

The Mallard

Issue 375

March 2023

St Mary's Church was packed with standing room only on 26th January when what seemed like the whole village came along to say a final farewell to our much loved Reverend Julian Thomson. His obituary is on page 8.

There will be a special Memorial Service
at St Mary's Church on Saturday 22nd April, at 2pm.
You are invited to come along and celebrate the life of Julian.



VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN 1ST APRIL

No fooling!
There will be a
clean-up around the
village on
Saturday 1st April.

Meet at the Well at 10 am.

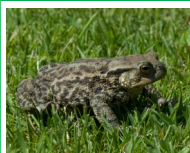
Bring gloves, wellies, a rake and
wear hi-viz, if you have them. Some
hi-viz jackets will be available plus
gloves and litter pickers.

Litter will be provided!

Take a pride in our lovely village.

It's good fun – honestly!

Andrew Bickerton



Toad Patrol in Massingham. Volunteers Needed!

Toad patrol is underway locally
and we need
more volunteers to help.
They take place on evenings from
mid/late February to late March/
April, to help reduce road casualties
of toads during their migration, in
and around Massingham.

Interested and want to learn more?

Contact:

massingham@toadwatch.org
or call Ptolemy McKinnon on
07941 183318



DO YOU MISS THE SOUND OF THE CHURCH CLOCK CHIMES?

St Mary's Church Clock is broken.

Can you help raise the anticipated £1,500+
to pay for the repairs?

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT:

Steve Hudson (Church warden)

07949 - 989977 or

Alan Frazer (Church treasurer)

07917 - 867847

Also, see Chrissie and Peggy's BINGO plans, p. 3

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 March**

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**MENU
£8**

Community Lunch

Massingham Village Hall Bar,

Tuesday March 14th Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Chicken & spinach lasagne, veggie option mushroom & spinach lasagne, new potatoes and green salad.

Apple and Rhubarb crumble with custard 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 10th March

Delivery Person required for Mallard Delivery from April

We have a vacancy to deliver

The Mallard every month.

An honorarium is paid.

If you are interested in taking on this role please contact the editor, Bev Randall, as follows:
email:

mallard.Editor@btinternet.com

or call 01485 520 899

***We look forward to hearing
from you***

Our Day Out (Creative Arts East)

Held at Great Massingham these sessions run twice a month, at the Village Hall, on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, from 1pm until 3pm.

They are good fun and proving popular!

Why not join in, if you haven't already?

**March dates -1st and 15th
See you there!**



**HELD ON THE FIRST
FRIDAY OF THE
MONTH - 3rd March
At Great Massingham
Village Hall.**

Doors open at 7pm
Eyes down for 7.30pm

Special PRIZE BINGO 31st March

for Great Massingham
Bowls Club
7.30 pm at the
Village Hall

Good prizes and raffle
Please come and support

Great Massingham Primary School Request

Are you able to offer half an hour a week to run an indoor or outdoor lunch time club at our village School?

If so, then we would love to hear from you!

We hope to offer a wider variety of activities during lunchtimes. Suggested ideas are : chess, Rubik's cube, singing, art & craft, playground games, sports, etc. but we are open to suggestions!

If you can help, please contact

Mrs Stibbon or Mrs Stephens at the school on 01485 520362.

Rural Crimes Police Officer Contact

PC Chris Shelley 07900 407 106

Christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk

CRAFT & CHAT

At 2pm in the Village Hall Bar
6th & 20th March and 3rd April



GREAT MASSINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Public Consultation drop-in event set for mid-May

We are planning to follow-up on last year's Opinion Survey with a two-day consultation event in the **Village Hall** to seek residents' views on our vision for the future of Great Massingham. We will outline the sorts of policy ideas we believe would earn their place in the actual plan. Much of the display will be about conserving what people tell us they like best about the Village while also addressing concerns and unmet needs. The dates for your diary are **FRIDAY 19th MAY and SATURDAY 20th MAY, 11 am to 9 pm.** **Please attend and have your say.**

Preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan is as much about consultation as about researching and writing actual content. Only by consulting residents can Great Massingham's plan fairly represent local needs and concerns and specify what the community expects from development in the years ahead. Shortcomings over consultation also risk the Plan being thrown-out by an official external inspectorate charged with checking that due process has been followed. We have therefore prepared a 'Community Engagement Strategy' that describes how we approach consultation and records what we actually do.

This is updated from time to time and can be seen on our web site -

<https://www.greatmassinghamndp.co.uk/key-documents/>.

Information about the NDP in general can be found on our website -

<https://www.greatmassinghamndp.co.uk>, on the village and Parish Council websites and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/massinghamndp>).

Dates and times of our monthly Steering Group meetings are also posted on the website. You are welcome to attend these meetings and learn more of what we do. To subscribe to e-mail updates please contact gmndplan@yahoo.com.

Mike Jackson on behalf of the Parish Council's NDP Steering Group Tel: 01485 520 056

Help Us Raise the Money for our Clock Repair

You will have read on page 1, how our lovely church clock is not working.

I am sure you agree it is an important feature in our lovely village.

Repairing this will cost at least £1,500.

Peggy Hipkin and I are planning to hold a Prize Bingo on Saturday 22nd April at the Village Hall.



Any offers of bingo and raffle prizes will be much appreciated to help raise money to get this appeal under way. Please give your support.

**Please contact
Peggy 520393 or Chrissie 520173.**

Harpley Community Choir

Harpley has a new Community Choir led by music teacher Richard Hall. We have started to meet on Mondays at 7.30pm until 8.30pm at Harpley Village Hall.

All are welcome and we would particularly like to encourage more men and young people (age over 11yrs). We ask people to pay £1 per person per week to cover costs.

Come along on a Monday evening and find out more.

We look forward to seeing you!

QUIZ NIGHT

**Held in the Village Hall bar
Every fourth Thursday**

This month: 23rd March, 7.30 pm

The Mallard

Help us Plan for the Future.

Would You Like to be our Editor?

After eighteen years as Editor, I have decided that it is time for change and for someone else to take over the role.

Although I have thoroughly enjoyed producing the Mallard every month I know it is equally important to think about succession planning.

The magazine is an important communication tool for our village and we want this to continue. Why not apply?

If you are interested in the role, I would love to hear from you. I will support you in any way I can. *Bev Randall*

Contact:

mallard.editor@btinternet.com

Or 01485 520 899



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St Patrick's Day at the Dabbling Duck

17th March

From 8pm

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See you there!



MOBILE LIBRARY.... We are still awaiting a decision from Norfolk County Council about the future of the mobile library. We will keep you informed.

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PARISH COUNCIL - FEBRUARY MEETING -

The Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th February was attended by five Parish Councillors along with twelve parishioners and our Borough Councillor, Jim Moriarty.

Parish Council By-Election - Only one valid nomination was received to fill the two vacancies. Therefore, Robin Arbenz was duly elected unopposed and was welcomed by the Council at the meeting.

With Parish Council elections being on 4th May, when the whole Council will be up for re-election, there will be no attempt to fill the remaining vacancy by co-option. The nomination period will begin on 21st March and end on the 4th April.

Parish Council Elections

With the local elections now only 79 days away, some of you may be considering representing your community and becoming a Parish Councillor. The Borough Council has produced the webpage noted below to help potential candidates.

www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/beaparishcouncillor

The webpage covers everything you need to know in detail, but should you have any further questions or would like some help with the whole process please contact Sarah Harvey (Clerk), via email gmparishclerk@gmail.com or telephone 01328 823391.

Parish Council Website

The decision was taken, at the January meeting, to create a new Parish Council website built with the latest tools which would be both mobile compatible and 'accessibility compliant'. This proposal was based on the WIX (www.wix.com) platform claimed to be user-friendly & excellent value for money. The new website should be LIVE from the beginning of March. It will replace the existing www.greatmassinghamparishcouncil.org website.

Due to Government guidelines stipulating that a website containing Parish Council information should have PC or Parish Council in the web address, the name will change to www.greatmassinghampc.info

The website will be managed by the Parish Council and we intend to keep it fresh and up to date, with all aspects related to the Parish Council. So, if you would like to contribute, in any way, to the content placed on the website, please forward any suggestions to Sarah Harvey via email, or by post, Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW.

Community oil buying

Thinking Fuel is a community oil buying scheme offered by Community Action Norfolk, which is a charity working across Norfolk. Following an advertising campaign last year, they now have nearly 550 members in west Norfolk. The more members they have, the more members can save when buying oil and we understand that people signed up for 'Thinking Fuel' are currently saving around 20p per litre on oil purchases compared to some other commercial providers. It's free to join and there is no obligation to buy. For further details visit www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk/sites/content/thinkingfuel or call 01362 698216.

King's Coronation Celebratory Event

Plans are in progress for an event to celebrate the King's Coronation on Saturday 6th May. So, please keep your diaries free and watch this space for further details to follow.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 13th March at 7.30pm.



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Remembering Rev'd Julian Harley Thomson



We were all so very sad to hear of the sudden death of Julian on the 2nd January 2023. In the words of his children –David, Louise and Rebecca - Julian was the essence of faith, duty, compassion, selflessness and humility, a friend of man and a true servant of God. He certainly was all those things. To all of us, he was approachable, sincere and kind and he used his life to guide, teach, comfort and support not just our community but all the other communities he served.

Julian grew up locally in Stow Bardolph and was actually born while the Dambusters Raid took place and Lancaster aircraft, flying from Stamford, flew overhead!

He was educated locally at Downham until he boarded at King's School, Ely as a chorister at the age of eight. As a teenager, he attended King's School in Peterborough, and it was in the city he met his childhood sweetheart, Brenda.

He didn't immediately become ordained but had various occupations such as working in the labs at British Sugar, in farming and assisting a rural veterinary practice. However, the Church was calling, Julian signed up and the rest is history.

As newly weds in the 'swinging sixties', Julian and Brenda spent time in London - Julian as a student at King's College and Brenda working at Barclays Bank. They enjoyed travelling around in their blue mini called 'Lulu'! With training and ordination completed, so began Julian's dedicated service to the Church and the many communities he served such as Wellingborough, Ely and Stuntney in his beloved Fenland. Later, there was Orwell, Wimpole, Arrington and 'hilly' Croydon. Even more postings followed and all the time, with their enthusiasm and energy, the formidable team of Julian and Brenda somehow managed to be everywhere, involved in everything, all of the time!

Julian was a true family man with three children, dog, cats and goldfish. He loved sport, especially football and cricket. He followed the Canaries and West Ham for years. Cricket, however, was his first love. A true family man, he enjoyed all the sports the children became involved in and loved supporting his grandchildren too in their dance performances, football matches, concerts and plays - you name it, he and Brenda were there!



Music was the very core of his being and a constant throughout his life as was gardening and growing things whether it was redcurrants, gooseberries, rose gardens, allotments or the Primary School garden in Great Massingham, which became a rewarding passion. Following Brenda's death in 2014 he took to baking in a big way. He was always keen to try a new recipe and even keener to share the results with everyone.

Early retirement at age 58, in 2001, brought them to Massingham. This provided the opportunity to live the

spiritual life he wanted without the responsibility of running a parish but to serve the community in new, as well as familiar, ways. He was truly blessed to have 20 years as part of the community here, both in the churches, the allotments, the school and, not to forget, as chief Womble, tidying up the verges and pathways on his daily walks!

It was a Bible text from Jeremiah (6 v 16) that led them to Great Massingham - *'Thus say the Lord: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies: and walk in it, and find rest for your souls'*. It fulfilled that and more, not just for Julian and Brenda, but for all of us in Great and Little Massingham who were so fortunate to know them and to benefit from such love and goodness. Thank you.



‘WAYNE GOES WILD!’

The launch of my latest children’s book will be at the Village Hall on **Saturday 25th March, 2pm to 4pm.**

‘Wayne Goes Wild!’ tells the story of Wayne the wasp who goes from hero to trouble maker but learns that friendship is more important than fame.

Each book will be signed and cost a mere £5.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Copies of my previous books will also be available.

So... go wild and meet me at the Village Hall on the 25th March.

Andrew Bickerton



Problems with Dog Poo Again! Please Pick Up!

The picture left, of fouling on the footpath near the School, taken last month, is really not acceptable! There have also been reports of dog fouling on the pavements and open ground at the end of Sunnyside. Apparently, some dog owners are just letting their dogs off the lead and not watching where they go and just not bothering to ‘pick up’.

We know that most dog owners do the **right thing**. All we ask is for **all** dog owners to do this.

Great Massingham Historical Society March 17th , 7.30pm, Village Hall

Ken Besfor will give a talk entitled ‘Defending on the Home Front’.

This includes references to Massingham Home Guard, Air Raid Wardens and Observer Corp, plus a host of artefacts, as well as a photographic display of the above.

Coming in April & May.....

April 21st - Phillip West talks about ‘King’s Lynn to Wells’
May 26th - Dr Sarah Spooner talks about ‘The History of Norfolk Footpaths’.

*We look forward to seeing you all.
Thank you for your support.*

FILM NIGHT

**Thursday March 16th ,
£5, at the Village Hall**
A Special Treat:

Nelson’s Shantymen will perform for 45 minutes before the film. This means an earlier start of
7pm for 7.15pm



Followed by the film
**‘Fisherman’s Friends
One and All’**

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

ELECTION IN MAY - Need for Photo Identification

With Borough Elections taking place on 4th May, it is important that those who want to vote make sure they have an accepted form of ID (Identification). This is a **NEW** requirement and **Photo ID** must now be shown at the Polling Station.

Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID (a Voter Authority Certificate) either online or by completing a paper application form and sending this to the electoral services team at the Borough Council.

If you need any help with applying for the free ID or want to request an application form, contact the electoral services team by calling:

01553 616773 or e-mailing elections@west-norfolk.gov.uk

You must also be registered to vote. It only takes five minutes to register online at **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**. Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote.

Here are the main details for you in a nutshell.....

- Borough Council Elections take place on May 4th this year.
- Voters are now required to show an accepted form of photo ID at the polling station, before they receive their ballot paper. This applies for all official elections such as, local, parliamentary, police and crime commissioner.
- To **apply for** the Voter Authority Certificate, voters will need to provide a photo, full name, date of birth, the address at which they are registered to vote and their National Insurance number.

For further information please contact: Tim Baldwin on 01553 616506



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

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'.

- **On Screen in the Studio:** Royal Opera House: 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', Sun, 5 March, 2.30pm, £12... and also on screen 'Good Luck to you, Leo Grande' Wed. 8 March, 2pm, £10. Pre-screening Lunches available. Booking essential.
- **On stage in the Studio:** **Private Lives** by Noel Coward. Sat. 11 March 3pm & 7.30pm, then 10.16, 17, 18 March, 7.30pm. £16/£10. Pre-theatre suppers available (Please book)
- **Creative Workshops in the Shed:** **Life Theatre.** Life drawing with a theatrical twist. Sun. 12 March, 10am to 4pm, £45. Also... **Painting Spring Flowers in Watercolour with Isobel Bartholomew.** Come and explore drawing, composing, colour matching and painting techniques. Sat/Sun 18/19 March 10am to 4pm, £70 for the two days.
- **On Screen...Filmed Live...ENO presents The Mikado,** Sun 26 March 2.30pm, £12
- **On Stage...All Electric Productions presents 'A Year of Birdsong & Birdsongs',** Anthony Harris & Ajay Tegala, singer and ornithologist, share a passion for the theatre found within bird song and the natural world. Fri. 31 March, 7.30pm, £18

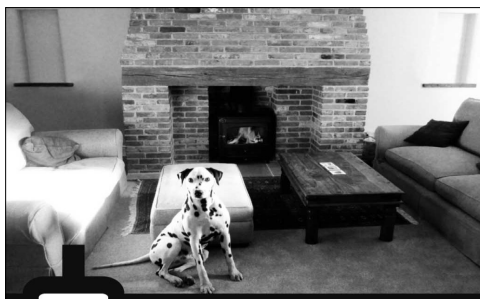
Can You help with the History of the Old Railway Inn?

We are interested in the history of our 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 we'd love to hear from you.

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Message for Parishioners from Rev'd Judith



In Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar is told to: "Beware the ides of March" (15th) - with good reason, because that was the day on which he was assassinated. Certainly, March can be an inhospitable and challenging month weather-wise, with strong winds whistling across Norfolk from the Russian steppes - not a month for softies although Spring flowers are blossoming and lighter evenings usher in the Spring.

In the Christian Church, March is most associated with Lent, a period of quiet personal reflection when we try to prepare ourselves spiritually for Easter. Lent Groups and Bible Study groups help us to learn together in fellowship; there are two taking place at both ends of our benefice of ten churches – please ask me for further details. The (Women's) World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 3rd March at Pott Row Methodist Chapel: a great wave of prayer across the world, this year led by the women of Taiwan, an island with much to pray about.

We certainly do have so much to pray for in our world at present, with the continuing devastating impact of earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the threat of a new Spring offensive by Russia, famine looming in Africa and, in this country, economic turmoil and the very real impact of strikes in the public sector.

However, the voice of prayer is **never silent** and we do not pray in isolation. To help us get through, we may turn to the history and heritage of Christianity. There are many saints' days to inspire and encourage us in March: St David (or Dewi) of Wales (1st), St. Patrick of Ireland (17th), St. Joseph (20th) and of course Mothering Sunday on the 19th (the 4th Sunday of Lent).

Mothering Sunday is an annual opportunity to remember those who love and care for us - and perhaps give them a gift to show our appreciation. This year is the first year that I haven't bought my mum Muriel anything because she died on 2nd January at the age of 92, having suffered from dementia for many years. She was looked after for three years by the amazing staff at a local care home and, this Mothering Sunday, I would like to remember with love and appreciation all the staff in similar homes throughout the country who do an amazingly difficult job with gentle, caring professionalism. They are not paid enough or valued enough. Wage fairness and economic justice in the care sector cannot come soon enough. We must pray for urgent, positive change. From all of us with frail, elderly relatives we thank you for everything you do and pray that Spring may bring grace and renewed hope for us all.

Wishing you a blessed Lent, with love, Reverend Judith x

Bible study and Lent Course 'Who is my neighbour'

We are holding a Lent Course at Orchard House, Lynn Rd, Grimston
Thursday's 7pm – 8.30pm
March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.
revdsuemartin@gmail.com
joysmith61@btinternet.com

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3rd March at
Pott Row Methodist Chapel at 2pm
EVERYONE WELCOME



SPRINTIME WILD BOUQUET WORKSHOP FOR MOTHERS' DAY

Friday 17th March, 2pm to 4pm
All Saints Church, Ashwicken.

Come and join Katie, from 'Wild Oak Workshops' to create your very own natural and seasonal bouquet to celebrate Mothers' Day. All blooms have been carefully chosen from fresh stems of lilies, roses, freesias to masses of eucalyptus, pussy willow and more.
£40. wildoakworkshops.com/workshops
Deadline : Friday 10th March, by 5pm.

Church Services

March 2023

Date	Time	Service	Location
Wed. 1 st March	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Friday 3 rd March	2.00 pm	World Day of Prayer	Pott Row Methodist
Sunday 5 th March <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Songs of Praise Service Holy Communion	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston
Sunday 12 th March <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion	Ashwicken Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham
Wed. 15 th March	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 19 th March <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Morning Praise	Harpley Great Massingham Grimston
Sunday 26 th March <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Passiontide</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 2 nd April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Holy Communion	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston



Do come and join Timmy and Jimmy as we walk from Abbey Farm to St Mary's Church, East Walton, for a service, on **Palm Sunday, 2nd April, at 3pm**

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

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



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We are here to help. We might be able to arrange help with food and rent costs. Call 01553 616 200. Ask for housing options to talk about your housing situation or ask for Lily for anything else.

If you have internet access, have a look at our website pages on help with the cost of living at: west-norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving. The pages are broken down into different problems you might be facing and tell you where to get help for each one.

The stress money worries cause for many people can be overwhelming.

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the Council's main message is: talk to us before doing anything else.***

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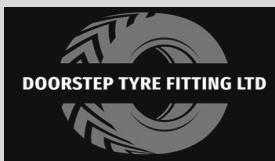
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Useful Numbers

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	Sue Nash 07802 670 711
Guide 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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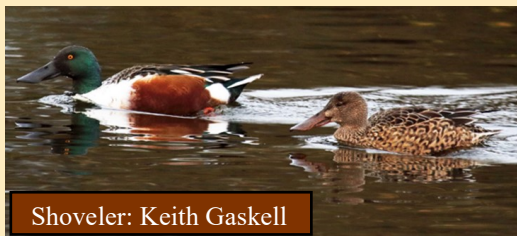
Biodiversity Project News.....

Working parties resumed last month with the start of the spring tidy up around the site. Much of this involves cutting back last year's growth of great willowherb and other taller plants across the rough and wet meadow areas adjoining the pond and green. We will also be rotovating the meadow this month and sowing some extra seed, to top up that which grows from the seed bank once the ground has been turned over. Hopefully, it will be possible to rejuvenate some of the area that has been damaged by the unsustainable number of ducks in recent months.

We have recently installed some new bird feeders specially designed so that anything heavier than a songbird using them will cause the feeding ports to close. This guards against rats being able to feed and they also have features that keep the food dry and make them easier to clean. Another recent purchase has been a brush-cutter attachment to fit an electric multi-tool trimmer. We were able to buy it last year, thanks to funding from the Parish Council and the Village Fund Initiative, supported by The Dabbling Duck and Cartshed Tearoom.



A combination of lower rainfall and the dredging of the dyke has helped to keep the green and woodland path better drained this winter. Post Office Pit has also benefited from its dredging, certainly judging by the numbers of wild shoveler duck visiting this winter.



Shoveler: Keith Gaskell

These attractive ducks, distinguished by their large spatula bills and the drake's chestnut flanks, filter plankton, small crustaceans and seeds from the water. In total, they have been recorded on five of the village ponds this winter and are an indication of a healthy water quality in our linked system of ponds. Their numbers peaked at 23 last November,

although at that time they were mainly using Scotsman's Pit.

During 2022, a total of 19 volunteers helped to manage the project site at Weasenham Road. Our next work party morning will be on Saturday 18th March at 10 a.m. – if you would like to join us please get in touch for more details.

Tim Baldwin

Some March 2023 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
1/15 March	Our Day Out	1 to 3pm	Village Hall
3/31 March	BINGO Events	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
6/20 March	Craft & Chat	2pm	Village Hall Bar
13 March	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Village Hall
14 March	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	Village Hall Bar
16 March	Film Night	7 for 7.15pm	Village Hall
17 March	Historical Society	7.30 pm	Village Hall
18 March	Biodiversity Working Party	10 am	Weasenham Road Pond
23 March	Quiz Night	7.30 pm	Village Hall Bar
25 March	'Wayne Goes Wild' Book Launch	2 to 4pm	Village Hall
1 April	Village Spring Clean	10 am	At the Well