

The Mallard

Issue 393

October 2024



SUN SHINES FOR 'TENNIS WEEK'

The Tennis Club held a special 'Tennis Week' in July to promote its facilities during an Open afternoon and a packed schedule of coaching, social tennis and fun tournaments for old and new members throughout the week. The tournaments included juniors, beginners, improvers,

WOWs (Women on Wednesdays) and a new 'Vets' competition, all played in good spirits, with prizes for the winners.

The Charity Tournament raised an impressive £346 for the chosen charity – The Friendship Café for Dementia at Gaywood. This is a group run by volunteers which provides a warm, welcoming place for families and carers affected by dementia, and makes such a positive difference to their lives.

Many thanks to all those members who entered this competition and bought raffle tickets, which helped to raise this amazing amount. Thanks to our coaching team too - Jeremy, Ashley, Lorna and Sally who made the week such a success.



GRAYS FAMILY FUN FAIR

coming to Great Massingham Village Green

Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th October

Open: Thurs 6pm - 9.30pm, Fri 6pm - 9.30pm,

Sat 1pm - 9.30pm, Sun 1pm - 6pm

Reduced rides Thursday Night

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 October 2024

In This Issue

- Tennis Week
- Gray's Fun Fair
- Quiz Night (VH)
- Quiz Night (DD PH)
- Coffee Morning (Harpley)
- Community Lunch
- Craft & Chat
- Bingo
- Film Night
- Historical Society
- Singer - Jol Rose (VH)
- Chair Fit (Harpley)
- Art Exhibition
- Youth Film Club
- Shoe Boxes
- GM Yard Sales 2024
- Parish Council
- Mobile Library Visits
- NDP Consultation
- Summer on the Heath
- Westacre Theatre
- GM Primary School
- From the Rector
- Church News
- Church Services
- Trek to Everest Camp
- Walking the Parishes
- From the Register
- Useful Contacts
- FOSALM
- Dates at a Glance

QUIZ NIGHT

AT GREAT MASSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
Thursday 28th November 2024 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.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE DABBLING DUCK

The next scheduled event is on **22nd October 2024** when we will be raising money in aid of East Anglian Children's Hospices (EACH)

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 20th October 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.

COFFEE MORNING & ART SALE

in Harpley Village Hall

Saturday 12th October 2024 from 10am

Proceeds of Art Sale to **King's Lynn Night Shelter** - profit from refreshments split with the Village Hall.

Come along to Chill Out and Chat with Coffee & Cake.

For sale: cards, mosaics and other art works by local artists. Framed pictures and other items inherited recently for which there is no room.

If you too have good quality items taking up space in your home and would like us to offer them for sale on a 50:50 basis, get in touch with **Rosemary Mehers** (01485 521866) for more details.



MENU
£8

Community Lunch

Tuesday 22nd October, Village Hall Bar

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Chicken curry rice and poppadoms,
followed by pavlova

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, email on mrsdl1965@gmail.com



CRAFT & CHAT DATES

From 2pm to 4pm
Village Hall Bar

Monday 14th & 28th October

Everyone welcome.

VILLAGE HALL BINGO

Friday 4th October

Doors open 7 pm
Eyes down for 7.30pm

**At Great Massingham
Village Hall.**



FILM NIGHT

7 for 7.30pm

at the Village Hall

Thursday 17th October

'Wicked Little Letters'

£5 (plus a complementary drink)

MASSINGHAM HISTORICAL SOC.

**An Illustrated Talk by
Adrian O'dell**



A Painting by Ronald Crampton a Massingham Artist

OCT. 18th VILLAGE HALL 7.30pm

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY VIEWS

Members free, Guests £3 Bar open

Singer JOL ROSE
Great Massingham Village Hall Bar
On Saturday 19 th October
from 8.30 pm.

Various music from the 70s -90
Free entry to members.



MUST SEE ART EXHIBITION

Three local artists from
Fransham and Dunham are holding
their first joint exhibition at
Gressenhall Reading Room
(NR20 4DT)

**on Sat 19 & Sun 20 October
10am-4pm.**

Bethany Green, Eleanor Spencer and
Mandy Hill are showing original
prints and a range of
paintings in oil, pastels, watercolour,
acrylics and gouache.
Light refreshments available.

CHAIR FIT? LOW IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS (NO FLOOR WORK)

We hope to a run a weekly daytime class, starting
in October at Harpley Village Hall.

Please contact **Julie Austin**

julesatack@gmail.com or tel. 07721 774198

to find out more/register interest



SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE YOUTH FILM CLUB!

My name is Maria, I want to start a film club for young people aged 11-15 in the village. I have some volunteers who will support at club nights, and I have an enhanced DBS certificate, but I need some help with forming a group of people who will meet about 3 times a year to manage the organisation of the group. A small amount of start-up funding is needed and a management group is required to agree the

groups structure as a club, to apply for funding available.

I would like to see the young people of the village having some clubs as well, and I need some help to get this started. Please contact me on **07909 616429.**

Maria West



WANTED—DONATIONS FOR SHOE BOXES

It's that time of year again to fill shoe boxes for children for whom this will be their only present they receive this Christmas. Most go to Eastern European and displaced families through war and disasters. It costs £3 each box to cover the cost of transporting these and I would be most grateful for any donations to help with these costs. Always wanted are small toys, stationery etc, as the more boxes that are filled, the more children can be reached. Any donations can be left in our Greenhouse if not at home. Many thanks for your support.

Jenny Borley



GREAT MASSINGHAM YARD SALES - 2024

The village yard sales took place once again on Sunday 18th August. Some 30 plus sellers hosted yard sales at their homes or on the village green and with near perfect weather the village saw a steady flow of visitors throughout the morning and into the afternoon.

The event raised a total of £222 from pitch fees and map sales and will now be donated toward the running costs of the church.

Thanks go to Graham Woodcock & Christine Warnes for organizing, Bob and Sue Nash for signage and staff at the village stores for pitch fee collections and map sales.

The yard sales will be back again next year.

Graham Woodcock

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's yard sale! With the money raised on the day, we made well over £700. On top of that, additional donations have come in, allowing us to present a cheque for £850 to the MacMillan Unit at King's Lynn Hospital. Many thanks for your generosity!

Christine Warnes

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GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting began at 7.30pm on Monday 16th September, with five Parish Councillors in attendance and ten members of the public.

During the last month, the external audit of the Council's finances has been completed by PKF Littlejohn LLP who concluded that the Council had followed proper practices and relevant legislation, with no matters giving cause for concern. The external auditors report is available on the Parish Council website and notice board.

The Parish Council is currently investigating the cost in securing a second SAM2 Sign for the village. The SAM2 Sign is a vehicle-activated sign that displays the speed of an approaching vehicle. The unit also records the volume of vehicles and the speeds at which they are travelling. The scheme will be delivered through funding obtained from the Parish Partnership Scheme, where both the County Council and Parish Council contributes to half of the cost.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce it is exploring the replacement of the existing Parish Council notice board with a modern, more accessible design to better serve our community's information needs. In addition to this a brand-new community notice board will be acquired and will be a dedicated space to advertise local events providing a central hub for sharing news and activities across the parish.

Village Consultation – Parking

As part of an effort to address parking issues and preserve the beauty of our village green, the Council is considering a proposal to install protective matting in certain areas of the green. Your feedback is essential to help us understand the potential impact of this proposal on our community as we want to ensure that the solution we implement meets the needs of our residents. Therefore we would encourage all residents to complete the enclosed questionnaire so that we are able gather your views. Please return all completed paper questionnaires to the box in the shop or scan the QR code to complete online by 31st October.

Play Area Consultation



Following our appeal last month we would again invite all parishioners, especially those with children or grandchildren who regularly use the play area, to support our funding bid for a new Roundabout. Your support will significantly strengthen our application and help us succeed in securing the necessary funding. The range of options and pricing can be seen on the Parish Council website or by scanning the QR code (opposite) and completing the online survey. Deadline is 31st October, 2024.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 14th October at 7.30pm. 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.



MOBILE LIBRARY NEXT VISITS **25th October & 22nd November 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

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NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - INVITATION TO ATTEND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION 19TH OCT

Dear Community Stakeholder,
On the 19th Oct the NDP steering group are hosting a community conversation and would

welcome community groups/organisations such as yours to nominate an individual to attend and represent the views of your group/organisation.

All community stakeholders, which includes residents, community groups, businesses and others are invited to attend the whole event however we are particularly keen to have representation from the wide range of community groups and organisations that help to create such a wonderful community.

We are asking those who wish to attend the workshop (2nd session) of the event to pre-register so we are able to provide a quality event and cater for everyone's needs.

Please either email or tel/text the NDP with the name of your group/organisation and the name of the person you are choosing to represent your group/organisation.

Further details are available on the website:

www.greatmassinghamndp.co.uk

To register your group/organisational nominated person please either

Email: gmndplan@yahoo.com or text/call Jess on 07956 433 975

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AGENDA 19TH OCT, 10:00 – 12:30

09:45 - Doors Open

10.00 - Session 1 - open to all, no need to pre-register

Presentation by the NDP Steering Group on the journey so far.

- What is an NDP and its role in wider planning policy
- What is important to you – The results so far
- Themes and activities for consideration within the NDP
- What happens next

10:50 - 11.30 - Break

Refreshments will be serviced

Information will be available to view and a chance to ask questions and speak to your fellow community members and the NDP Steering Group.

11:40 - Session 2 - open to all, please ensure you have pre-registered

- Key Topics presentations
- Round Table discussion to explore a number of themed questions on topics such as Housing, Development Boundary, Green Spaces and Views, Economy, Energy and Climate

12:30 Close

SUMMER ON THE HEATH

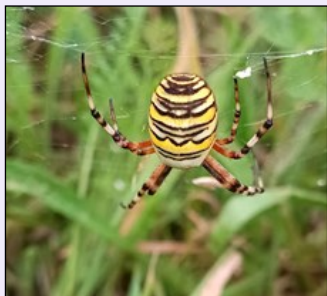
Massingham Heath (Grimston Heath on the OS map) has provided interest throughout the summer and few people can have escaped seeing the wide range of wild flowers growing across the grassland. Not all have the drama of the poppies that



appeared in July but the range of species to be found is impressive. For example, in a field adjacent to the poppies in early August it was possible to count as many



as 46 species in flower at the same time! Most of the grassland here is calcareous owing to the underlying chalk and many of the species, which will only thrive in this habitat, are increasing year on year. This in turn provides an opportunity for other species which rely on these plants to find a home here. An example is the **brown argus** butterfly which has appeared for the first time this year. This follows from its food plant, the yellow flowered **rock rose**, which is becoming established and spreading.



Another new find this summer has been the very striking **wasp spider**. This is a large species of orb web spider which has colonised Britain from the south, slowly

spreading northwards and until recently was mainly found on the coast in Norfolk. As in many spiders, this female is much larger than the male which runs the risk of being eaten as part of the mating process!

Although most of the grassland is calcareous, there are three acidic areas that are all County Wildlife Sites and have been largely covered in bracken until the grazing Konik ponies and Bagot goats got to work. They have helped to clear and weaken the bracken by both trampling and grazing, so allowing **heather** to begin to regenerate. It is easy to find when flowering, but plants are still scattered for now. Just give it a few years and it will again be a feature of the local landscape on the ever changing heath!



Tim Baldwin

All photos taken on the heath

AUTUMN AT WESTACRE THEATRE OCTOBER 2024

Westacre Theatre Company **COLDER THAN HERE** By Laura Wade

3/4/5/10/11/12 October, 7:30pm 5/12 October 3pm All tickets £18 (£10)

A black comedy about Life, Death and not coping very well with either. **COLDER THAN HERE** is an offbeat comedy about finding light even in the darkest of times.

THE MURDER MYSTERY PLAY

Thursday 17th October, 7pm £40 per person - includes dinner

A murder mystery theatre show about erm...a murder mystery, and then...er...there's a murder. Twisted Reality Productions brings us an unforgettable night of scintillating suspense, delicious dining & fabulous fundraising!

Stuart McGugan performs **AESOP, COCO AND ME**

Veteran actor Stuart McGugan, trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. With a rich career in both theatre and TV, including iconic roles in *It Ain't Half Hot, Mum*, *You Rang My Lord*, *Hamish Macbeth*, *Tutti Frutti*, *Playschool* and *Benidorm*.

Sunday 20th October, 3pm All tickets £16 (£10)

Presented by Three's Company Inspired by an artistic treasury:

Every Picture Tells a Story 2 is a sequel to last years popular performance, and will feature a new selection of paintings and the poems they inspired.

Sunday 27th October, 3pm All tickets £16 (£10)

Lamphouse Theatre present **FRANKENSTEIN (ON A BUDGET)**

One man, one monster, one glorious dream to single handedly tell the most famous cult horror story of all time, and absolutely no budget whatsoever. What could possibly go wrong?!

Thursday 31st October, 7:30pm All tickets £19 (£10)

Have a look at our website for all the latest info at www.westacretheatre.com or you can give the Box Office a call on 01760 755007

GREAT MASSINGHAM C OF E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Everyone is pleased to be back at school after a lovely summer holiday with glorious weather for once! The children have settled back in very well and our new Reception pupils are enjoying learning their new school routines and making new friends. This term, the Infants are celebrating diversity for their curriculum theme, whilst the Juniors are answering the question 'what did the Romans do for us?'. The Junior pupils will be going on a trip to Norwich Castle museum to find out more about the Romans and see some Roman artefacts. We are all getting ready for our Harvest Festival in the Church on 17th October at 2pm.

Our Value Leaders have volunteered to help us love our school vision and values and a new set of pupils will be carrying out these duties each term. One of the first jobs for our current Value Leaders was to help interview for our new headteacher for January 2025. The children thought very hard about what questions to ask. Questions included 'what is more important, children's happiness or their education'; 'what would you change about our school' and most importantly, 'what is your favourite dinosaur!' Later on this term, Value Leaders will be helping Mrs Stibbon with other projects in school as well as the local community. If you would like our Value Leaders to help with a project in the village, please contact the school office to arrange a chat with Mrs Stibbon about this. In the past, Value Leaders have contributed to the NDP, undertaken litter picks and cleaned the Church. Our core values are kindness, koinonia, compassion, responsibility and forgiveness.

Kirsten Stibbon, Headteacher

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Message for Parishioners from Rev'd Sue Martin



Dear Friends,

Welcome to October, amazingly into the tenth month of the year, autumn is on its way. A chance to look forward to the wonderful red and orange colours of the leaves and delicious hedgerow fruits.

Although it is the tenth calendar month for schools and colleges it is the second month and the start of the academic year. We have five schools in our benefice (our church group of parishes) and they are all thriving with new children and different classes for many. It's quite a challenge managing change and as our children go through the education system there are exciting new ventures to take part in. For many it will be a time to start college and maybe venture afar.

One of my granddaughters is in her Gap Year, after A level, and is busy working hard, earning money to fund travels in faraway places. How exciting yet challenging at the same time!

Our churches also have changes ahead, we are still seeking a new Team Rector, and hopeful that the right person will be found soon. In the meantime, we carry on with delivering all the normal services in our ten churches. Along with myself, as Assistant Priest, we have a ministry team, churchwardens and clergy colleagues helping with services. Within all of our churches we have teams of people, from flower teams to cleaners, readers, churchyard mowers and gardeners, refreshment teams, PCC members and many more.

Our churches and churchyards are open (some at different times) for people to visit, to stay a while, to pray and to just be in that space. As Christians we believe in offering that place for everyone as a special place in our communities.

It was really difficult to find that in two of our churches we have had things taken. Gayton had some microphones taken and Ashwicken had a very large Bishop's chair removed. It was hard for me to go into the church and discover the chair had gone. It had been there in my childhood and my time in the choir. But we believe in hope and forgiveness. The loss of things is hard, but the love of God can not be taken away and that is what we cherish.

Many blessings to all for the autumn ahead and for the chance to spend time in our beautiful countryside, gardens and homes.

Rev'd Sue Martin



CHURCH NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

The dangerous tree in the churchyard was finally partly felled by UK power. There were suggestions there should have been a carving made from the stump but I was forced to take the tree down to ground level as the stump was declared too dangerous. I was under a compulsory order from Norfolk County Council to remove the tree.



Date	Time	Service	Location
Wednesday 2nd October	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 6th October <i>19th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion	Roydon Harpley Grimston
Wednesday 9th October	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Ashwicken
Sunday 13th October <i>20th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion Songs of Praise	Congham Lt Massingham Gayton Gt Massingham
Wednesday 16th October	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 20th October <i>17th Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Holy Communion	Harpley Grimston Gt Massingham
Sunday 27th October	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion	Ashwicken Gayton Gt Massingham Lt 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

1st August **Mary Cleopatra Blick** died aged 99, Abbeyfields Great Massingham
 30th August Memorial service at Great Massingham for **Elizebeth (Dibby) Brun**,
 aged 81 years

The Church is very grateful to the Craft and Chat Club for their excellent work repairing the kneelers from church. The work has been much appreciated.

The PCC has had to have signs put up at the entrances to the churchyard asking people to keep their dogs on a lead. It is hoped that this will go some way to stop the dogs fouling the churchyard. This is in response to many complaints. We are praised about how well the churchyard is maintained by our ground crew Pip, Bob and Keith but the follow up is about dog fouling

Stephen Hudson, Churchwarden

WALKING AROUND THE PARISHES

Our next event is on
SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER, 2.00 pm
 from All Saints', Ashwicken.
 Refreshments at The Old Coach
 House at 3:30pm

TREK TO EVEREST BASE CAMP

Talk and Slides of an Epic Long Walk
 by Rev'd Sue Martin
Wednesday 2nd October at 7.00 pm
 St Botolph Church Grimston
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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	Peter Wadham	520 796
Church Contacts	Stephen Hudson	520 450
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	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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FRIENDS OF ST ANDREWS CHURCH LITTLE MASSINGHAM



On Thursday 12th September the Friends of St Andrew's Church Little Massingham (FOSALM) held a talk given by Oliver Birkbeck.

The talk highlighted one of 25 new national landscape recovery projects. It was a great success and very well attended by an enthusiastic audience.

Generous donations received totaled almost £390 which will go towards restoring the church roof.

Rosemary Jewers

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

FOSALM are very eager to recruit some additional local Trustees to the Charity, which is raising funds for urgent repairs to the Church. In addition to regular worship, the Church is also used on a regular basis for a wide range of community events. Trustees, who must be over 21, are required to supervise the charitable funds and to help with fundraising activities. The work is not particularly demanding and provides a wonderful opportunity to be involved with the local community.

FOSALM is also very eager to find somebody who can help with their PR and Marketing communications for fundraising events, preferably on a voluntary basis. The work is not particularly time consuming, and a modest per diem could possibly be made available.

Anyone interested in helping the charity in either role should initially contact the FOSALM Chairman, Terry Holloway, who can explain more about the work of FOSALM: terryholloway.33@btinternet.com.

Terry Holloway (Chairman, FOSALM)



Some October 2024 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
4 October	BINGO	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
10 - 13 October	Gray's Fun Fair	See page 1	Village Green
14/28 October	Craft & Chat	2pm to 4pm	Village Hall Bar
14 October	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
17 October	Film Night	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
18 October	Historical Society	7.30pm	Village Hall
19 October	Singer Jol Rose	8.30pm	Village Hall Bar
22 October	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1.00pm	Village Hall Bar
22 October	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Dabbling Duck PH
25 October	Mobile Library Visit	See page 6	Various