

The Mallard

Issue 397

March 2025



Harriet DuPont



Ted Morgan



Angela Jarvis

TENNIS CLUB AWARDS NIGHT AND BEETLE DRIVE!

The Tennis Club held an Awards Night at the Village Hall on 1st February. The evening was well supported as members celebrated the most improved players of the past season. The junior winners were: Harriet DuPont – from the mini red ball group, Ted Morgan – from the mini orange/green ball group, Oscar Whales – from the yellow ball group. Angela Jarvis won the award for the most improved Women's player and the club's very own Chair, Steve Gould was honoured with the title of most improved Male player. The Veteran award was presented to Bruce Riches who has overcome injury to return to form. In addition, Susie Baines and Sue Hampshire were jointly awarded the newly created Best Supporter award for their unwavering encouragement and support, watching league matches, regardless of the weather conditions!

To cap off the evening, members took part in a Beetle Drive. This classic game brought back fond memories for those old enough to recall playing it in their youth. The game was new to many, adding an element of intrigue and excitement to the night. With a slight twist on tradition, participants drew their own beetles, leading to a variety of creative and amusing designs! The laughter and fun shared during the Beetle Drive perfectly encapsulated the community spirit of the Tennis Club, making it an enjoyable night for everyone. Thanks go to Clare Parker who organised the evening, sourcing the 'no expense spared' trophies and prizes for the Beetle Drive winners. Thanks too for all those who brought scrummy cakes and to the Village Hall for its facilities.

We are fortunate to have the Village Hall, tennis courts and playing field in our village. The tennis courts are busy, with a thriving youth section on Saturday mornings, various club sessions and all-level coaching. If you would like more information, please go to:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/greatmassinghamtennis>

Membership subs are due in May – the goal is always to keep prices affordable to promote inclusivity and 'tennis for all.'

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.

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Deadline for the next issue

**17th March
2025**

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GREAT MASSINGHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL 100 CLUB WINNERS

Dec 24 winners

- 1st - Ann Bowen
2nd - Marion Pyskin
3rd - Rodney Reeve

Jan 25 Winners

- 1st - Suzanne Overson
2nd - Anthony Robinson
3rd - Vicky Wade

LIFT NEEDED: GREAT MASSINGHAM TO NORWICH

Louise Black is looking for a regular lift from Great Massingham to Norwich every Wednesday. She needs to arrive in central Norwich, preferably St Stephens Road, by 9:00 am. Fuel money would be provided. She lives on Weasenham Road but is happy to meet at a convenient location such as the pub, bus stop, or shop. A return lift at the end of the day would be greatly appreciated but is not essential.

If you can help, please contact Louise on **07516 760713** or email **loumsb88@gmail.com**

EASTER COFFEE MORNING & STALLS SUPPORT THE MINIATURE DONKEYS!

On Easter Saturday we will be holding a coffee morning with stalls in Harpley Village Hall in aid of the miniature donkeys.

If you have any items for the Raffle, Tombola Stall, paper back books, Bric a Brac etc, please leave in our greenhouse (pink house opposite the Dabbling Duck).

Come and make Easter Bonnets for the Donkeys.

Look forward to seeing you on the 19th April. **Jenny Borley**

HARPLEY VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Saturday 8th March & 12th April, 10.00 - 12.00 Midday

CHAIR FIT—Mondays 10.30 am

TABLE TENNIS—Thursdays 5.00 - 7.00 pm

Email harpleylive@gmail.com or phone/text 07775 703 513
www.harpleyvillagehall.org

MOBILE LIBRARY—14th March & 11th April 2025

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

NEWS FROM THE BAR From April the village hall bar will be open from 3 pm to 8 pm every Sunday. Opening hours are open to negotiation if requested.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE DABBLING DUCK

The next scheduled event is on **18th March** when we will be raising money **in aid of Great Massingham PFA.**

Entry will be £30 per team, maximum of six, plus there will be a raffle and a 50:50 bag. The winning team will receive six vouchers entitling each holder to a Sunday lunch main course.

There will be a main dish available prior to the quiz: dish and price to be confirmed. Food orders to be received by Sunday 16th March and we request that you are seated at your table by 6.45pm

It is essential that you book your place in advance so please email me: robertcharlestaylor@live.com or call me: 07908 244421.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Tuesday 18th March, Village Hall Bar

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Chicken leek and ham pie, creamed potato, seasonal vegetables.

Lemon meringue roulade.

Menu £8.00

Come & meet friends for a chat.

The Bar will be open.

To book lunch please contact

Deborah Lambert on

07493 406 501 or 01485 520588, email on mrsdl1965@gmail.com

MASSINGHAM

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Frederick Rolfe

King of the Norfolk Poachers



A TALK BY CHARLOTTE PATON

Friday 21st March.

Village Hall 7.30pm

**Photographic Display
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Members Free, Guests £3.00 Bar open



CRAFT & CHAT

From 2pm to 4pm

at the Village Hall Bar

Mon 3rd, 17th & 31st March

Everyone welcome.

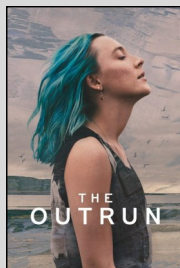
FILM NIGHT

7 for 7.30pm
at the Village Hall

**Thursday
20th March**

'The Outrun'

£5 (plus a
complementary drink)



FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

Mezzo-Soprano Judy Louie Brown will perform at its spring concert on **Saturday 22nd March, 7pm at Fakenham Parish Church.**

Admission: early bird price of £15 before 8th March; £18 after 8th March.

Tickets available

at www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org

FREE TREES – READY TO PLANT

Have you got space for a native tree or a hedge, to help our local wildlife?

Massingham Community Tree Nursery has a selection of native trees grown from locally-sourced seed, so they're suited to our climate.

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NEWS FROM THE HALL

Hello again. As we leave a very bleak February behind, hopefully we can all look forward to a sunnier March. But, even if it is still cold outside, you can be sure of a very warm welcome at the Village Hall and Bar. The first thing to mention is the postponed launch of the Village

Hall Website. This is in part due to the volume of content we want to add to make it even better and more interesting, so it will be launched a little later than expected. As part of the content, we would like to offer a very special deal on advertising on the website. So, if you are an individual, part of a company or an organisation and would like to reach hundreds of potential clients with your message, this is a very special opportunity.

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Helen Morrell via helenmorrell26@yahoo.co.uk

Back to the events in March. A new event - a **Darts Tournament** - has been set up and will commence on **Wednesday, 5th March**. Entry to this is £10 and it will be £1 for each evening. Hopefully this will run every Wednesday evening. Following on from that is the **Village Hall Bingo** - on **7th March**, doors open from 7.00 pm. And the very next day, **Mick Fisher** - our very popular **Country and Western singer** - appearing in the bar on **8th March** - Tickets are only £7 and it will start at 7 pm. Please come along and bring your friends. Remember all drinks sold in the bar are very competitively priced.

The next **Friday, 14th March**, is **The Quiz in the bar** - costing just £2 entry. Teams can contain up to 6 people and this is your opportunity to show your friends how clever you are! The next **Community Lunch** is on **Tuesday, 18th March**. Come along and enjoy a tasty 2 course meal for just £8. The company and laughter is free ... Make a note of **Saturday, 29th March** - another interesting variation on a theme. The very hardworking Events Committee is running a **Bingo evening - with a difference**. It is a Rock and Roll version of the game everyone knows, but this time no numbers just knowing music from over the decades. Games start from £1 and it begins at 8 pm. Please remember to support the Film Club and, for another interesting evening spent with like minded people, the Historical Society always covers interesting topics. That's it for March, so far. Keep watching social media and look out for posters advertising events which many have been booked at short notice. Before we leave you, just a taster of what is happening in April; Village Hall Bingo on 4th April and a special Bowls Club Bingo on 11th—doors open at 6.45pm. We have managed to book Sam J Cook for 18th April. This event will be free to club members. If you are attending Friday events, the Pizza Wagon is there to serve sizzling pizzas and you can put together your own burger on Saturday evenings.

Now a final plea to all the GENTLEMEN of this parish - and others ... Your village needs you—yes YOU! Are you the next Bogart, Cruise or, for our younger readers, Chalامت? Ann Bowen, who has agreed to put on the promised Murder Mystery Play in October is looking for males to be cast in her play. Members of the cast are complete amateurs, so it promises to be a lot of fun putting on this event - although, perhaps not so much for Ann! So come on all you gents—don't be shy, we want to / need to raise money for the village hall and this could generate some much needed funds. Even if you only have the tiniest bit of interest, please contact Ann at: bowen2030@btinternet.com - 07788817086 - 01485 520174

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ROOKS AND THE VILLAGE

After reading what Mr. Bickerton has to say about the rooks in the village of Great Massingham, I should like to add a few observations of my own.

When I started living at Leicester House Farm in 1964 the only rookery that I was aware of was in some trees in a pit not far from the old stone barn halfway down the Rougham Road. At that time we had a young Dane who wanted to be a gamekeeper, so he was attached to our keeper whose main job was control of rats and rabbits. He was also supposed to deal with corvids and grey squirrels. One day the pupil came to me and explained that he was going to attack the little rookery having been given the job by the keeper. For some reason I rather liked the cawing of the rooks. They were not very numerous and did not really cause any problems, so I told him to leave the rookery alone. After some years the rooks decamped to the trees behind the old rectory and I thought no more about it. But with the passage of time the rookery grew to be a very large colony, and no doubt some of them set up shop in Mr. Bickerton's trees because of the overcrowding. I realised that as a farmer I had to take the rooks seriously. They were so numerous that when a field of newly sown corn emerged, the rooks would descend on it and decimate the crop. Rook scaring became yet another job to do at a busy time of the year. They were ruthless when sugar beet were at the first true-leaved stage. In one afternoon they completely removed the crop from a 10 acre field. I asked the then owner of the rectory if we might attempt to control the rook numbers. (This was after the time of the Reverend Rook.) My request was strongly refused. When the new owners had different ideas, we were permitted to try to discourage the rooks. Since it was legal to shoot them we tried to thin them out when they were at the fledgling stage. Our efforts have not been wholly successful as anyone can see, especially in the autumn, when huge numbers circle the village before settling to roost in various places, but mainly in their rookeries. Protecting the emerging crops is an ongoing problem.

Olaf Brun

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GREAT MASSINGHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL has had a very busy month. The school has set up a new wraparound care provision, where we are providing breakfast and afterschool club. There is a variety of activities on offer throughout the week and we have been delighted with the uptake for this new venture. In other news - our Junior children enjoyed completing Bikeability courses, run by Norfolk County Council and we have seen an increase on how many pupils are travelling to school using their bicycles.



The infant children had a visit to the Fire Station as part of their learning about emergencies. Watch Manager Molyneux and his colleagues showed the pupils around the fire station and told us all about the importance of fire safety in our homes. *Hilary Myhill*

BRAMBLE CONTROL ON THE JUBILEE FIELD

Over the last few weeks, the Scotsman's Pit volunteers have deserted restoring the banks of the Pit to cut back the invasive brambles encroaching on the Jubilee Field.

On the chilly Fridays during February whilst nothing has really started to grow, the volunteers have deployed brush cutters and long-handled loppers to cut back the

brambles which have started to invade the playing field. Starting at the mound by the slide they have cut back and chopped up the fairly vicious brambles. This will help the trees planted three years ago to flourish and to make it easier for the teams to retrieve their wayward footballs – as well as tidying the hedges.

Phil Ward



SOCIETY OF WILDLIFE ARTISTS

A presentation led by SWLA President Harriet Mead

The Massingham Heath Project

GM Village Hall - Saturday 15th March at 7.30pm

You are warmly invited to attend and learn more of this project starting locally in May (see February issue and online for more details)



www.swla.co.uk

Admission free. swlafriends@gmail.com



ORGAN CONCERT – ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, LITTLE MASSINGHAM

The world renowned conductor and organist Hilary Davan Wetton (Hon. D.Mus., MA, Hon. FRBC, ARCM) will be providing an organ concert in the church at Little Massingham on

Sunday 8th June at 4 pm.

Hilary will be playing an eclectic mixture of popular organ music, and Prosecco and nibbles will also be served.

Please put the date in your diary for what will be an absolutely fabulous rendition of organ music.

OPEN MEETING AT ST ANDREWS CHURCH, LITTLE MASSINGHAM

A very successful and enthusiastic open meeting was held at Little Massingham Church on Thursday 13th February. Those attending were able to share plenty of excellent thoughts and ideas with everyone present. There were several speakers who were able to pass on their knowledge. When the National Lottery Heritage Fund application was discussed, we were given further advice and support as we work towards the lottery bid to repair the church roof.

**Rosemary Jewers, Little Massingham
PCC Fabric Officer**



REMEMBERING DAVID BUTTERWORTH – COMMUNITY CARS DRIVER & FRIEND

We are sad to announce the passing of one of our drivers, David Butterworth.

David and I knew each other when he was working in the probation service in King's Lynn and I worked for Children's Services. David "collared" me at an event at Massingham Village Hall and asked if I would join the Community Cars Committee. Not being someone who could say no I said yes! The rest is History.

David's funeral was held at Mintlyn Crematorium on Saturday 22nd Feb. at 1200, followed by a reception at Massingham Village Hall afterwards.

Neil Steed

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Recycling Centre Visits: Advance booking is now required for recycling centre visits. Slots are available every 15 minutes and can be reserved up to one week in advance via the council's website or by calling 0344 800 8020. Please provide your vehicle registration number when booking. If you only wish to visit the Re-use Shop without disposing of waste, no booking is necessary. For more information, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/recyclingbooking.

Casual Vacancy: Following Councillor Mick Wingell's departure, a vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. The Local Election Rules 2006 require the vacancy to be advertised for 14 days. If within this period, a written request for an election is received, signed by ten local government electors, an election will be held. If no such request is received, the Council will proceed with co-option to fill the vacancy.

Energy-Efficient Lighting: The Parish Council plans to upgrade the remainder of the village lighting to energy-efficient LED bulbs. This initiative aims to improve lighting quality and significantly reduce electricity costs.

Biodiversity Initiatives: A working group has been established to conduct a biodiversity audit of the Parish Council's landholdings and develop a local nature action plan. This initiative aligns with the council's legal duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to conserve biodiversity in its decision-making processes. The group will assess current land management practices and propose strategies to enhance the natural environment within the parish.

Community Enhancements: The Parish Council has set up working groups to explore options for enhancing the village's festive atmosphere and recreational facilities. These groups are tasked with investigating a sustainable power source and the 2025 Christmas lighting display, as well as evaluating and recommending new equipment for the play area. Their goal is to ensure that community spaces are both enjoyable and environmentally friendly. Updates on their progress will be shared in future newsletters.

Dog Waste Bins: To address dog fouling, the Parish Council has agreed to purchase two additional dog waste bins. One will be installed on Abbey Road, and the other at the junction of Station Road and Weasenham Road. These bins aim to provide convenient disposal points, encouraging responsible pet ownership and keeping public areas clean.

Devolution Consultation: The Government is conducting a public consultation on proposed devolution in Norfolk and Suffolk, specifically on the formation of a Strategic Authority headed by a mayor. The consultation runs until 13 April 2025. For more information and to participate, visit Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation.

Our next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, 17th March, at 7:30 pm.

To contact the Clerk, Sarah Harvey telephone 01328 823391 or email gmparishclerk@gmail.com. Visit our website: www.greatmassingham-pc.info

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Date	Time	Service	Location
Sunday 2nd March	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Family Service	Roydon Harpley Grimston Gt Massingham
Wednesday 5th March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Meditation & Ashing Service	Harpley Grimston
Friday 7th March	2.00 pm	World Day of Prayer	Pott Row
Sunday 9th March <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Congham Gayton Lt Massingham Gt Massingham
Sunday 16th March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Songs of Praise	Harpley Grimston Gt Massingham
Wednesday 19th March	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 23rd March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Celtic Service	Ashwicken Gayton Lt Massingham Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 30th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Group Service)	Gt Massingham
For more news and alterations to services please visit our benefice website at www.ggmbenefice.uk			

LENT STUDY GROUP - TOWARD THE SUNRISE

We are holding a Lent Course which follows the disciples as they gradually become aware of the reality of the resurrection and what it meant for them.

This will be starting on Thursday 13th March at 7pm at the home of Dickie and Rosemarie Bowers, Orchard House, Lynn Road Grimston and on the following four Thursdays 20th & 27th March, 3rd and 10th April.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We are holding a group Mothering Sunday service on **Sunday 30th March at 10.30am** at St Mary's Great Massingham. Do come and join us.



ADVENTURE TO VANCOUVER AND ALASKA

Tidewater Glaciers but no Bears!

Rev'd Sue Martin

Wed 9th April at 7pm

St Botolph's Church Grimston

£5.00 includes a glass of wine/soft drink and nibbles

Message for Parishioners from Rev'd Sue Martin



Dear Friends,

Spring is just around the corner! After a winter of greyness, the sight of the occasional touch of blue sky is very welcome. The Spring equinox is 20th March and marks the time when the sun is directly over the equator and heading north. Linked with our change to British Summer Time on March 30th it all helps to make March a brighter month.

I am a great lover of books, both fiction and novels or non-fiction. I love stories, I love travel and when the two are combined in a book I am very happy. But the bookshelves are overloaded, there are books on the floor at the bottom of the shelves, there are books waiting to find a space on the shelves. I was firmly resolved to sort the bookshelves this winter, but I am still prevaricating. In reality the thought of giving any away is difficult. I know there is a famous person who quotes taking away 50%, but that's too harsh for me.

In speaking to a friend at church about this dilemma, we talked about how the book you actually want can often be hidden by lots of other books. A good title for a book maybe, 'All the Books you Cannot Find'. It reminded me of the book by Anthony Doerr and film, All the Light you Cannot See.

So much of what we are looking for seems hidden at times.

Faith and Christianity can be like that. We search for God to find meaning and understanding. So often it can be hidden in our everyday activities, but it can be found when we turn another chapter in our lives.

At church we have the season of Lent from March 5th until Easter, a time for reflection, a time perhaps to give up something, and I guess I will be giving up chocolate again! But Lent is also about thinking about Jesus and how important His life on earth is for all of us. Whether we give something up or start a new project, as we move towards Easter, we know that Jesus can always be found in our lives, and that the greyness of winter can turn into the brightness of Spring.

With best wishes and God Bless.

Rev'd Sue Martin

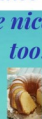
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WALKING IN NEW TESTAMENT SANDALS

Saturday 15th March 2025

**9.30am for a prompt 10.00am start - 3pm
St Nicholas Church, Gayton**

This will be an inter-active day of exploration, new insights and FUN, including walking in the footsteps of Jesus and a unique visit to the Early Church in Rome! Led by the Reverend Dr Sue Woan. No previous knowledge of the New Testament required but please bring a Bible..... sandals optional!

Cost: Free (donations welcome)

Light lunch will be provided, tea, coffee etc available throughout the day.

Bookstall available– useful resources for study.

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Saturday 3.45pm to 11pm

Sunday 12 noon to 6.30 pm

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9 - 6 Thursday and 9 - 1 Saturday



Useful Contacts

Organisation	Contact	Phone No/Email Address
Allotment Association	Daisy Robinson	07979 723 288
Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Councillor	Alistair Beales	cllr.alistair.beales@west-norfolk.gov.uk
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	Peter Wadham	520 796
Church Contacts	Stephen Hudson	07949 989 977
Community Car Scheme	Office	520 823
Coronation Club	Jill Whitmore	520 609
County Councillor	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	07810 042816
Fishing Warden	Connor Macleod	PC Clerk 01328 823391
Trefoil Guild	Rita Gostling	520 730
Massingham Historical Society	Jeanne Robinson	520 455
Neighbourhood Plan	Jess Cunningham	gmndplan@yahoo.com
Parish Council	Sarah Harvey (Clerk)	01328 823391
Pre-School	Pip Grange	07807 185 746
Police	Non-emergency	101
School	Hilary Myhill	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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DVDs of pantomimes and other productions are available at £5.00 each with all proceeds going to Cancer Research UK. Simply select your choices from the following list and send your choices to me either by e-mail or text. My e-mail address is andrewbickerton8@gmail.com my phone number is: 07765946668. Leave your contact details so I can let you know when they are ready for collection and payment.

Cindersfella 1986, Chip Shop Chewey 1988, Cannibals & Coconuts 1990, Hamalott 1992, Down with Alice 1994, Neverland 1997, Mirror, Mirror 2000, Over the Rainbow 2002, Cinders 2009, Alice Down the Well, A Christmas Carol 2010, Battle's Over 2018.

Re-live those wonderful times or discover what was going on and support a vital cause at the same time.
Andrew Bickerton

DATES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS



The NDP Steering Group will be continuing its work during 2025 to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. Dates for forthcoming meetings, which all are welcome to attend, are listed below.

Saturday 1st March 10.00am - Village Tour to assess Views and Green Spaces

These are to be held at the Village Hall Bar at 5.00pm on the following dates:-

Monday 3rd March

Monday 7th April (**Please note it is not the 3rd April as previously stated**)

Tuesday 6th May

Monday 2nd June

For further updates please refer to the NDP website www.greatmassinghamndp.co.uk

Some March 2025 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
3/17/31 Mar	Craft & Chat	2pm to 4pm	Village Hall Bar
7 Mar	Bingo	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
8 Mar	Coffee Morning	10.00am to Midday	Harpley Village Hall
8 Mar	Mick Fisher (Country & Western)	7.00 pm	Village Hall Bar
14 Mar	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall Bar
15 Mar	SWLA Presentation	7.30pm	Village Hall
17 Mar	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
18 Mar	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1.00pm	Village Hall Bar
18 Mar	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Dabbling Duck PH
20 Mar	Film Night	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
21 Mar	Historical Society	7.30pm	Village Hall
29 Mar	Rock and Roll Bingo	8.00pm	Village Hall