



The Mallard

Issue 386

March 2024



THE VILLAGE HALL AND BAR NEEDS YOU!!

Are you a resident of Great Massingham or its surrounding villages? Do you love where you live because of the amazing local amenities?

If so, the Directors and Trustees of the Village Hall and Bar would appreciate it if everyone could take the time to read the A5 inserted article and complete the survey.

Completed questionnaires should be returned to either the Village Hall Bar, Great Massingham Shop & Stores or Great Massingham Surgery, no later than **Friday 5th April 2024**. Electronic copies can be returned by email to Jane Hollister - janehollister72@gmail.com

Thank you for your time and feedback.

St Mary's Church, Gt Massingham
Easter Services

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday, Family Service
10.30am

We are thrilled that led by a donkey 🐴 we shall be having a procession into Church

Thursday 28th March
Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion 10.30am

Easter Sunday 31st March

10.30 am

Holy Communion

After the service we shall be having an Easter Egg hunt!



PIC-COLLAGE

Welcome to the March edition. Hopefully Spring is in the air. Days are certainly staying lighter for longer and the first of the Spring bulbs are starting to appear.

Once again there are a variety of things to get involved with this month. So hopefully all readers will find something that they are able to support.

As always I am very happy to receive your contributions. So please do contact me (see page 2 for contact details) with anything you feel may be of interest.



At Great Massingham Village Hall.

Dee & Mindy Drag Bingo

23rd March Tickets cost £12.50.

Doors open 7.30pm

Bowls Club Prize Bingo

29th March Doors open 7 pm for 7.30pm.

Village Hall Bingo

5th April Doors open 7 pm

Eyes down for 7.30pm

MASSINGHAM HISTORICAL SOC.

Friday March 15th

7.30pm at The Village Hall

An illustrated talk

**The ROYAL FLYING CORP
on the WESTERN FRONT
and CLOSER to HOME**

By Ken Besfor

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

MASSINGHAM SOLDIERS

Members free, Guests £3 Bar open

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.

Contact Details:

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www.greatmassingham.net

**Deadline for the
next issue
17th March
2024**

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BOOK LAUNCH SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

At the VILLAGE HALL FROM 2pm to 5pm

Light refreshments served

Three new books by Andrew Bickerton will be on sale as well as copies of his other nature books for children.

Reduced prices. Book signing. Entrance free.

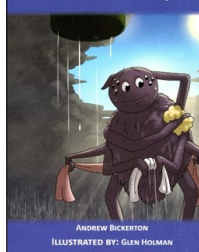
Quackers: the true story of a Dabbling Duck.

By Andrew Bickerton



Illustrations by Joan Woolf.

Incy Wincy Who Never Gives Up



ANDREW BICKERTON

ILLUSTRATED BY: GLEN HOLMAN

ROOKIE:

the true story of a boy and his pet rook.



By Andrew Bickerton

With illustrations by Joan Woolf.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE DABBLING DUCK

Quarterly quiz at the Dabbling Duck on **12th March**

In aid of Community Cars.

The quarterly Dabbling Duck quiz will be held in the back restaurant at 7.30pm. The cost is £30 per team, maximum of 6.

There will be a raffle and a 50:50 bag. First prize will be a Sunday lunch main course for 6.

It is essential that you book for this one. If you wish to come along on your own please let me know and I will try and find a team for you. There will be a subsidised main course meal on the night with profits going to Community Cars. I will advise this to anyone who is registered to receive the email newsletters.

Just drop me a line **at: robertcharlestaylor@live.com** or give me a call, **07908 244421**, to register your interest.



CRAFT & CHAT DATES

From 2pm to 4pm
Village Hall Bar

**Monday 4th & 18th March
and 8th, 15th and 29th April**

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

for the life of
Suzanne Elizabeth (Suzie)
Martin
on **Friday 8th March** at
11.30am.

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

**See new
adverts pages
4 and 15**

**Great Massingham
Village Hall and Institute
CIO 1182009**

AGM

To be held at the
Village Hall on

**Tuesday 12th March 2024,
at 7.00 pm.**

FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

As part of Fakenham Choral Society's 50th Anniversary celebrations the choir is

holding a Come & Sing Day on **Saturday 16 March 2024** in Fakenham Academy with music chosen from 50 years of FCS performances.

Full details and registration forms are available at:

www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org

Or contact Rosemary Dear at

rosemary_dear@hotmail.com

QUIZ NIGHT AT GREAT MASSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 28th March 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.

Depending on numbers there might be a raffle and a 50/50 bag. Half of the entry money will go to the winning team with half for the village hall.

Anyone who wishes to receive further information or register for our regular newsletter of quizzes and other village events please contact me: robertcharlestaylor@live.com or 07908 244421

Please
join us

**Community Lunch
Massingham
Village Hall Bar**

Tuesday 19th March

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Spiced pork casserole, vegetables and
Mashed potatoes followed
by Apple Pie and Cream.

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 12th March.

**GREAT MASSINGHAM
BIODIVERSITY PROJECT**

Working Party
Saturday 2nd March at 10.00

All and new
volunteers
welcome.

**Contact
Tim Baldwin
for details
01485 520813**



**QUIZ NIGHT
VILLAGE HALL CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

Looking further into the future! Please hold **Saturday 13th July 2024** for the Village Hall

Centenary Celebrations which will
include a quiz. Further details will be
publicised when they have been finalised.

Just drop me a line, **robertcharlestaylor@live.com** if you would like to receive regular updates by email of forthcoming quizzes.

Mallard News

THANK YOU TO ALL

Would just like to thank everyone who helped to get the clock on the church repaired and also for the repairs to the mechanism so we can hear the clock striking the hours again. Well done to all those who helped to raise the money needed.

Jenny Borley



REMINDER ALERT!

Don't forget to complete and return your Village Hall and Bar Survey, by the 5th April!



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FILM NIGHT

Charity Screening in aid of
King's Lynn Night Shelter



7pm for 7:30pm, Thursday 21st March

All welcome. Entry by cash donation*.
Refreshment included.

* Cards accepted but cash preferred on this occasion.

Costs borne by Film Night and all proceeds will be given to the Night Shelter.

For details of the Film Night programme email
MassinghamFilmNight@gmail.com

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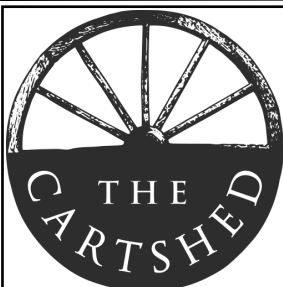
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GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held in the Village Hall on Monday 12th February. Both the County Councillor Stuart Dark and Borough Councillor Alistair Beales were in attendance, and we were also pleased to welcome twelve parishioners.

Parish Councillor Vacancy to be filled by Co-option : The necessary period under the Local Election Rules 2006 required to advertise the Casual Vacancy has concluded and the Parish Council have been advised by Electoral Services (BCKLWN) that they are able to co-opt in order to fill the vacancy left by Jon Cole. Co-option for the vacancy will take place at the 11th March meeting and application forms should be returned to the Parish Clerk by Friday 8th March. For further information or to obtain an application form please visit the Parish Council website (News) or contact Sarah Harvey (Clerk), details below.

The Parish Council would like to welcome our new Parish Councillor, Oliver Locke, to the Council. Oliver was successfully co-opted on to the Council at the February meeting and we look forward to him joining us at the March meeting.

Parish Councillors met with the Highways Engineer for the area during February to discuss a range of current highway issues within the village. The main issues that were touched upon was the deteriorating state of the footway along Abbey Road, extension of the yellow hatching outside the School, the footway condition along Castle Acre Road, flooding and drainage in the village. Any work that is programmed will not be executed immediately but will be dependent on priority and funding. County Councillor S Dark had also made available £2,000 within his Local Member Fund so that white lining with the village can be completed during the warmer months.

The Parish Council has recently installed a new 140L litter bin along Weasenham Road, following removal of one of the smaller open topped bins. The new bin will be emptied by the Borough Council.

Please can we ask once again that dog owners take responsibility for cleaning up after their dogs. Not clearing up after your dog is unacceptable behaviour. There are many dog waste bins throughout the village where dog waste can be disposed of. We would also urge anyone who witnesses a dog fouling incident and/or have information on owners who are not picking up after their dogs, to report this to the BCKLWN using their online report form. To report dog fouling you will need the location of the dog mess and the details of the dog owner (if known).

The Parish Council has recently approved work to the Beech tree on the green opposite The Dabbling Duck PH. The work will be undertaken once conservation area consent has been approved by the BCKLWN. The Council intends to replace the Christmas lighting for 2024 and is currently in the process of investigating costs for the new lighting and installation.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 11th March at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to join the meeting and there is an opportunity to make comments or ask questions of the Council during the first part of the meeting.

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

Please note that the Parish Council will not respond to posts on social media and would ask that any comments, complaints or compliments be directed to the Clerk.

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TOADS ON THE ROADS



The return migration of toads to their local breeding ponds began early this year, triggered by mild temperatures in early February. Toads instinctively return to the ponds of their birth after spending the year in a home range that may be as much as 2km or more away. It is unfortunate for them that our roads happen to be in their way. When close to the pond this can result in large numbers attempting to cross or even walk along the road, often with disastrous results for them! This is where

Toad Patrols can help. Toad Patrols are run nationally by Froglife (Toadwatch in Norfolk) and are manned by registered volunteers who are given appropriate training and covered by insurance.

Toad numbers locally show fluctuations from year to year. A few years ago the ponds along Weasenham Road were quite busy but numbers there have dwindled, whilst Scotsman's Pit is showing something of a resurgence. Toads are crossing Abbey Road and Walcups Lane to reach the pond from dusk onwards at the moment and numbers are higher when conditions are mild and damp. You may see patrollers out along here moving toads from the road to the pond. Please drive considerably and look out for toads! The real hotspot locally is at Hall Farm along Church Lane in Little Massingham. Here there can be many toads on the road with several hundred being moved on busy nights. Although most are concentrated near to the pond, they are also found along Mad Dog Lane and back along Church Lane towards the church where there is a second pond known as Lily Pond. This is also patrolled. The total number of toads saved by volunteers at our three local sites passed 1,000 after just two weeks of patrols this year and last year's total for Hall Farm was over 2,500 and the highest in Norfolk!



We have been pleased to welcome several new and enthusiastic volunteers this year and expect to have good coverage through the season which usually extends into early April. If anyone else would still like to get involved please contact Ptolemy McKinnon by email to massingham@toadwatch.org Alternatively if you would just like to come along to Scotsman's Pit one evening to see the toads and learn a bit more about them, please contact me on 01485 520813.
www.toadwatch.org / www.froglife.org

Tim Baldwin

HISTORICAL SOCIETY - MASSINGHAM HEATH

The Historical Society enjoyed an excellent evening with Tim Baldwin presenting Massingham Heath, an Evolving Landscape. The Heath we lost during WW2 for food production is now being rewilded for flora and fauna to thrive. It was amazing to see how flowers return to their natural environment adapting to the varying soils, thereby attracting butterflies, insects and birds some of which are on the endangered list. 68 people attended and this will be followed by 2 guided walks led by Tim in mid June.

Ant and Jeanne Robinson

REMEMBERING EDNA SILLIS

12th November 1929 - 30th November 2023



Edna Sillis

Ivy Edna Futter was born on 12th November 1929 at Setchford Lane, King's Lynn to Ivy and Sidney, she was to be their middle child – older brother Thomas and younger sister Doris coming along later.

Sadly, her father died when she was just 3, her mother then married her stepfather: Edward Powley who had a son David and the new larger family came to Massingham when she was seven years old.

Edna went to school here from 7-14 years old. Edna didn't much like school, and she remembered the headmaster being good but strict – these were after all still Victorian times.

With no television to keep her inside, Edna would be outside all the time playing and never having to worry about traffic and her and the other children would play on the cartwheels that lay on the green outside the

blacksmiths waiting to be repaired. They would use them as roundabouts.

After leaving school she went to work for Dick Leverett at the Post Office delivering papers and then on to work at the Swann Public House. This is where she met Bo (Harry).

At 18 she then went to work for the YMCA at West Raynham providing tea/coffee and sandwiches to the airmen and delivering snacks to the planes. On her days off she would bike home to see Bo.

She then went to work at the canning factory in Swaffham. In the meantime, Bo had been a Japanese prisoner of war. Now back home and working for Mr Carlton at the coal yard, the pair married in 1951, where the Massingham Band played for them. Their son Keith was born in 1951 and completed the family.

In time the pair took over The Swann Pub. There were some good times, especially darts and domino matches on a Tuesday night and at Christmas and New Year. They ran the pub until 1983.

In the same year Edna and Bo moved to Summerwood Estate and they had six happy years there before Bo died in 1989. Edna remained there until ill health saw her move into the care of Cranmer House.

She leaves her son, Keith, daughter-in-law Pat, grandchildren Stephen, Trudy and Keith, along with five great grandsons and one great granddaughter.

One of the few original characters of Great Massingham who could have told many a story – a life well lived.





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

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

With the Spring season in full bloom, we have a wonderful programme of events for March including film screenings, touring companies and the first Westacre Theatre Company production of the year with Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* opening on 14th March. Join us this Spring for theatre and much more!

East Theatre present *Hollyhock Trilogy*

Three poignant and bizarre love stories, darkly funny tales of loneliness and lust.

Friday 1 March 7:30pm Tickets adults £18 & under 16s £12

James Phelan presents *An Evening of Wonders*

A critically acclaimed, intimate glance at the world's most engaging artform. A dazzling, 5 star rated show promises to leave you dumbfounded.

James Phelan is The Greatest Magician.

Saturday 2 March 7:30pm Tickets adults £19 under 16s £10 (recommended 12+)

Screening in the studio: Wednesday Flicks *The Great Escaper*

Bernard Jordan escapes from his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France. Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson. .

Wednesday 6 March 2pm Tickets £12

Half Cut Theatre present *The Canterbury Tales*

Taking their loving but disarmingly sharp hatchet to one of the seminal works of English Literature! It's packed full of laughs and loves, music and mayhem sure to delight young and old alike.

Saturday 9 March 2pm Tickets adults £18 under 16s £12

Westacre Theatre Company present *Harold Pinter's Betrayal*

From the creative team that brought you the highly acclaimed

Private Lives & Private Fears in Public Places.

Set in London and Venice and based on events from his own life, the play picks its way through a wreckage of a marriage and retraces its painstaking steps through a seven year affair. Bristling with taut, sharp dialogue along with Pinter's typical wit, it is a moving, dramatic and yet supremely funny couple of hours in the theatre.

14/15/16/22/23 March 7:30pm & 16/23/24 March 3pm Tickets adults £16 & under 16s £10

Screening in the Studio: NT Live *The Motive and the Cue*

Sam Mendes directs Johnny Flynn as Richard Burton, Mark Gatiss as John Gielgud &

Tuppence Middleton as Elizabeth Taylor, in this fierce and funny new play by Jack Thorne, offering a glimpse into the politics of a rehearsal room and the relationship between art and celebrity.

Sunday 31 March 2:30pm Tickets £14

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Message for Parishioners from Joy Smith



Dear Friends

As I write this the sun is shining and everywhere there are signs that Spring is on the way, lighter days and hopefully not too many more wet days, the fields and gardens are still full of water, but the buds are coming out on the shrubs and soon the leaves will start forming on the trees.

In church we are now in the season of Lent and by the end of this month it will be Easter, the year seems to be disappearing fast but perhaps it is time for us all to slow down. The season of Lent is a time for us all to stop and take time to look at our lives. In Marks gospel Jesus just after his baptism in which he hears his Father's voice confirming who he is, is driven by the Spirit into the wilderness and is tempted. Having watched Simon Reeve's programmes titled "Wilderness" it is amazing to see that we still have places in our world where nature is still allowed to be free. But all that is changing, we are pushing out much of our natural world through greed and self-gratification, we need our wilderness places to help us focus on our own lives.

Wilderness can seem a very frightening place, a place we would not choose to go and yet many of us can feel "in the wilderness", lost, hopeless, wandering through the wilderness and unable to see that "promised land", a place where all our needs are met. Yet Jesus experienced that, he was tempted like us, and he knows our weakness and frailty.

We often give up something for Lent, like chocolate, coffee, or wine to help us to focus on giving to people in need, (but we can do that during the year as well) it might be something you would like to do this year. Look at what you could do without and put the money towards a charity or when shopping put something in the trolley for the food bank, it is a simple thing to do but can mean a lot to someone in need.

Then by the time we come to the end of the month, Easter will be here a celebration of what Jesus has done for all of us, and I'm sure we will all enjoy the celebration with perhaps a little chocolate!!!

We hope you have a reflective Lent and a very Happy Easter from all the Ministry Team.

Joy Smith Licensed Lay Minister

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Little Massingham - FOSALM

will be holding its first
2024 event at the
Church on
Friday 15th March.



Drinks from 6.00 pm with the talk beginning at 6.30pm.

The early evening talk "**Little Known Treasures in Norfolk Churches**", will be given by author and Arts Society lecturer, John Vigar. John will be delighted to sign copies of his books which will be on sale.

This is a FREE EVENT with a retiring collection.

LENT COURSE 2024

We are holding a Lent Course based on the Church of England's booklet Watch and Pray – Wisdom and hope for Lent and life, on Thursday evenings at 7pm, at the home of Dickie and Rosemarie Bowers Orchard house, Lynn Road Grimston.

Thursday's 7th, 14th and 21st March.

Church Services

March 2024

Date	Time	Service	Location
Friday 1st March	2.00 pm	World Day of Prayer	Pott Row Methodist
Sunday 3rd March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Songs of Praise	Roydon Harpley Grimston Little Massingham
Wed. 6th March	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 10th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> (Mothering Sunday)	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion Songs of Praise	Congham Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham
Sunday 17th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> (Passion Sunday)	9.30 am 10.30 am 4.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Lent Choral Service	Harpley Great Massingham Grimston
Wed. 20th March	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Donkey Service	Ashwicken Gayton Great Massingham Little Massingham East Walton
 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, 24th March, at 3pm			
Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Agape Meal Service	Great Massingham Harpley
Friday 29th March Good Friday	10.30 am 2.00 pm	Meditation for Good Friday Liturgy of the Cross	Grimston Little Massingham
Saturday 30th March	6.00 pm	Easter Vigil	Ashwicken
Sunday 31st March Easter Day	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Congham Gayton Great Massingham
For more news and alterations to services please visit our benefice website at www.ggmbenefice.uk			

From the Parish Register - Funerals and Burial of Ashes

4th January at St Mary Great Massingham Chris Smith
31st January 31st at St Mary's Great Massingham Mrs Peggy Gooch.

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Closed Mondays



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Wednesday to Friday - 7pm to 11pm

Saturday 3.45pm to 11pm

Sunday 12 noon to 6.30 pm

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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
Craft & Chat	Sue Nash	520 476 & 07802670711
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	Rita Gostling	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 823 391
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



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OMNIA VOICES - SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2024

We are pleased that Omnia returns to St Mary's Great Massingham with a beautiful concert of music spanning over 400 years.

The programme begins with settings of English texts by composers including Orlando



Gibbons, Bob Chilcott, Eleanor Daley, before closing with a selection of familiar folk and pop melodies including - Traditional arrangement of Danny Boy and Lennon/McCartney's Penny Lane.

Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine and nibbles.

Omnia will be donating a portion of ticket sales to St Mary's.

7 pm start. Tickets at the door.



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Neil Steed 07854114635 or

Neil.steed@btinternet.com

**MOBILE LIBRARY NEXT VISITS
15th March & 12th April 2024**

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 March 2024 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
4/18 Mar	Craft & Chat	2pm to 4pm	Village Hall Bar
9 Mar	Book Launch	2pm to 5pm	Village Hall
11 Mar	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Village Hall
12 Mar	Village Hall AGM	7pm	Village Hall
12 Mar	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Dabbling Duck PH
15 Mar	Historical Society	7.30pm	Village Hall
19 Mar	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	Village Hall Bar
21 Mar	Film Night	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
23 Mar	Dee & Mindy's Drag Bingo	7.30pm	Village Hall
28 Mar	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall Bar
29 Mar	Bowls Club Prize Bingo	7.30pm	Village Hall