Massingham
14:25 - 14:40	59 STATION ROAD	Great Massingham
14:45 - 15:05	SUNNYSIDE	Great Massingham
15:10 - 15:30	CHURCH	Great Massingham
15:35 - 15:45	WEASENHAM ROAD	Great Massingham

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

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Deadline for the next issue 17th July

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COMMUNITY LUNCHES SET TO RETURN!

Hot off the press!

Community Lunches to start again in September, Covid permitting, at the Village Hall.
Update to follow in the August Mallard.

Why you should support FOSPGM!

Three things that FOSPGM is aiming to achieve:

- To make Scotsman's Pit an inclusive community resource for use by all the village parishioners to use and enjoy.
- To ensure that the Pit is ecologically balanced to meet the needs of the local wildlife and to embrace conservation guidelines and future biodiversity requirements.
- To make sure that the maintenance of the Pit is sustainable and maintained in the most natural way practical.

The recent explosion of plants around Scotsman's Pit was a wonderful sight, creating a landscape of diversity, admired by visiting strollers, photographers, artists, anglers & many others. It also created the breeding habitat for a wide variety of important airborne aquatic insects that form part of the ecological food chain. A natural source for birds, including the ducklings, who no longer needed to look for bread. Even the larger Carp returned, taking 'fly' off the surface of the water, in a feeding frenzy not seen for a long time.

The plants root systems are reinforcing the ground, slowing down the erosion around the edge of the Pit. The plants act as an entry barrier to the Pit, enabling control over the Geese, making John the Goose-man's job a lot easier!

For the FOSPGM group it was a great reward to see the fruits of our labour starting to be effective. Lots to do but a positive start.

On July 26th between 10am & 2pm the FOSPGM group will be by the Well alongside Gilly's Bring and Buy Sale. Please come and meet us and discuss Scotsman's Pit's future.

Summer Reading Challenge 2021

The Summer Reading Challenge is nearly here! This year the theme is nature and the environment. You can sign your children up for the challenge from 10th July.

For further information go online or contact your local library.



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GREAT MASSINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Progress Report by the Pre-steering Group

At its meeting on 17th May the Parish Council resolved to proceed with a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Great Massingham and appointed an interim Pre-steering Group

comprising three parish council members (Jon Cole, Kim Fraser, Peter James) chaired by a non-council resident (Mike Jackson). The Group has met twice since then.

Its first task has been to prepare and submit draft documents to the Parish Council for application to the Borough Council for 'designation of the neighbourhood area'. The area designated will be the whole of the parish. At its June meeting, the Parish Council agreed to proceed with the application, the result of which is expected within thirteen weeks.

A second task has been to seek volunteers prepared to join a full Steering Group or a Support Group that would stand-by to help in various practical ways. To this end, a recruiting leaflet was distributed widely within the village, via the June Mallard, The Dabbling Duck and the Village Stores.

If you have not already registered an interest and wish to do so please pick-up a copy at the village stores or get in touch by ringing the Chairman (01485 520 056) or sending an e-mail to gmndplan100@yahoo.com

So far, about 25 people have come forward, which is most encouraging.

The invitation to register an interest is open indefinitely.

The next steps will include assembling the steering and support groups, establishing the terms of reference for the Steering Group and assembling a detailed case for financial support from a centrally-funded national scheme. Both will require considerable research and discussion. Producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan is a slow and bureaucratic process but it is also highly democratic. This means that what goes into the plan is in the hands of the whole village and not just members of the Parish Council or the Steering Group.

Mike Jackson on behalf of the Pre-steering Group.

GRASSROOTS MALAWI

'Stalls on the Green'

Our stalls on the 29th May raised an amazing £570 and on the 19th June £436, plus a £100 donation. We thank you all so much for your generosity.

If you have any items for the next sale, and we badly need to restock, please leave them in the greenhouse.

Many thanks, Jenny.

**Next 'Stalls on the Green'
on 3rd July, from 9am.**

Cancelled if wet.

We thank you all....

Firstly, we have an update from villager Tom Phillips who was part of the Ordacity team who rowed the Atlantic in January, raising funds for The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) and for Mind.

An amazing £102,000 has been raised and many of you donated. He thanks you all. You have helped MIND run their 'Side by Side' online peer support platform, respond to enquiries on the helplines and much, much more. CNCF have used the funds for the Children's Mental Health programme in Mongolia. Thank you!

Secondly, Thank you for making Preschool your local charity with AMAZON Smile. Nearly £40 has been raised so far. Please sign up. It costs nothing.

Recycle4charity has raised £25 for preschool, by recycling ink cartridges. Please email if you have any cartridges for collection. preschool@aol.com

The Friends of St Andrew's Little Massingham (FOSALM)

Will launch their new Charity with an
ART & CRAFTS EXHIBITION
on Saturday 24th July
From 11.30am to 3.30pm
Free entry

On sale will be paintings, sketches, cards, textiles, needlework and books about Norfolk. Wool spinning demonstrations will take place during the day.

While at the church, stop for refreshments, buy a scrumptious cake from the cake stall or try your luck at the raffle.

*The event will follow COVID guidelines
Please Join us!*

Benefice Update

Please note that Rev'd Sue Martin is now licensed to act throughout the Benefice and is now officially titled 'Assistant Priest'.

Rev'd Judith Pollard has been officially confirmed as the 'Team Rector' by the Archdeacon.

We thank them for all they do in the Benefice and for their valued support.

More St Andrew's Church News....

At a recent meeting of the PCC there was an enthusiastic response to improving our church. The repairs are almost finished and the big push is to get the roof replaced. In the meantime, an agreement was reached to replace the gates and look at other ways to make it more comfortable to worship. Many things were discussed and with this enthusiasm the future of our church looks very bright.

Stephen Hudson Treasurer

MAGPIE CENTRE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Activities at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, are returning to normal, in line with the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions.

Riders have returned with great enthusiasm. We are currently awaiting delivery of three new mounts: two ponies and one horse, a weight-carrier for adult riders.

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Mallard News

Gert & Daisy.....

How are yew awl gittin on?

We carnt believe how quick that month's gone.

We are both very gud even though we are a year owlder than larst toime. Gert's birthday was luvly spent with the family awl coming round (at different toimes, we hasten ter add!) and spoiling her rotten.

Daisy's was a very special wun with an 0 in it. Gert treated her ter lunch at the Cartshed (of course!) and it was so gud. There were even decorations on the wall and a special balloon on the table. Sid really went awl out with breakfast in bed and presents of a holiday and a hot air balloon ride! Gert and Daisy are going up, up, up sometime this summer! All the children and grandchildren came over for a party in the garden. Gud job that dint rain, otherwise there'd hev bin a dilemma. As it was it was hot and there's plenty of room in the garden fer the twenty of them. June is a busy month fer Daisy as it's also her Wedding Anniversary and her Katie's (and Gary's!) wedding anniversary too! Hope we hint forgot enywn or enything!!

Talking of birthdays we want ter send belated birthday wishes ter George Caseley who also has had a birthday with an 0 in it but a different number to Daisy. Happy Birthday George!

We are pleased the bowls hev started up agin. At least we git a chance with the TV remote even though, at the minute, it's either football, tennis or horse racing!

Of course, we hev ter mention the weather. On Daisy's birthday, which was a Wednesday, it was so hot you cud fry an egg on the road and by Friday we hed our vests back on and the heating was going agin.

Last month we went down memory lane so, this time, we want ter know what happened ter penny sweets loike Black Jacks and Fruit Salad? Also, we bort Bubble Gum which hed a transfer in the wrapper and you licked yer arm and stuck the transfer on, loike a tattoo. Also, in them days, there was 240 pennies in a pound which was a lot of sweets! Yet agin we hint bin owt and abowt so no real gossip. We do hear a lot of things but really cudnt put it in here. Thas fer our ears only!

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.*

Answers to last month's questions:-

If you found a 'dickey' in your garden one morning, what would it be?

d A donkey

If you gave your children a 'teetermatorter' what would they do with it?

d Play with it

This month's questions

If a 'jasper' came through your window one afternoon, what would you have as a new guest?

- a A chicken*
- b A wasp*
- c A stray cat*
- d A small child*

If someone described you as having 'jollificearshuns' what would you actually be having?

- a Fun and games*
- b Jelly and cream*
- c A bacterial tummy bug*
- d A serious problem in the garden*

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Please be Aware....

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Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Primary Schools Federation News.....

Children in the Infants at both schools have been learning about baptism in their RE studies. They have also visited their local Church to learn more. Pictured right are the children at St Mary's. They explored the features of the Church and learnt about the Christian celebration of Baptism. The picture shows the children at the font. Reverend Judith is baptising the dolly with the children's help.

A team from each school attended a dodgeball tournament with other schools last week.



Well done to both teams who gave their all in the tournament and improved tremendously with every game!

Pippa from Great Massingham Primary explained, "I liked that we got to do something new and different with our friends. I enjoyed playing Dodgeball against different skill levels because it helped us all improve. We learnt new things and had a fun day."

Pictured above are both teams proudly dressed in their team strip. Harpley team is seated and Great Massingham team is standing behind.

We are sad that this month we are going to say goodbye to our lovely year 6 pupils. Mr Watling, is also retiring after working at the school for 27 years! More next issue.

An Art and Activities Exhibition was held at Preschool.

Keeping everyone safe at Preschool meant parents and carers haven't been able to come into preschool, so an exhibition was held of the work that the children have been doing in the summer term.

Families were invited to attend individually over the half term break to see what the children had been doing. As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage the children had been exploring The Natural World making observations and drawing pictures of birds and plants, measuring the rainfall that helped grow the potatoes and beans in the tubs in the pop-up veg patch and collecting seeds and grasses that were used to make nature pictures that hang in the window.

As part of understanding processes and change the children watched the real-time life cycle of the butterfly from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Paintings were created by observing sunflowers in a vase and a picture of Van Gogh's Sunflowers and



framed to send home as mini masterpieces, along-side the daily activities of Phonics, circle time, story-telling, and outside energetic activities.

Stunning Pictures!

Biodiversity Project News.....

During June, the advent of warmer weather led to rapid growth throughout the Project site. As the cow parsley in the woodland faded, red campion and ox-eye daisies took over in the rough meadow, where there was also a good patch of ragged robin beside the path on the north side of the pond.



It was interesting to see a few plants of star-of-Bethlehem (pictured left) appear between the bridge and the meadow, its attractive clusters of white flowers not having been seen here in the previous 2-3 years. Sometimes, the combination of unique conditions in a particular year suit a plant and it takes its chance to be centre stage. The meadow this year is dominated by the white flowers of corn chamomile but a closer look will reveal a lot more

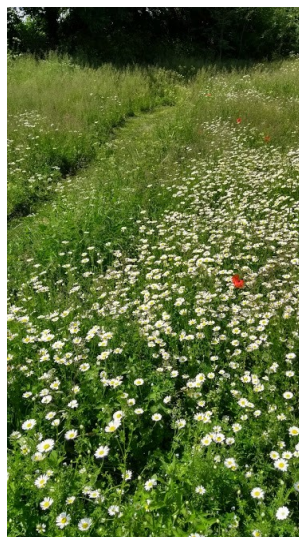
species too. (see picture right)

With the anticipated ending of Covid measures, the provision of a seasonal information sheet on site will resume.

More information about the Biodiversity Project and wildlife more generally around Massingham can be found at www.instagram.com/gmbiodiversity.

Volunteers have worked to trim the paths to enable the site to be seen to best effect and the stretch of path in the wood that was waterlogged for so long has been re-seeded. Another task has been to clear out the dyke around the grating to the culvert under Sandy Lane and to replace the timber boards in the weir that helps to keep the water level up for longer in the pond after heavy rain.

Another June activity was an organised walk to the Massingham Heath Project to see how the increasingly flower rich meadows are developing. A great variety of plants were noted, many still to flower and so there should be plenty of interest throughout the summer. (See picture on back page) The air was alive with the sound of skylarks, yellowhammer, whitethroat and other birds including a migrant quail which we were very fortunate to hear calling.



Tim Baldwin



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Celebration Service for Rev Jane Holmes

We are hoping to be able to hold a Celebration service for the life of Jane Holmes on Sunday 29th August at 3pm at St Nicholas Church, Gayton.

This will be followed by Afternoon Tea, with the hope that restrictions are lifted and we can all meet together. Further details will be in next month's issue but please reserve this date in your diary.

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL JUNE MEETING

The June Parish Council meeting was held in the Village Hall on 14th June. Eight Parish Councillors along with Borough Councillor, J Moriarty, & three parishioners attended.

The annual accounts for the year ending 31st March, 2021, were approved by the Parish Council, following the Internal Audit carried out at the end of May. This report will be made available on the Parish Council website for anyone who wishes to review this.

External Audit (Limited Assurance Review)

As the Council's gross income or gross expenditure for 2020/21 financial year did not exceed £25,000 we are able to certify the Parish Council exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, provided the Council has certified itself as exempt, at a meeting after 31 March 2021 and completed and submitted a Certificate of Exemption, no later than 30 June 2021, notifying the external auditor.

Publication Requirements

The Parish Council must publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

These include:

- Certificate of Exemption
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the Parish Council's decision to proceed with a Neighbourhood Development Plan an interim steering group was set up. A leaflet was devised by the group and circulated via The Mallard last month to provide further details about how you can get involved in the process and the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group which has responsibility for leading the process and developing the plan. (See July report on page 3) Now that the Parish Council has agreed to begin the journey to start a neighbourhood plan, the next step is to decide upon the area for the neighbourhood plan and apply to the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk for designation of the neighbourhood area. A draft statement and a map of the designated area, which had been compiled by the interim steering group, was agreed at the meeting and this will be submitted to the Borough Council. The application will be reviewed by the Planning Policy Manager and the decision statement will then be signed by the Assistant Director with agreement from the portfolio holder, Borough Councillor Blunt, to agree designation.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on the 12th July, at 7.30pm. Members of the public are still very welcome to join the meeting, but we would ask that you observe the following when attending:

- No more than 30 Members of the Public will be able to attend.
- Attendees will be asked to provide their contact details as per NHS Track and Trace.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING must be maintained at all times.
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Message for Parishioners from Rev'd Judith



It's good to see the (cautious) return of weddings, baptisms & regular services in our churches - although the way forward is by no means straightforward and risks still have to be assessed and managed. The 'new normal' seems to have settled to 'no singing in church'. Singing is one of the many pleasures of church-going and I'm glad to see the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, is taking this up with the government.

It's really interesting how folklore, myth and religion intertwine in our country's history. This month hosts St. Swithun's Day - 15th July - and we will all be hoping it doesn't rain because in some deep part of our DNA is the phrase: **"St.Swithun's Day if thou dost rain - for forty days it will remain; St. Swithun's Day if thou be fair - for forty days 'twill rain nae mair."** This myth is based on fact. **Swithun** was a real person, the Bishop of Winchester in the ninth century. He was a modest, pious man who asked to be buried humbly, definitely not in a great shrine and when he died in July 862 his wishes appear to have been fulfilled; he was buried in the churchyard outside the Minster. However, when a new cathedral was built, the then bishop **Ethelwold** decided to move [or translate] Swithun's relics/bones into a shrine in the cathedral, despite dire warnings that to do so would bring about **terrible storms**. Swithun was duly translated into the cathedral on 15th July in 971. Many cures were claimed and miracles observed, not least the exceedingly heavy rainfall - it apparently rained so hard for forty days that those in authority were forced to move Swithun back to the churchyard.

Hence, the feast-day of Swithun became forever linked to extreme wet weather, rather than what perhaps would be more appropriate: **an occasion for celebrating Christian simplicity and holiness.** Which reminds me..... I have been watching with interest a tiny brown bird building a nest inside the radiator grill of my parked car. Countless times each day the wren would disappear inside with twigs/grass and later with food for the hatchlings in the nest. This went on for weeks. We couldn't use the car but the energy and commitment of the tiny bird was a sight to behold, more than making up for the temporary inconvenience.

We have also been captivated by the BBC's *Springwatch*, taking place this year in our own area of West Norfolk on Wild Ken Hill (sounds like a folk singer?), near Snettisham. Many amazing birds and their nests featured in this phenomenal programme - complete with hatchlings, fledglings, journeys from Africa and proud parents taking great care of their broods. Maybe our avian friends have something to teach us about staying power, keeping on the right track and never giving up, qualities we could all benefit from at the moment.

I wish you all a very happy July, especially all our school leavers and their families.

Reverend Judith x

ST MARY'S CHURCH NEWS Churchyard upkeep

We have been very fortunate, for many years, to have had the services of the Brun family and Leicester House farm staff for keeping the lower churchyard mown. Sadly, due to staffing problems, this has now come to an end. Many, many thanks to the family for this and all they do for our church, at no cost. We are truly grateful.

The PCC will be looking at other options for keeping this important part of our beautiful church tidy. We thank the Parish Council for their grant towards the upkeep.

We have a very hard working and loyal team who keep the graves & upper churchyard in very good condition. Many thanks to them. We have a problem at the moment with some loose flints & a tree causing problems but this is being addressed. *(continued right)*

Church Services

July

Date	Time	Service	Location
Sunday 4 th July	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Holy Communion	Congham Harpley Little Massingham Gayton
Wed. 7 th July	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 11 th July	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Roydon Little Massingham Grimston Great Massingham Congham
Wed. 14 th July	3.00 pm	Lectio Divina	Zoom
Sunday 18 th July	9.00 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Praise Morning Prayer Morning Praise Holy Communion Evensong	Harpley Great Massingham Little Massingham Grimston Zoom Ashwicken
Wed. 21 st July	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 25 th July	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Celtic Service	Ashwicken Little Massingham Gayton Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 1 st August	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Holy Communion	Congham Harpley Little Massingham Gayton

Churches open each day during daylight hours, until about 6pm, are.....

All Saints', Ashwicken - St Mary's, East Walton - St Mary's, Gayton Thorpe
St Mary's, Gt Massingham - St Lawrence's, Harpley - St Andrew's, Congham

Also..... St Botolph's, Grimston is now open from 10am to 3pm

For more news please visit our benefice website at www.ggmbenefice.uk

CHURCH NEWS *continued*... Our large graveyard is well visited and requires almost constant attention by our willing volunteers. Anyone offering their services will be welcomed. Please contact me for further information on 520 450.

Our Food bank is still operating very successfully and is very busy. Comments left in our note book show there is still a need amongst us. Our thanks to Anna, Janice and Chrissie for their hard work with this project. The real test will be when furlough ends.

Stephen Hudson, Churchwarden



WEDDING

At St Andrew's,
Little
Massingham
on Saturday, 12th June.
Lucy Alice Maltby and
Thomas David Gillham.
Congratulations!

More St Andrew's and Benefice Church news on pages 4 and 9

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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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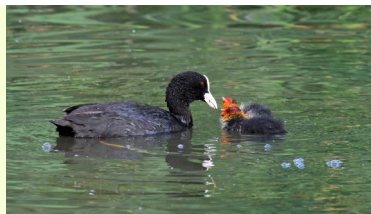
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PICTURE GALLERY

In and Around Great Massingham.....

After a slow start, Spring is now moving into summer and everything has come to life.

Thanks to Keith Gaskell for the Coot pictures, Peter James for the poppy pictures and Tim Baldwin for the picture of the meadow on Massingham Heath. Lovely!



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**Preschool in Great Massingham
is looking for
another Trustee to join the Committee.**

**For more information and an
Application Form**

Please email ducklings at

preschool@aol.com