



The Mallard

Issue 405

November 2025

Short Story Competition

CALLING ALL YOUNG WRITERS AGED 5–11!

Children aged 5–11 who live in or attend school in Great Massingham are invited to enter our Short Story Competition.

Prizes: £25 Amazon Gift Voucher + publication in The Mallard

Word limit: Up to 500 words

Deadline: Friday 19th December 2025

Winners announced: 28th February 2026

Send your entry and consent form by 19th December 2025 either:

Online via the official entry form: <https://tally.so/r/mKbK9K> (also via the QR code)

By email: themallardeditor@gmail.com

By post: 6 Abbeyfields, Abbey Road, Great Massingham, PE32 2JE

Stories must be original and written by the child. One entry per child.
Full Terms & Conditions and the Parental Consent Form are available at:
www.greatmassingham.net



PRAYER SPACE MORNINGS AT OUR SCHOOLS

Great Massingham & Harpley Cof E Primary School Federation enjoyed two prayer space mornings on Tuesday 14th October in the school hall (Great Massingham) and Wednesday 15th October (Harpley). A prayer space group from North Norfolk kindly delivered a whole morning of prayer and reflection activities on the

theme of the 'I am...' sayings, e.g. 'I am the light of the world'. Both sessions involved a wide variety of calming and reflective activities to engage the children in thinking about the world around them, their place in it, and how to be contemplative. It was a joy to see how much the children enjoyed the sessions.

Hilary Myhill (Executive Head)



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:

Editor: Sarah Harvey
Byanoak, Leicester Road,
South Creake, NR21 9PW

Tel: 01328 823391

e-mail:
themallardeditor@gmail.com

Website:

www.greatmassingham.net

Deadline for the next issue

**17th November
2025**

In This Issue

- Short Story Competition
- Primary Schools
- Food Bank Appeal
- Harpley VH Events
- Shoe Box Appeal
- Preschool Vacancy
- Bingo
- Craft & Chat
- Film Nights
- Lunch Bunch Munch
- Historical Society
- Quiz Night (VH)
- Heritage Trail Paintings
- Afternoon Tea
- Yard Sale Success
- News from the Hall
- Crafts & Tabletop Sale
- SWLA Exhibition
- MacMillan Coffee PM
- Christmas Tree Festival
- St Mary's Carol Service
- Lt Massingham Footpath
- Parish Council
- Church Services
- Afternoon Teas
- Advent Course
- From the Rector
- Bell Ringing
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Mobile Library Visits



GREAT MASSINGHAM FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Collection for Children's Christmas Presents

Help us bring a little Christmas joy to local children!

Collection boxes are located at:

Village Shop Café The Dabbling Duck

Please donate so that we can buy a few presents for the children.

HARPLEY VILLAGE HALL

8th November 10-12pm - Coffee Morning with the History Club presenting the Harpley Timeline Display.

14th November 7 for 7.30pm - Quiz Night.

6th December 10-12pm - Coffee Morning with Christmas Decorations including Festive Wreath making.

Regular Events

Chair Fit: Mondays 10.30 - 11.15am

Carpet Bowls: Mondays 2.30 - 4.30pm

Harpley Choir: Mondays 7.30 - 8.30pm

Pilates: Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.15pm

Table Tennis Club: Thursdays 5.00 - 7.00pm

Fitness Pilates: Fridays 9.00 - 10.00am

Contact: Harpleylive@gmail.com or

visit www.harpleyvillagehall.uk

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you so much to everyone who has knitted, donated items, or helped find boxes. Each shoebox requires a £3 contribution to cover transport costs so they can reach the children, and any donations towards this would be greatly appreciated.

We are still in need of shoeboxes, knitted items, and small gifts to include, so all contributions are most welcome.

If not at home, please leave any donations in the greenhouse.

Jenny Borley - 01485 520542



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Ofsted EY268556

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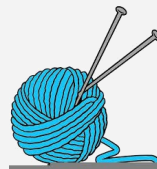
Friday 7th November
Doors open 7 pm,
Eyes down for 7.30pm
At GM Village Hall

CRAFT & CHAT

Our meetings are on every other Monday from 2pm to 4pm at the Village Hall Bar area.

The next meeting will be on the 10th November.

We can talk, watch or try to learn a new skill - we are here to help!
Transport for anyone in the village could possibly be organised.
Everyone welcome. **Sue Nash**



FILM NIGHTS
for 7 for 7.30pm
MEMBERS NIGHT on
Thursday 6th November

'The Marching Band'
with a glass of wine and two-course meal



Thursday 20th November
'Mr Burton'
£5 (plus a complementary drink)
at the Village Hall

THE LUNCH MUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday 18th November
Village Hall Bar

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Spicy pork casserole, jacket potato & seasonal vegetables.

Followed by jam roly poly and custard

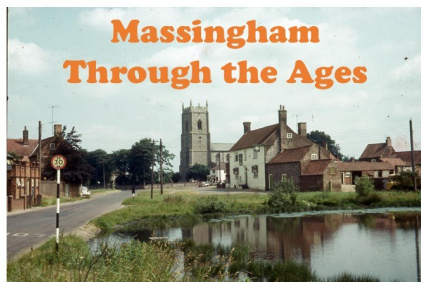
Menu £8.00

Come & meet friends for a chat.
The Bar will be open.

To book lunch please contact
Deborah Lambert on
07493 406501
by Friday 14th November

MASSINGHAM
HISTORICAL SOC.

A POWERPOINT
Presentation



NOV. 21st VILLAGE HALL 7.30pm

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY
WEDDINGS

Members free, Guests £3 Bar open

QUIZ NIGHT AT GREAT MASSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 18th December 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.

Your quizmasters for the night will be
Alison and Phil Henshaw

Please do not hesitate to contact
me, robertcharlestaylor@live.com,
07908 244421 for further information.

We will be back in the Village Hall on Thursday 22nd January 2026. We're also on the lookout for new quizmasters! If you'd like to host an evening, why not give it a go? The quiz can follow any format or theme you choose.

If you're interested, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you.



Remember the beautiful illustrations in the Heritage Trail Booklet, by artist Angie Wells?

Some of the originals will be for sale at the Craft Fayre in the Village Hall on November 8th from 10am.
A perfect Christmas present.



AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 7th December, 3pm-5.30pm

£5 tickets for Historical Society members, £8 for guests, must be bought in advance from

Jeanne Robinson or Sandy Francis

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

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

The bar will be open to buy wine.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale.



YARD SALE SUCCESS: £700 FOR PEDDARS WAY WARD

I, along with my friends, held a yard sale in Great Massingham and together we raised a total of £700, which we donated to Peddars Way Ward at the QEH Hospital for end-of-life care.

A huge thank you goes to my helpers and to everyone who has supported me over the years — I couldn't have raised such wonderful amounts without you all.

All the remaining items were distributed to various charities in Fakenham, as I am now officially retired (although my daughter says she's heard that before!). **Chrissie Warnes**

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NEWS FROM THE HALL

September finished on a happy note with Ian and Kim celebrating their Engagement surrounded by family and friends. We wish them every happiness for their future together. Our popular Village Coalman had a gathering of friends for Birthday

drinks in the Bar which turned into an impromptu party, a cracking time was had by all. If you're looking for a venue to hold a party give us a call.

October started off with a team of volunteers doing a fabulous job of tidying up outside, from pressure washing seating to clearing drains, resulting in everything looking spick and span, Thank you all for your help.

On Saturday 4th October Mick Fisher came and entertained us all with Country and Western music. Mick and his wife Pauline work tirelessly raising money for different charities. In the time they have been doing gigs at the Hall they have raised £1300.00 for dementia and £834.00 for cancer along with making donations to the Village Hall, which is greatly appreciated.

Andy Frost kindly gave his time and entertained us with a Karaoke on 12th October, the Bar was heaving with budding pop stars who had a thoroughly good time. Ear defenders will be provided for the Bar staff at the next Karaoke. Thanks Frosty it was a great night.

On the 12th October our wonderful community came out in force to support the Fete organised to refurbish the playpark, many villagers volunteered running stalls, baking cakes, serving coffees and numerous other things that made it a successful event.

Pete Harries and his team deserve our thanks for their commitment towards raising the funds to pay for the new equipment.

Sadly events took a tragic turn on Monday evening when a Tennis Club Member suffered a fatal heart attack. Those present at the time did everything humanly possible to help. Our village kids Cody, Darby, William, Stanley and Toby raced into action getting the Defibrillator, manning the traffic and making sure children were off of the field for the Air Ambulance to land. Although a tragic experience it brought home how lucky we are to live in such a caring community and with a future generation carrying on in their predecessors shoes. A fund raiser for the Air Ambulance is sure to be on the cards in the very near future.

Events to look forward to in the coming weeks are the Christmas Craft Fair and Table Top Sale on 8th November. Friday the 14th November cover band Funky Little Shack. Popular music covers from the 80s – 00s. Medium John Julien joins us on 27th November. Please note the quiz originally booked for this date is now going to be held on 18th December.

Plus many more events, check out the back page for more details or follow us on facebook/instagram or visit the Village Hall Website, greatmassinghamvillagehall.co.uk

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2025

10.00 AM TO 4.00 PM

Help Santa out this year - buy your
Christmas Gifts from

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at GM Village Hall



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CELEBRATING MASSINGHAM HEATH AT THE SOCIETY OF WILDLIFE ARTISTS EXHIBITION



After boarding the 08:42 train from King's Lynn, we arrived at the Mall Galleries in London for the much-anticipated SWLA exhibition, *The Natural Eye*.

It was my first time at this exhibition — and what a delight! Not only was I surrounded by amazing works of art and a real buzz of energy from wildlife artists and conservationists, but this year Great Massingham was centre stage. This filled me with admiration, not just for the beautiful place in which we live, but for the amazing community we have.

I was joined by several residents from Great Massingham who had ventured out from our natural utopia to find a different sense of awe and wonder.

It truly felt like *our* exhibition — a showcase of the relationships we have built with many of the SWLA artists, with each other, and, of course,

with the wildlife that surrounds us every day, nurturing us and giving us life.

Presenting a fabulous speech and the all-important prizes was musician David Gray, who, it turns out, is also a great lover of nature and our wonderful natural world.

More than 400 pieces of artwork were on display, over 60 of which were from the Massingham Art Project, which had its own special room — a magical space.

Don't worry if you didn't make the trip — the artists will be back on the Heath later this year, and we can expect more art viewings in the village in the spring of 2026..

Jess Cunningham

Today we went to the Society of Wildlife Artists' annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London, particularly to see the special part of the exhibition about the Massingham Heath Project.

Unknown to us, our visit coincided with an illustrated talk by Massingham's own Tim Baldwin and SWA President Harriet Mead. It was a treat to hear their enthusiastic description of the artists' work and their engagement with nature and people in our village, accompanied by some lovely photographs.

The artwork on display was wonderfully representative of the wildlife in our local area, with much more to come from the project in the coming seasons. The audience enjoyed the talk and the artwork so much that some even asked how they could come and discover Massingham Heath for themselves.

Sarah Bourne and Jim Ryan





MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON RAISES £2,016.63

Great Massingham Village Hall was buzzing for the Macmillan Coffee Afternoon – yummy cakes, raffle and tombola wins, donkey walks, bouncy castle and gladiator fun, face painting, hot chocolates and more. What a brilliant community vibe!

Together we raised an amazing £2,016.63 for Macmillan Cancer Support!

A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone who baked, donated, volunteered, or helped on the day. Your kindness and hard work made the event such a success — and showed what a special community Great Massingham truly is.

Victoria Wade



**St Mary's Church
Gt. Massingham**

**Christmas Coffee
Morning
And
Christmas Tree
Festival**

**Saturday
6th December
10am-12.30**

Raffle
Decorations Cards

**With of course
good
company &
delicious
cakes**

**St Mary's
Church
Gt Massingham**

Carol Service

**Sunday 21st
December
3pm**

Once again we are delighted that we shall be having a live Nativity, where children & adults alike are welcome to come dressed as kings, shepherds, Mary's, Joseph's etc. if they wish & join in the scene with the donkeys & sheep kindly being brought to us again by Miniature donkeys for therapy & Fun.

NEW FOOTPATH LINKS GREAT AND LITTLE MASSINGHAM

Little Massingham Parish Council is pleased to announce the construction of a footpath fully linking Great and Little Massingham. This represents the culmination of several years' work to gain permissions and funding for this project; it also represents a significant safety improvement for pedestrians walking between the parishes.

The existing footpath from Great Massingham will now be extended all the way to Church Lane in Little Massingham with a permissive path north of Church Lane along the edge of the field finishing next to the Old Rectory.

Our thanks to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, Norfolk County Council, the Diocese of Norwich, Birkbeck Estate and Robert Fox Farming for their assistance in this undertaking.

Jon Heley, Little Massingham Parish Council

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Play Area Fundraising Success – Thank You! The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who helped make the fundraising fete on 12th October such a great success. It was a wonderful day filled with community spirit, teamwork, and generosity. Special thanks go to all who volunteered, donated prizes, or came along to support — your enthusiasm made all the difference.

As many residents know, the new play area will provide a safe and welcoming space for children and families. To help fund the project, the Council is applying for a grant from the FCC Communities Foundation, which requires a Contributing Third Party (CTP) payment of £10,750.

Thanks to your generosity, £5,729.57 has already been raised. The Parish Council will meet the remaining £5,020.43 shortfall to move the grant application forward.

If you'd still like to contribute, donations are very welcome — either scan the QR code below or make a direct payment to: Great Massingham Parish Council,

Sort Code: 60-83-01, **Account Number:** 20463300.

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the project — your help is bringing this much-needed play area ever closer to reality!

Funding Available for Local Community Projects: Do you have an idea to bring people together or improve village life? The Norfolk Community Fund offers grants of up to £2,500 for community-led projects such as creative initiatives, local events, and wellbeing or environmental schemes. For details contact County Cllr Stuart Dark at stuart.dark.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk or call **07860 256083**.

New Life for Our Village Telephone Box: The Council has adopted the red telephone box, ensuring it remains part of our community. We're looking for ideas on how it could be used — perhaps a mini library, art display, or plant swap? Share your suggestions with the Parish Clerk or any councillor.

Christmas Lights Switch-On: New festive lighting has been installed ready for this year! The Christmas Lights Switch-On will take place on 12th December 2025, with the Harpley Choir joining us for the occasion. Final details to be confirmed.

New Parish Council Email Address: From 1st November, please use the new email noted below for all correspondence. The old address will still be checked occasionally, and anyone emailing it will be notified of the change.

More Information: Next Meeting: Monday 17th November at 7.30pm.

To contact the Clerk, Sarah Harvey you can telephone 01328 823391, email clerk@greatmassingham-pc.gov.uk or write to Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creak, NR21 9PW.

Visit the Parish Council website: www.greatmassingham-pc.info.



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Date	Time	Service	Location
Sunday 2nd November <i>4th Sunday before Advent</i>	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 November	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 9th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	8.30 am 10.00 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 10.50 am	Holy Communion Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service	Congham Gt Massingham Grimston Gayton Harpley
Wednesday 11th November	10.45 am	Remembrance Service	Ashwicken
Sunday 16th November <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Songs of Praise	Harpley Grimston Gt Massingham
Wednesday 19th November	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 23rd November <i>Christ the King</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 November <i>Advent Sunday</i>	10.30 am	Group Holy Communion	Lt Massingham
For more news and alterations to services please visit our benefice website at www.ggmbenefice.uk			

AFTERNOON TEA & CHAT

Wednesday teas continue weekly in Church.
We are now operating our winter times, which are
2pm – 3.30pm, giving people time to get home
before it starts to get dusk.

We are a friendly group with plenty of chat,
together with tea, coffee, and delicious treats.

Everyone is always most welcome!



ADVENT COURSE

Explore the story of The Nativity,
what it means for you, for me, and
the whole world.

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Bower's)

Thursday's 7pm – 8.30pm
27th November, 4th, 11th and 18th
December

Message for Parishioners from Joy Smith



Dear Friends

The month of November is a time of change, when nature seeks its resting state and the days are noticeably shorter. It is also a time when we as humans can pause and reflect on the essentials. November is often associated with the theme of transience. The falling leaves, the fading of the colours and the gradual passing of the beautiful summer days remind us of the finite nature of life. But November also offers an opportunity to accept this transience and realise that it is part of the bigger picture. While nature is in hibernation, the dark and cold of the days reminds us that light and warmth will always return.

The month of November is closely linked to the remembrance of our deceased. The Feast of All Souls on 2 November reminds us that death is a part of life and that we must not forget our loved ones who have gone before us. It is a time to realise that we are all mortal and that our time on this earth is limited. This awareness can help us to consciously organise our lives and rethink our priorities. We also remember all those who have served their country not only in time of war but continue to serve not only our country but are part of peacekeeping throughout our world. In the month of November, we also experience a special invitation to hope. There are signs of hope that peace might come to the middle east what a wonderful present as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord.

This time of year reminds us that life goes on after death and that there is always a new beginning. November gives us the opportunity to deal with the big questions of life. It is a time to reflect, to pause and to search for meaning. It is also a time of solidarity, when we take special care of those who are grieving or in need.

As we come to the end of November we enter the season of Advent and the build up for Christmas at time for reflection and but in all the business, please take time to remember the reason for the season. To celebrate not only the birthday of our Lord but also to prepare for his coming again. In our World today we often see only darkness and all the things that are wrong.

Let us see the month of November not just as a time of darkness, but as a time of reflection and hope. Let us use this time to get to know ourselves better, to focus on the essentials and to deepen our faith. In this time of transience and remembrance, we can strengthen our relationship with God and our fellow human beings and prepare ourselves for what may come.

Joy Smith Licensed Lay Minister



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For hand bells contact:

Anna on **07789 604097**

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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	Malcolm Hipkin	520 393
Cartshed Tearoom	Jemma Whitmore	520 272 (Option 3)
Church Contacts	Stephen Hudson	07949 989 977
Community Car Scheme	Office	520 823
Coronation Club	Jill Whitmore	520 609
County Councillor	Stuart Graham Dark	07860 256 083
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	Vacant	PC Clerk 01328 823391
Trefoil Guild	Rita Gostling	520 730
Massingham Historical Society	Jeanne Robinson	520 455
Massingham Stores & Post Office	Mark Eldridge	520 272 (Options 1 & 2)
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	07717 416487

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GREAT MASSINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) Housing Policy and the Development Boundary

At the May 2023 'Public Consultation Event', 46% of those who completed a housing questionnaire favoured small-scale infill housing to increase the current housing stock. Accordingly, the NDP Steering Group is considering incorporating selective expansion of the Development Boundary when drafting the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan as a way to encourage infill housing. In July, a walking inspection of the Development Boundary yielded sixteen promising boundary changes. These were discussed at a public 'Community Conversation' at the Village Hall in October. That discussion and the outcome from a questionnaire made available at the meeting, and online until the end of last month (Oct), are guiding the Steering Group's conclusions which will be published later this year.

In the New Year, the NDP Steering Group plans a further 'Community Conversation' to consider power and renewable energy. In light of government policy and the recent proposals for large-scale renewable energy sites, it is important that the NDP captures the views of the community regarding clean and affordable energy, balanced against the scale (size) of renewable (solar and wind) sites and any forthcoming community benefits. The NDP Steering Group's committee meetings are open to all. The next meetings will be on **Monday 3rd November and Monday, 1st December, 6pm – 7.30 pm (Village Hall bar area).**

Please come and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Much information about Great Massingham's NDP can be found on our website (www.greatmassinghamndp.co.uk). You are also encouraged to join our e-mail subscription list. To do this please send a request to gmndplan@yahoo.com.

Jess Cunningham on behalf of the NDP Steering Group

MOBILE LIBRARY VISIT - 21st November 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

Some November 2025 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
3 November	NDP Steering Group Meeting	6.00pm to 7.30pm	Village Hall Bar
3/10/17/24 November	Indoor Bowls	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Village Hall
6/20 November	Film Nights (see page 3)	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Village Hall
7 November	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Village Hall
8 November	Christmas Crafts & Tabletop Sale	10.00am to 4.00pm	Village Hall
10/24 November	Craft & Chat	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Village Hall Bar
14 November	Funky Little Shack (80s - 00s music)	8.00pm	Village Hall
17 November	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
18 November	The Lunch Bunch Munch	12.30 for 1.00pm	Village Hall Bar
19 November	Creative Arts East - Stitching Workshop	12.30pm	Village Hall
21 November	Historical Society	7.30pm	Village Hall
27 November	Spiritual Medium John Julien	7.00pm	Village Hall