

The Mallard

Issue 381

September 2023

The Mallard lives on and is in Safe Hands!

This is my final Mallard edition. As you will read in her letter below, Sarah Harvey, our Parish Council clerk, has agreed to become our new Mallard editor. I have every confidence that she will take our village magazine successfully into the future.

I want to thank all of you for your support during my 18.5 years as editor and also for the many recent messages of appreciation. It has been a pleasure to support my community. I see it as being a joint effort as, without your support and contributions, it would have not have become the magazine that it now is. It is truly your magazine! Please now send your articles each month to Sarah. Read her letter below and the Parish Council minutes inside on pages 2/3, for more details.

Very best wishes, Bev Randall.

I am both delighted and honoured to introduce myself as the new editor of The Mallard. My name is Sarah Harvey (some of you will recognise my name as I am also Clerk to the Parish Council), and I am committed to continue to deliver the insightful, engaging content you've come to expect from this publication. First and foremost, I must extend heartfelt thanks to Bev Randall, whose dedication and creativity over the last 18 years, have shaped this newsletter into the vital resource it is today. Her tireless efforts have set a high standard, and I am committed to honouring that legacy.

Although the Parish Council will be supporting me in my new role and the continued production of The Mallard (please see the PC article for further details), I would like to emphasise that it will very much remain a community newsletter.

So please continue to send me all of your information, articles, notices, anything that will be of general interest to the local community, and I will do my very best to accommodate you all.

The Mallard will continue to be produced in the same format as it is now and will continue to be delivered monthly to your doors. However, please do note that there will be a change in contact details.

Please contact me in one of the following ways;

By Post: Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW

By Email: themallardeditor@gmail.com

By Phone: 01328 823391

I look forward to continuing to engage with the community of Great Massingham in my new role and receiving your contributions to produce this excellent newsletter.



Macmillan Coffee Morning
Great Massingham Village Hall,
Friday, 29th September, 10am to midday
Please come and support.

Our aim is to reach a cumulative total of £100,000 so it would be lovely to see you there.

Donations of raffle and tombola prizes are very welcome.

Please contact Linda Brown 01485 520655 or Chrissie Warnes 01485 520173.

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.

www.greatmassingham.net

Contact details from Sept.

e-mail:
themallardeditor@gmail.com

Editor: Sarah Harvey
Byanoak, Leicester Road,
South Creake
01328 823391

Website : Contact the
Editor - Details above.

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

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GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

14th August Meeting

Eight Parish Councillors – Robin Arbenz, Lex Brun, Jon Cole, Mark Eldridge, Kim Frazer, Kevin Hobart, Peter James and Sue Nash - attended along with four members of the public & Borough Councillor Alistair Beales.

Councillor Community Grant Scheme

Borough Councillor A Beales advised that he receives an annual sum of £1,000 each financial year to award to community groups across his ward. He advised that applications should focus on projects, initiatives or events that deliver a clear and demonstrative benefit to the people of west Norfolk.

Appropriate projects could include, but are not limited to:

- replacement equipment or improvements to community centres/halls
- a community newsletter
- contribution towards a specific event (lunch club, celebrations of national events such as the Platinum Jubilee, community picnics, refreshments after community events etc)
- improvements to community facilities (for example accessibility improvements)
- purchase of equipment for community use
- one-off hire costs
- one-off repairs
- major repairs such as repairing a section of roof or major boiler repairs (but not routine servicing) to community buildings.
- contributions towards initiatives with a specific purpose of improving the health, social mobility, social isolation and wellbeing of members of the community.

*To find out more and how to apply please search for:
'Councillor Community Grant Scheme' on the Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk's website - www.west-norfolk.gov.uk*

Future of The Mallard

The Parish Council was approached earlier in the year by the current editor of The Mallard, Bev Randall, regarding her intention to step down as editor from September. Despite an appeal in previous editions of The Mallard, for a volunteer to take over the role, no interest has been forthcoming. Given that the monthly newsletter is a vital mouthpiece for the community as well as there being a general feeling that it should not be discontinued, the Parish Council considered how they could support its production going forward. Following a meeting with both Bev Randall and Peter James (PC Chair) to gain an insight into what was required, I was delighted to be asked at the July Parish Council meeting whether I would take over the role. An advisory group has been formed to include Cllrs Robin Arbenz, Mark Eldridge and Sue Nash to support myself and the production of The Mallard going forward. →

Whilst the Parish Council is planning to ensure that the publication continues, further funding options will need to be considered and sought going forward in order that it might continue under a paid editorship. This will form part of the advisory group's discussion over the next three months. We would also love to hear from any parishioners with any relevant expertise or any comments or suggestions you may have to help support The Mallard.

The new contact details for The Mallard will be by post: Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creak, NR21 9PW, by email: themallardeditor@gmail.com and by phone: 01328 823391. (Details also shown on page 2)

The village website will continue and be paid for and maintained by the Parish Council.

Village Greens and Car parking

In collaboration with the Village Hall the Parish Council has organised a combination of signage for both the village hall and the village centre in order to encourage visitors to use the village hall car park for parking.

Mobile signs have been placed on the greens in the village centre and fixed signage at the entrance to the village hall to encourage visitors to make use of the available car parking facility and assist with deterring some vehicles from parking around and on the village greens.

Next Meeting

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

VILLAGE HALL BAR STAFF REQUIRED

We are looking for
part time bar staff
for 2/3 shifts a week.

**Contact Deb Lambert
for more details on
07493406501.**

BINGO

8th September

*Please note change of date
At the Village Hall.*

Doors open at 7pm
Eyes down for 7.30pm

SHORT MAT/CARPET BOWLS

This season's short mat/carpet bowls should start in early October and run to mid-April. We will play at the Village Hall between 7pm and 9.30pm, on Wednesdays and usually play one match per pair per evening or, occasionally, two. It costs £1 per match to play.

If you are new to the game you will be paired up with a more experienced player who will be able to teach you how to play and explain the rules. There are plenty of spare bowls for newcomers who wish to play. It would be good to see some new players. Why not give it a go?



If you are interested in joining us this year, please put your name on the form on the Village Hall noticeboard (in the Bar area) or give me a ring on 01485 520476 or email me on cobby47@aol.com.

Looking forward to welcoming you all. Bob Nash

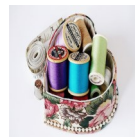


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Next Craft & Chat Dates

From 2pm onwards
at the Village Hall Bar
4th and 18th September
and then 2nd October

Look forward to seeing you

Rural Crimes Police Officer Contact

PC Chris Shelley 07900 407 106
Christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk

Please
join us

MENU
£8

Community Lunch

Massingham Village Hall Bar, Tuesday September 12th

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Lasagne and salad followed by cheesecake.

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

To book lunch please contact Deborah Lambert on 07493 406 501 or, email on mrsdl1965@gmail.com by Friday 8th September



OLD TIME MUSIC HALL MEMORIES!

Screened at the Village Hall

On Saturday 7th October, from 7.30pm

Relive those hilarious times or discover what was going on in Massingham 30+ years ago!

NOT TO BE MISSED!

The show will include videos of the following acts:

Mustava Maydam Istake

Charlie Chaplin

Madcap Miller and Athene

World War 2 Songs

Use It or Lose it

Father George and Friends

Punch & Judy

Spike the Wonder Dog

The Massingham Muckspreaders

Wairthe Effarwee Tribe

Glory Be!

with Malcolm, Derek, John, Gary, Geoff and Pam.

with Anthony, Alf and Rosemary.

with Paul, Bobby and Kirsty

with Martin, Dave, John and Bruce

with Sue, George, Rodney and others

with George and Derek

with Simeon, Jill and Josette

with Bobby and Paul

with Derek.

with Malcolm, John, Alf, Peter, Leanne and Rod

With Sue, George and Tom

Entrance £5 DVDs on sale £5 each. All proceeds to the Village Hall.



CALLING ALL THESPIANS!

I am hoping to stage a follow-up series of sketches as a follow-up to 'Matters Arising'. Titled 'Any Other Business', the sketches are a humorous look at life in the Norfolk village of Upper Messingham.

The plan is to stage the event either at the end of the year or the beginning of next year (Covid permitting, of course.)

If you are interested in taking part either leave your name and contact details on my land line 01485 520 307 or by e-mail andrewbickerton8@gmail.com or text me on 07765 946 668.

Andrew Bickerton

JUMBLE RUMBLE

ADVANCE WARNING!

If you enjoyed a **Rumble in the Jumble** put this provisional date in your diary.

Sunday October 8th 12 - 2pm,
in the village hall.

It will be confirmed on posters and through Facebook.

Bargain clothes for winter!

QUIZ NIGHT at

HARPLEY VILLAGE HALL

Friday 6th October, 7pm for 7.30

£2.50 per person. Please book in advance.

Email: harpleylive@gmail.com

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We wish Rev'd Judith a very happy retirement. Thank you for being there for us!

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Great Massingham's Swifts



One of the characteristic sounds of a summer evening in Massingham is that of the screaming parties of swifts around the buildings, church and greens in the village centre. These most aerial of birds are with us for a just few months each summer, arriving in May to breed before departing for Africa by the middle of August and often earlier. Swifts are remarkable birds, spending almost their entire lives on the wing and make a round trip of around 14,000 miles per year. They breed in cavities, usually in older buildings which are more likely to offer suitable sites but can adapt to boxes where provided on buildings old and new.

Swifts are in decline, RSPB data showing a decline of around 5% per annum over the last 10 years, in partly due to a reduction in suitable nesting sites.

Do swifts nest on your property? If so, I would be very pleased to hear from you and to have some idea of how many pairs you have and whether in cavities or a purpose-built box. Just to be sure that you have the right birds, swifts have dark underparts, unlike swallows and house martins, and swift nests are always out of sight. Please also get in touch if you do not have swifts but might be interested in putting up a box for them in time for next summer. In this way I hope to assemble a list of people interested in helping swifts in the village and carrying out a survey of their numbers here next year.



I can be contacted by email to t.m.baldwin@btinternet.com
or text/phone to 07748 997723 *Tim Baldwin*

Very Strong Interest Shown for Recent NWT Pond Course

Norfolk Wildlife Trust ran a course at Great Massingham on 17th August entitled 'Managing, Restoring and Creating Parish and Community Ponds'. It was well attended as you will see from the pictures and the feedback received was very complimentary as to how we are managing our own village ponds. Well done everyone! Ponds, or Pits as we call them, are small habitats rich in wildlife from plants to insects, birds to amphibians and it is good to know we are on the right track.



Quiz Nights Under New Management

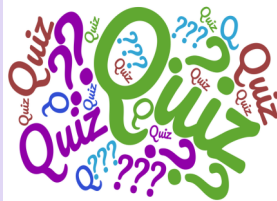
Further to Peter James relinquishing the reins of the village quiz, Malcolm Tibble and Robert Taylor are now driving the cart.

The quiz will take place on the fourth Thursday of each month, except for December, in the bar of the village hall at 7.30pm. Entry will be £2 per person with the proceeds being split equally between the winning team and the village hall.

There is no need to pre-book, simply turn up on the evening. You can either come with an already formed team, maximum of six, or join a team on the night. You will even find one or two of us to be really quite friendly! It is aimed at being a fun evening with none of us taking it too seriously. Of course, we all try to win but it doesn't matter a jot if we don't. Enjoy the night drinking and chewing-the-cud with friends.

If you have it in you to set the questions please call Malcolm, 07500 949509, or Robert, 07908 244421, to discuss further. Both, occasionally, like the opportunity of pitting their knowledge against others as participants.

The following are dates for your diaries: 28th September, 26th October, 23rd November, 25th January, 22nd February, 28th March, 25th April, 23rd May, 27th June, 25th July and 22nd August. (These dates will also be posted on the QUIZ page of the village website)



I am an amateur artist looking to rent a studio in or around Great Massingham. Ideally the studio would be the size of a small room with heat and light – but I would consider a larger space. Ideally rent for a year to 18 months.

***Please contact Jilly Hall:
Jilly_Hall@yahoo.co.uk***

DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION AT THE EXHIBITION IN THE CHURCH ON 2ND AND 3RD SEPTEMBER. SEE REMINDER ON NEXT PAGE.

FILM NIGHT

Thursday September 21st

7 for 7.30pm

£5, at the Village Hall

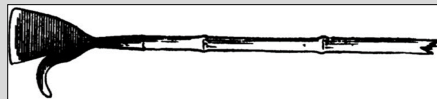


The film showing is
‘What’s Love Got To Do With It?’

**Members’ Night
on Monday
4th September
‘Lunana’**

*For help with transport call
Denny 07887 927 691.*

MASSINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY **A MYSTERY OBJECT EVENING**



**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE ITEMS
ON SHOW BY
PAUL BLACKMUR ?
Friday 15th Sept.
Village Hall 7.30pm**

**Photographic Display
NOTABLE BUILDINGS**

Members Free, Guests £3.00 Bar open

MASSINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EXHIBITION

Come & see all the old Photographs of Massingham

Archives - Artifacts

St. Mary's Church, Sept. 2nd & 3rd

10am - 4pm

Books & Post Cards

*Also including the display of
'Massingham Memories',
a Photographic Competition,
refreshments and more.*

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION REMINDER

Photographic Competition, all 3 category winners with prizes of £50 each to be spent at the Village Stores or Cartshed Tearoom.

*Entries must be at the Church between
12 & 2pm, 1st September.*

FOSALM CHANGE OF DATE

On the 16th September the Friends of St Andrew's Little Massingham were due to hold a Sew Day. Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the event, but there will be more!

We are pleased to announce we are making it more inclusive and including knitting & crochet as well as a quilting. See fosalm.org/ website.



WHAT'S ON AT WESTACRE THEATRE?...

for much more information and to book

www.westacretheatre.com or TEL: 01760 755 800

- **Seascapes with Bryony Knight** Learn how to paint a seascape in oils, using traditional oil painting techniques to create translucent turquoise water and energetic waves. All materials and notes provided. Some painting experience required. Bring own easel if you have one. **Sunday 24th September, 10am - 3pm £95 including materials.**
- **Young People at Westacre Theatre Story Seekers** Once again we have teamed up with the fabulous Theatre Tots to present weekly term-time classes introducing your little ones to the magic of theatre and storytelling. **For ages 4-7 years - drop-off sessions. TUESDAYS 4pm - 5pm £6 p/session. The cafe will be open for grown-ups! 12th, 19th & 26th Sept., 3rd, 10th, 17th & 31st Oct., 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th Nov., 5th & 12th Dec.**
- **Westacre's Woodland Adventures** Join us for forest school inspired adventures through Westacre's woodland! Don't forget to bring your wellies! **For ages 3 - 8 years (Children under 5 must be accompanied) FRIDAYS 10am - 11am £6 p/session 15th, 22nd, 29th September., 6th, 13th & 20th Oct., 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th Nov., 1st, 8th & 15th Dec.**
- **Act 1 & Act 2** Saturday morning Drama with MissAdventures Theatre Company. Join us for our ever-popular theatre workshops designed to inspire and encourage young actors to learn new skills and make new friends. The group will work together on improvisation, scripts and creative stimuli designed to spark their imagination. Covering the basics of stage-craft, creating characters, and vocal & physical skills, the group will gently progress to create a performance piece for friends and family. With no pressure to perform, there will be a role for everyone on or off stage. **Act 1 for ages 8-11 years at 9:30am - 11am Act 2 for ages 12-14 years at 11:30am - 1pm** September 16th, 23rd & 30th, October 7th, 14th & 21st, November 4th, 11th & 18th, December 2nd, 9th & 16th £120 for the term.

Justin Anderson

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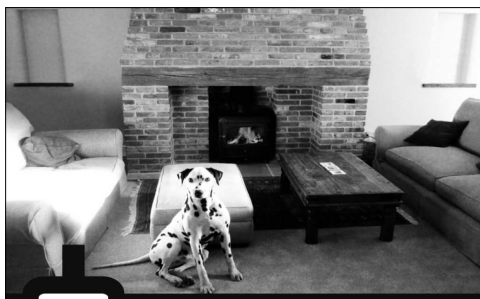
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Message for Parishioners from Reverend Sue Martin



Dear Friends, Welcome to September!

*'September days are here,
with summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer'.*

A few lines from a poem by Helen Hunt Jackson. Let's hope for more sunshine this month. September also sees the start of the new school year and changes for many of our children, new classes, new school, and new colleges.

In our churches we also have new changes, as Rev'd Judith has now retired, but our ministry team continues. We are now in 'interregnum' and will be discerning possibilities of a new minister. In the Norwich Diocese, we are working with the Rural Dean, Rev'd Karlene Kerr from Gaywood and the Archdeacon and Bishop of Lynn. We aim to continue with our normal rota of services, with support from other colleagues. On a personal level, I continue to be an Assistant Priest on a voluntary level and have limited availability but have huge support from our ministry team and the churchwardens.

Each parish church has one or two churchwardens, and they will now be the point of contact for any enquiries. Contact details are available in the parish magazines.

There is still lots going on in our churches. Why not have a look at our Benefice website and see what is happening.

As I write this letter my husband Richard is in hospital and very poorly. We all face difficult times and for me and our families, this is 'one of those times'.

We pray for all life's changes and for anyone who is struggling.

We face new futures and new beginnings, and we pray especially for all our children and young people as they set out on another step of their life's journeys.

A well-known passage from Matthew Ch 14, verses 22-33 tells us that Jesus walked on water to save his disciples who were being tossed about in the boat on the Sea of Galilee.

They were afraid and needed help. Jesus calmed the water and reached out to them. We all get tossed about at times and we just need to trust that Jesus is with us forever, through changes in life, when things are not going so well and when we are afraid. He is there to give us all a helping hand.

Rev'd Sue Martin



The saga of the church clock continues....

After sourcing three quotations we elected to go with the company which has maintained our clock for nearly 25 years. They are one of the largest clock repair companies and even repair many of the royal clocks. The main part of the clock was taken to the workshop and dismantled. This led to many other faults being found. After much complaint and discussion, the managing director / owner of the firm met with myself and several other church members. He admitted his dismay and embarrassment that the faults were not found earlier. The Company agreed they would carry out the original costed repairs as well as replacement of some other parts, to get the clock working again, at least for the next four or five years.

It would then require a full overhaul which would involve more costs. For example, the dials need renewing. The Company gave us information about grant providers and has offered to help us secure some grants for the work.

The initial intention is to get the clock returned working and then apply for grants to cover our dials and the major overhaul. Hopefully, with successful grant applications, we should then have a clock which will run for the next 100 years.

Stephen Hudson, Church warden

Church Services

September 2023

Date	Time	Service	Location
Sunday 3 rd September	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Songs of Praise Morning Praise	Roydon Harpley Little Massingham Grimston
Wed. 6 th September	9.00 am	Mid Week Service	Harpley
Sunday 10 th September	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion Songs of Praise	Congham Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham
Sunday 17 th September	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Confirmation Service	Harpley Great Massingham Ashwicken
Wed. 20 th Sept.	9.00 am	Mid Week Service	Grimston
Sunday 24 th September	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Service Celtic Service	East Walton Little Massingham Gayton Great Massingham Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 1 st October	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Family Service</i> <i>Songs of Praise</i> <i>Morning Praise</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Family Service</i> <i>Songs of Praise</i> <i>Morning Praise</i>

As we are now in an interregnum we have been sorting our cover for the services previously taken by Reverend Judith. We intend trying to keep the service rota as it is, at present, and have been able to arrange some cover to assist with this.

However, please also check the website to see if there are any changes.

The mid week services will be Holy Communion or Morning Prayer depending on the cover we can get.

The benefice website is www.ggmbenefice.uk



**NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST
ANNUAL CYCLE/
WALK/DRIVE**
Saturday 9th September,
9.00 - 5.00 pm



Walking Through Our Parishes

Our last walk is
our usual harvest service at
St James Bawsey,
at 3pm, on Sunday 3rd September,
followed by a walk and refreshments.

The charity, Friends of St Andrews Little Massingham (FOSALM) supports Little Massingham and St Andrews to raise funds for the upkeep of the historic Village Church.

So far, almost £20,000 has been raised! Funds are urgently needed to help with roof and other repairs. The Charity wishes to recruit more local people as Trustees.

If you live locally, are aged 25 or over, have some spare time on your hands and would like to help support St Andrew's Church, please contact – Terry Holloway – at: terryholloway.33@btinternet.com

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Sunday 12 noon to 6.30 pm

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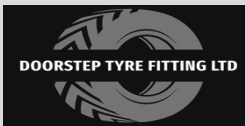
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Useful Numbers

Organisation	Contact	Phone No.
Allotment Association	Daisy Robinson	07979 723 288
Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Council	Alistair Beales	To be confirmed
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	Peter Wadham	520 796
Church Contacts	Stephen Hudson	520 450
Community Car Scheme	Office	520 823
Coronation Club	Jill Whitmore	520 609
County Council	Stuart Graham Dark	07450 679 355
Dabbling Duck Pub	Mark Dobby	520 827
Doctors	Massingham Surgery	520 521
The Film Night	Arthur Allen	520 628
Fishing Warden	Paul Smith & Ken Perry	PC Clerk 01328 823391
Trefoil Guild	Shirley Rae & Rita Gostling	520 259 & 520 730
Massingham Historical Society	Jeanne Robinson	520 455
Neighbourhood Plan	vacant	
Parish Council	Peter James (Chair) & Sarah Harvey (Clerk)	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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INCLUDING ME

BY JOSETTE
(AKA TINA'S MUM)



You are invited to a 'Book Launch and Celebration about Tina', on Saturday October 14th at 7pm

Do you remember Tina Swann?

She lived in the village and liked to pop into neighbours' houses just to say hello and see if there was a biscuit on offer! She would ask her usual questions as to the families' welfare and then come home to tell us the news and to have her tea! She loved her life.

If you want to know more about Tina and her family, then come to Great Massingham village hall, Saturday, October 14th at 7pm. There will be pictures and songs, Tina's favourites, chats and gossip and finger refreshments.

Everyone is welcome. Free entry.

We will be launching the book 'INCLUDING ME' written by Josette, aka Tina's mum. (see cover left) At £12 per copy, all profits go to charity. Please come.

If you can't make it, call Josette on 01485 520374

 Great Massingham Area Community Car Scheme

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Neil Steed 07854114635 or

Neil.steed@btinternet.com

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www.norfolkbound.co.uk

Some September 2023 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
2/3 Sept.	Exhibition in the Church	10am to 4pm	St Mary's Church
4/18 Sept.	Craft & Chat	2pm onwards	Village Hall Bar
8 Sept.	BINGO	7 for 7.30	Village Hall
9 Sept.	Norfolk Churches Sponsor Cycle	9 am to 5pm	Around the area
11 Sept.	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Village Hall
12 Sept.	Community Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	Village Hall Bar
15 Sept.	Historical Society Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
21 Sept.	Film Night	7 for 7.30pm	Village Hall
28 Sept	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall Bar
29 Sept.	Macmillan Coffee Morning	10am to midday	Village Hall