

The Mallard

Issue 360

October 2021

**Community Cars Really Does
need Your Support - See p 3**

**Vacancy for Part-time staff -
Community Cars Office see p 3**

Gradually the Village gets back to some Normality

Two events below, held in September, show we are gradually getting back to holding events and meeting up together, which is so important to everyone. Other regular activities are also resuming for you to enjoy. See within....



The picture left shows the first **Community Lunch**, since all the lockdowns, held on the 14th September.

You can see from their smiles how pleased they were to be there and to meet up with everyone. Many thanks to Sandy and her team for all your hard work.

The next Community Lunch is on October 12th. See details - page 2

St Mary's Harvest Weekend on the 18th and 19th

September was a huge success. Many thanks to Anna Burpitt and her team of dedicated volunteers for organising the event and making it such a great success. Full report in the next issue.



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.

e-mail:

mallard.editor@btinternet.com

Editor: Bev. Randall.
6 Abbeyfields
Great Massingham
01485 520 899

Website :

www.greatmassingham.net

**Deadline for the
next issue
17th October**

In this issue

- Community Lunch
- Harvest Weekend
- Community Cars
- Craft & Chat
- Parish Council
- Mike Tilbury Award
- Prize Bingo
- Gert & Daisy
- Film Night
- Allotments Report
- FOSPGM
- Village Yard Sale
- Samaritan's Purse
- Village Sign
- St Mary's Thank You
- Retina UK
- Ducklings
- Church News
- Church Services
- Biodiversity Project
- Oysters and Mussels
- Dates for your Diary



Menu

£8

Cottage pie or
Cheese and Potato pie
Chocolate Cake with ice
cream or Cheese & biscuits
Tea and Coffee



To order a lunch please write down your food choice and name on a piece of paper and post it in the village hall post box, next to the entrance.... Or email Debs Lambert with your Order-
mrsdl1965@gmail.com
Cut off day is Friday October 8th

Come and meet friends for a chat the bar will be open.

WANTED

GREAT MASSINGHAM COMMUNITY CARS

Community Cars has a vacancy for a co-ordinator/administrator. The post is currently two mornings per week for 3 hours, from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, but more mornings may be possible.

We are looking for someone with good interpersonal and communication skills along with some computer skills. Training will be provided. Responsibilities will include taking requests from residents without their own cars for transport to and from, for example, medical appointments, shopping trips etc. and arranging drivers to take them, together with associated administrative duties.

If you are interested or would like more information, please telephone **David Butterworth 01485 520111** or **John Horsfield 01485 528466**



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Mallard News.. Community Cars Needs Your Help

Can you help us? Do you want to help your village? Your Help is needed?

Rural transport can be a real problem for many people. Whilst bus services are gratefully used, there are many journeys which need to be made when buses are simply not available, when people have baggage they cannot manage on a bus or they just need to get to the actual bus stop! Without a car, without available taxis and sometimes without safe pavements and lighting, people can find themselves stranded or at risk.

Community Cars Schemes exist to help solve this problem and there are many schemes across the county. The concept is simple; any person who needs transport, for any reason, can phone up and request a car – just like booking a taxi. You don't need to 'join' the scheme, you just need to live in one of the villages served by that scheme.

The Great Massingham Community Cars Scheme serves the villages of Great and Little Massingham, Bagthorpe with Barmer, East and West Rudham, Flitcham, Fring, Harpley, Hillington, Houghton, Rougham, Sculthorpe, Sedgeford, Stanhoe, Syderstone, Tattersett, Weasenham, West Raynham and Wicken Green. A huge area!

Our Community Cars schemes are funded by County, local and parish councils and require very little in the way of running costs. A small office, a paid part time co-ordinator to match drivers and passengers and a committee of volunteers are all that is required to operate the system. **And, of course, volunteer drivers!**

Drivers undergo an Enhanced "DBS check" with the Police (arranged by us) and have their own vehicle, with appropriate insurance, of course. They are not required to make any specified number of journeys or miles, only to accept whichever journeys suit them. They claim expenses of 45p per mile from the passenger, for the round trip, door to door - considerably cheaper than a taxi, assuming you could get one. Drivers, also, are community spirited and friendly; they are not doing this for profit but to provide a service they believe in and may one day use themselves. They wait while their passengers shop or attend medical appointments. They can lift parcels and walking frames in and out of cars. They are familiar, trusted, and helpful. For their passengers, they are a lifeline.

The scheme cannot operate without these volunteer drivers, and we need more of them. Recruiting posters attract a few new people each time, but never enough.

It is truly upsetting to have to refuse a passenger's request because we simply do not have an available driver.

As a driver, it's not just worth doing this for the community, it is fun. You may go to villages and places you haven't visited before; meet new people and sometimes hear some deliciously eye-opening gossip! You may have time to do some errands of your own whilst your passenger shops or visits the dentist. The expenses mean you're not out of pocket. And yes, I have used the scheme myself when I needed day surgery and was not able to drive myself home afterwards.

If you have your own vehicle and think you could belong to this scheme, driving people who need transport, please contact Great Massingham Community Cars on **01485-520823** or email Community Cars communitycars@btconnect.com
Please, please volunteer and Help. It will be so worthwhile.

'Craft and Chat' Resumes...



Monday 4th October
at 2pm, Village Hall Bar.
See you all there!

Great Massingham Parish Council Parish Councillor Vacancy

For further information contact the clerk
email : gmparishclerk@gmail.com
or call 01328 823 391

The Mike Tilbury Award

Nominations are requested for this special, biennial award.

As many of you will know, Mike Tilbury was a resident in the village for many years before his death in 2016 at the age of 80. He joined the Borough Council in 1973 and was Borough Mayor between 1992 and 1993. He was a probation officer before he became a solicitor and was a retained firefighter in Great Massingham for many years. He was a very conscientious councillor and was well-liked and respected.

The Parish Council decided that he deserved recognition and, after his death, 'The Mike Tilbury Award' was started.

It is a biennial award but, due to the pandemic (and my memory!), it was not awarded in 2021.

In view of the pandemic and consequential exceptional work, by many people, in the village, the Parish Council will be making two awards this time.

Nomination forms will be available in the shop from 1st October and should be returned to the Parish Council either by putting them in the box in the shop or by giving them to a Parish Councillor. Please put them in a sealed envelope.

- All nominees and nominators must be residents of Great Massingham.
- Parish Councillors may be nominated but only for reasons that have nothing to do with the Parish Council.

The Award will be a framed Certificate and shield which will be presented at the Parish Council AGM in May 2022. Closing date for nominations is 31st January 2022.

Sue Nash, Chair, Great Massingham Parish Council

Memorial Service For Phyllis Raspberry

Tuesday 26th October at 11.30am

Reminder for those who knew Phyllis.

**Prize BINGO - Raising funds for
Tapping House 1st November, Village
Hall, 7pm for eyes down at 7.30pm**

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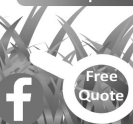
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Gert & Daisy.... Well, how are yew awl? We have just abowt survived the school holidays! Spus we'll hev ter start thinking abowt Christmas soon.

We've buth hed our holidays and sun dint shine for either of us. Gert and Bert survived four days in Caistor with Jemma and family – they awl went ter the zoo and the Sealife Centre. The zoo was Africa Alive so ther wus no penguins so they hed ter go ter the Sealife Centre as Timmy luvs them and there wus two called Tim and Harvey – spooky!! They went ter BeWilderwood which is awl zipwires and tree bridges. Gert was exhausted and happy ter git hum. By the toime yew read this she will hev bin ter Devon anall ter hev a rest and she will meet Jean who yew moight know who used ter live in Cobwebs.

Daisy and Sid went on a grut old canal boat abowt 75 foot long. They took Rosie and Tommy which wus good cos otherwise they'd hev bin in a muddle. Rosie used her phone app thing ter navigate and find out where they wus. It was an experience.

Gert, Bert, Daisy and Sid went up Lynn on a Murder Mystery – we wus lukking fer the Ripper. We thort we wud be lukking fer clews but that wus awl on an App and we hed ter follow the map on there. We dint cum larst and we found three murderers – that wus toime limited and we stopped fer dinner. If we hant we moight hev won!

Daisy and Sid went ter the Corn Exchange ter see Beyond the Barricade. That wus ever so gud – songs from musicals loike Les Miserables. In November they shud hev bin going ter see Elton John but thas postponed til 2023 cos he had a fall!

By the toime yew read this the Shop staff will hev bin ter London ter the award ceremony and hopefully they will hev won.

Sad news – Lena Skipper, one of Massingham's longest residents died whilst we were away. You will remember her husband Derek and they lived in Sandy Lane. In the good old days they were brilliant ballroom dancers. Lena was a fantastic knitter and could knit anything without a pattern. She was a member of the Craft and Chat Group and will be sadly missed not only by her family but by many others.

Happy birthday ter Daisy's Lucy at the beginning of October and Lillie near the end of the month. Congratulations to Oliver (Daisy's grandson) who is going to Canterbury University and Chloe (Gert's granddaughter) who is going to University in Shropshire. We hed such a busy September we think we need a rest and are preparing fer hibernation fer a month until we hev ter start planning fer Christmas.

Daisy heard Tommy reading the other day but cudnt understand him. Then she realised he wus reading Gert and Daisy in the Mallard! Broad Norfolk writing is obviously difrent

Don't forget ter let us know if there's anything we ken help yew with. We know we say that every month but we do really mean it. Tek care and stay safe. *Gert and Daisy.*

Answers to last month's questions:

A 'sowpig' in your house is a wood louse.

If you saw a 'spink' it is a chaffinch.

More questions next month.

Film Night

Thursday 21st October

7pm for 7.30 pm

Great Massingham Village Hall

The Film is:-

"It's a Wonderful Day in the Neighbourhood"

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Allotment News - Autumn 2021

Having an allotment in our village has become very popular and the number of plot holders has now reached forty! Smaller plots are the order of the day (8 metres by 20 metres) although half the plots are still the larger size of 9 metres by 50 metres.

To think that when I began in 2003 there were thirteen plots taken and much land needed to be cleared of briars and rubbish. The roll call of that time is like reading the history of the village - so many well-known & much-loved villagers.

We have managed to fill the potholes with plantings, courtesy of Charlie and Pip Brown. The Parish Council paid for the materials and Dudley Skipper, Keith Sillis and Ken Clarke kindly did the work, in no time at all.

The Parish Council will make an annual visit to check how plots are being maintained and the Allotment Committee is constantly suggesting that struggling plot holders could downsize.

It is a great place to be and of increasing importance, as growing your own produce becomes ever more pressing.

Julian Thomson



Wildlife in Scotsman's Pit

Whilst working on the pond, the 'Friends of Scotsman's Pit working group' have seen shoals of large carp and recorded fishermen catching quantities of roach. In turning over stones on the Pit's edge to restore the banks, we have seen freshwater leeches, pond shrimps and even the shells of freshwater mussels.

To take advantage of a more scientific approach to determining life in the Pit, the group enlisted Jack Greenhalgh. He is an acoustic ecologist currently carrying out field work as part of his Ph.D studies at Bristol University. He is studying several ponds in Norfolk to understand the many benefits to biodiversity of pond restoration. Jack kindly agreed to come and listen to the both the Biodiversity pond and Scotsman's Pit to assess the life that might be within them.

He uses a hydrophone placed under the water and then listens and records the sounds he hears. From the ticking of underwater plants respiring, to the loud rhythmic pulses made by water boatmen, or the heartbeat-like sound of fishes' swim bladders the sounds tell whether the pond life is thriving.

This exercise together with some pond dipping revealed that, certainly in part of the Pit we have restored, there is an encouraging variety of creatures beneath the surface. However, whilst this was encouraging he emphasized that a truly healthy pond would have more species. However, it's a good start in the areas that have been restored and this gives us a valuable baseline to monitor life in the Pit for the future.

The following species were found – Water boatmen, leeches & mosquito larvae - all invaluable species for promoting aquatic wildlife.



The Friends of Scotsman's Pit thank Jack for his help and Dr. Jilly Hall for arranging the visit.

Great Massingham Village Yard Sale Report

The weather forecast had been for thunder, lightning and torrential rain!

I'm sure we were all watching the forecast, keeping fingers, toes and just about everything else crossed that it would be wrong – and it worked! Well nearly. The rain held off until nearly midday, giving those buying and selling a chance.



There were nearly 30 homes taking part and the money raised from the pitch fees totalled £170 all of which has been gift aided so the church gets a further 25% on top of that.

In addition, Denys Winner very kindly printed and sold maps at 50p each, by the well on the green. The total received from this venture amounted to £28.55 which has also been gift aided.

The church funds received an extra boost this year with Anna Burpitt and Janice Bolt having a stall in aid of church funds. Chrissie Warnes did a superb job of organizing the whole thing including contacting local media for publicity, placing posters around the village and further afield, directing all operations in addition to having her own stall for Macmillan. This raised an amazing £670. This will be added to the funds raised at the Coffee Morning on the 24th September. A great big thank you Chrissie.

Everybody seems to have had a good morning both buying and selling, despite the threat of rain and the obvious Covid issues. We will have to see what happens next year. Take care, have fun and keep safe. *Carly Illott*

Please also see the thanks from St Mary's PCC on page 9



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3rd Sweetie Box for the family

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of the pub for Halloween.

The winner will be announced by 8pm.

To enter bring your pumpkin to the pub,
where we will give you a form to fill out.

Remember this is a family affair for everyone
to join in! Good Luck!



Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

First week of November, 2021

PLEASE PACK A SHOEBOX. Start Collecting Now!

This event is going ahead again this year. The filled shoe boxes will be collected early in November. You also have the option, as last year, to pack a shoe box online, via the Samaritan's Purse website. Please start collecting items now to go in your shoe boxes. Suggestions will be in the leaflets online. Leaflets are also available from Great Massingham Village Stores or St Mary's Church.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE USED OR DAMAGED ITEMS, WAR RELATED TOYS/GAMES, SWEETS, FOOD, TOOTHPASTE, LOTIONS, MEDICINES, RELIGIOUS / POLITICAL ITEMS.

There is suggested donation of £5 per box to cover volunteers' training, transport etc. The shoeboxes bring joy to children at Christmas, particularly in these difficult times.

PRE-PRINTED SHOEBOXES ARE AVAILABLE TO PACK UNTIL THE 8th November.

Please contact Yvonne - 521706 or email: yvonne1inm@yahoo.co.uk

Drop off point - St Mary's Church, Great Massingham.

You will remember that the August 2021 issue mentioned the recent 'refurbishment' of our village sign. That article prompted Andrew Bickerton to write and give us some more insight into the history of the sign. Read below.....

The Village Sign

Our current village sign was installed in 1996, funded largely from the proceeds of our VJ Day commemorations, in 1995. The sign we see today is not the original sign, although it closely resembles it. The original sign had to be replaced as the wood had begun to split after only a relatively short time.

Although the new sign depicts the same subjects, it lacks one very interesting feature of the original. The original sign had ten small differences between the north face to the south face. One, which I can recall, was the colour of the tractor driver's hat. It was quite amusing watching people going back and forth trying to spot the differences.

Each year, as part of our annual spring clean of the village, the sign was given a good clean but certainly the recent renovation was definitely needed and should ensure the sign's survival for a few more years.

It was decided to commemorate VJ Day rather than VE Day as two of our residents, Bo Sillis and Bob Driver, had served in the far East and spent some time in the horrors of a Japanese Prisoner of War camp. Bo, unfortunately, had passed away but Bob Driver played a leading role in the day's events, opening the fête and judging the best dressed house, which was Rod & Deb Reeves' Barrack House. The day consisted of children's sports, a rounders tournament, a cricket match, a parade of floats depicting the Second World War, a fête on the green with music and a band and, finally, a ceilidh also on the green. Luckily the weather was hot and dry – those were the days! *Andrew Bickerton*



St Mary's Church

would like to thank all the stall holders and residents from Great Massingham, not forgetting the many people from beyond our village, who came to

support the Village Yard Sale.

This year **£198.55 plus Gift Aid** has been donated to our Church from stall fees and programme sales.

Once again

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London Marathon - Retina UK

I only seem to write something for The Mallard when I am chasing money from the good people of Massingham and this is no different!

Some of you will know me as a blind person who walks for miles and normally looks lost!

I am, in fact, registered as 'Severely Visually Impaired'

which is blind in old money. I suffer from a condition known as Retinitis Pigmentosa which is a hereditary sight loss condition.

I wouldn't normally ask for support for this charity, as it seems to be extraordinarily self-serving, but things changed when we learned that our young grandson, Arthur, was diagnosed with the same condition earlier this year. Our son, Arthur's uncle, is running the London Marathon on Sunday 3rd October 2021 to raise money and awareness of the charity, Retina UK (www.retinauk.org.uk), which provides funds to carry out research in the bid to find treatments for the various sight-loss conditions from the same family.

It would be very much appreciated if you find it in your hearts to donate to William's fundraising account to stop youngsters like our grandson going through the same as me. I hope he can play cricket for England one day, an opportunity denied to me; I always blame the RP and not the lack of ability!

The link for donations is:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/WilliamTaylorLondonMarathon/3>

The Village Store has agreed to sell copies of my 2014 novel, Lionheart, for £5 per copy, every penny of which will go to the charity.

If anyone wishes to stop me in the street and discuss my condition I am more than willing to talk about it. To some people it appears a paradox that I have my condition and still walk for miles! Don't be shy. Please be aware that I will only subsequently know who you are if you say as I am not as good at retaining voices as I should be.

Thanking you all in anticipation. *Robert Taylor*



St Mary's Church
Gt Massingham
Working together
with our local
community

**Friendship
with Flowers**
**Meets Wednesday
afternoons from
2pm-3.30**
Everyone is welcome



Excellent News for 'Ducklings Pre-School'

Ducklings Preschool has been awarded a grant from the CIL Fund, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council.

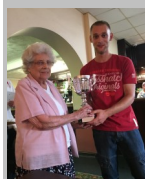
Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the application. Plans can now go ahead to insulate the building and clad the external walls to prevent further deterioration.

NEXT MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

19th October and 16th November, from 12.35, as timetabled.

FUNERAL

Lena Rose Ann Skipper
17th September 2021
at St Mary's
Great Massingham.
*Our thoughts are
with her family.*



Lena will be known to many of us and remembered for the times she presented the 'Derek Skipper Bowls Trophy', set up in memory of her late husband. She is pictured here, in 2019, presenting the trophy for that year.

Lena will be sadly missed.

Church Services October

Date	Time	Service	Location
Sunday 3 rd October	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service (Lay - led) Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Gayton Congham
Wed. 6 th October	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 10 th October	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer (Lay - led) Harvest Holy Communion Holy Communion Harvest Evening Service	Congham Little Massingham Grimston Great Massingham Ashwicken
Wed. 13 th October	3.00 pm	Lectio Divina	Zoom
Sunday 17 th October	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Family Holy Communion Morning Praise (Lay - led) Holy Communion	Harpley Great Massingham Grimston Zoom
Wed. 20 th October	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 24 th October	8.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service (Lay - led) Holy Communion Holy Communion Celtic Service	East Walton Great Massingham Little Massingham Gayton Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 31 st October	10.30 am 3.00 pm 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Celebration of Life Celebration of Life	Harpley Grimston Great Massingham
Wed. 3 rd November	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 7 th November		<i>As for 3rd October above</i>	
Please note : From November, Evening services will be held at 3pm and not 6pm. Also, remember to check our website for any changes to services www.ggmbenefice.uk			



CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal

Love leaves a memory no one can steal

Join us for a two Special Commemoration Services remembering loved ones departed, to be held on Sunday 31st October at 3pm, in St Botolph Grimston and St Mary Great Massingham (See service details above)

The last 18 months have been particularly hard for many of us, losing loved ones but not really being able to say goodbye in the way we would want to. These services allow us to come together as a community to say a proper goodbye and to remember with thanksgiving those whose lives we have shared and whose memory we treasure.

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9-1 Saturday



Great Massingham Village Hall and Bar

WE ARE NOW OPEN AGAIN
Wednesday - Friday - 7pm to 11pm

Saturday 3.45pm to 11pm

Sunday 12 noon to 6.30 pm

With some flexibility for special
events and occasions.

All Welcome.

(No paid membership required)



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Useful Numbers		
Organisation	Contact	Phone No.
Allotment Association	Gill Goold	0750 824 2223
Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Council	James (Jim) Moriarty	07879 492400
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	To be advised	
Church Contacts	Revd Judith Pollard	01485 601 251
Community Car Scheme	Office	520 823
Coronation Club	Jill Whitmore	520 609
County Council	Stuart Graham Dark	07450 679 355
Dabbling Duck Pub	Mark Dobby	520 827
Doctors	Massingham Surgery	520 521
The Film Night	Arthur Allen	520 628
Fishing Warden	Paul Smith and Ken Perry	Sue Nash 07802 670 711
Guide Trefoil Guild	Shirley Rae	520 259
Massingham Historical Society	Peter James	521 706
Tennis and Multi-Sports Club	Clare Parker	520 469
Parish Council	Sue Nash (Chair) & Sarah Harvey (Clerk)	Clerk 01328 823391
Pre-School	Pip Armitage	07807 185 746
Police	Non-emergency	101
School	Kirsten Stibbon	520 362
Village Hall	Hall & Bar & Debs Lambert	520 588
Village Stores and Deli	Mark and Kerry Eldridge	520 272



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STOP PRESS!

Well done to all at our very own
Massingham Stores and Post Office!

They are absolutely delighted to
announce they have actually won the UK
Independent Store of the Year award in
The Retail Industry Awards 2021.
Full story, next issue! Well done!

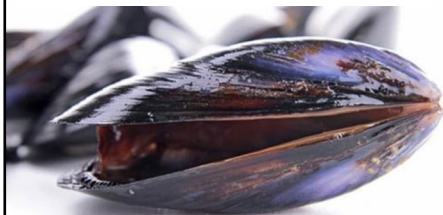
Great Massingham Biodiversity Project Annual General Meeting

Friday, October 8th at 7.30p.m.

At the Village Hall

*This is a re-arranged date after the
September meeting was postponed*

DABBLING DUCK



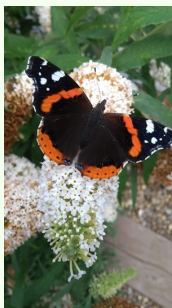
At last, our
Oyster & Mussels
Evening is back!

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12th (from 5.30pm)

Never too early to book

LOCAL MUSSELS from TIM LOOSE

LOCAL OYSTERS from CYRIL SUTHERLAND



Biodiversity Project News

The return of the sunshine
was very welcome in September
if a bit hard on those just
returning to school! It
brought out the butterflies in
force as anyone with buddleia
or other nectar rich plants in
their garden will have no-
ticed.

Of the frequent garden butterflies, red admirals
(see picture above) seemed to be particularly
numerous locally and, in my own garden, as
many as a dozen were often feeding on a single
small buddleia.

It is easy to take this butterfly for granted and
perhaps overlook that it is a migrant from
southern Europe and north Africa. At the end
of the summer there is a partial return migration
but these are not the same individuals that
arrived here in the spring. The butterfly breeds
here, the caterpillars feeding on stinging net-
tles and completing the life cycle by late summer.
It is also one of our butterflies that is
increasing in numbers and long may it do so.
September was a fairly quiet month at the
Weasenham Road site but volunteers were
interested to learn about the pioneering work
of acoustic ecologist Jack Greenhalgh (see
report from the Friends of Scotsman's Pit on
page 8) and also helped prepare the tree plant-
ed areas of the Jubilee Field for its first mow-
ing between the trees.

Tim Baldwin

October Dates at a Glance

Date	Event	Time	Place
4 October	Craft & Chat	2 pm	Village Hall Bar
8 October	'Move it or Lose it'	10.30 to 11.30	Village Hall
8 October	Biodiversity AGM	7.30 pm	Village Hall
11 October	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Village Hall
12 October	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	Village Hall
19 October	Mobile Library	From 12.35 pm	As Timetabled
21 October	Film Night	7pm for 7.30pm	Village Hall
26 October	Phyllis Raspberry Memorial Service	11.30 am	St Mary's Church
01 November	Prize Bingo for Tapping House	7pm for 7.30pm	Village Hall