



The Mallard

Issue 403

September 2025



ART GOES WILD IN MASSINGHAM

The Society of Wildlife Artists brought their Massingham Heath Project into the heart of the village over the weekend of 16th & 17th August. As well as an exhibition of stunning artwork at the Village Hall, there were three “Explore and Draw” events for all-comers around the village, a drawing workshop beside Scotsman’s Pit and an Art Trail where visitors could see and chat to a dozen artists at work on the Heath.

It was a great advertisement for the biodiversity that can be found in the village as people young and old observed and sketched

moths on the green outside Abbey House, aquatic life around Scotsman’s Pit and flowers and insects in the flower rich meadow at the end of Sunnyside Road. The Village Hall had a steady stream of visitors over the weekend to view just a selection of the huge amount of artwork that has been generated since May, the majority produced entirely in the field on the heath.

On the Heath itself, visitors chatted to artists from as far afield as Scotland, Northern Ireland and Denmark, all of whom have responded with huge enthusiasm for the Heath and its wildlife. The beauty of the village and the warmth of reception from everyone they have met has also figured highly in their feedback about the Massingham experience. The SWLA owes its thanks to many, among them landowner Olly Birkbeck, naturalist Nick Acheson and the local volunteers and businesses who have helped to make the residencies possible. Artists will return regularly as the project to document a year on the heath continues and in October the work from here will be a leading feature of the Society’s annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London.

See www.swla.co.uk for project news and updates.

Tim Baldwin



Mallard News

This parish magazine is published every month for the residents of Great and Little Massingham with the support of the Great Massingham Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and Massingham Village Hall Trustees.

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**Deadline for the
next issue**

17th September

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HARPLEY VILLAGE HALL

Coffee Mornings

Macmillan Coffee Morning 13th September 10am -1pm

Regular Events

Chair Fit: Mondays 10.30 -11.15am

Harpley Choir: Mondays 7.30pm

Pilates: Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.15pm

Table Tennis Club: Thursdays 5.00 – 7.00pm –
4 tables available as well as Robot. Adults £3 Juniors £2.
Exercise, Social atmosphere and fun.

Fitness Pilates: Fridays: Fridays 9.00am

Contact: Harpleylive@gmail.com or
visit www.harpleyvillagehall.uk



COFFEE MORNING and ARTS & CRAFTS SALE

Harpley Village Hall



**Saturday 11th October 2025
10am – 1pm**

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

Proceeds of stalls to King's Lynn Night Shelter
Profit from refreshments will be shared with the
Village Hall.

Contact Rosemary Mehers (01485 521866) for more
details or if you can help in any way.

"CANTERBURY COMES TO CONGHAM"

Former Organist and Master of the Choristers at Canterbury
Cathedral, David Flood, will be giving an organ recital in
Congham Church on Friday 3rd October.

The evening begins at 7.00pm with drinks on arrival, an hour
of music, and drinks and nibbles to follow.

Admission is by ticket as capacity is limited. Tickets are £15
with under 16s free.

Car parking in the church car park off Church Hill.
Alternative parking in St Andrew's Lane will be signposted.

For tickets please contact:

Ann Clark 07584 919192 / annpenney@hotmail.com
or Graham Clark 07918 603865 / usgraham.clark@gmail.com

SHOEBOX APPEAL

So far, 54 shoeboxes have been filled—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

INDOOR SHORT MAT/CARPET BOWLS

This season's Indoor Short Mat/Carpet Bowls should start in early October and runs to mid-April. We will play at the Village Hall between 7pm and 9.30pm on Wednesdays. We usually play one match per pair per evening and occasionally two. It costs £1 per person 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 by the end of September or give me a ring on 01485 520476 or email me on cobby47@aol.com.

Looking forward to welcoming you all.

Bob Nash

REFLECTIONS ON A MEMORABLE WEEKEND IN OUR COMMUNITY

Thursday evening Classics on the Green followed by a couple of pints and a casual meal with the SWLA artis at the Dabbling Duck, lovely people such talent!

Lex told us that his Harvest was finished! An early record, thank you to the farm workers who have been working 80-hour weeks to achieve this!

Friday too hot for FOSPGM work.

A wonderful walk and talk around the village by Ant from the Historical Society, followed by a BBQ and a film. Beacon lit on the green. A heart searching service led by Peter James and Lex Brun to commemorate VJ day. The cracking of the burning wood during the two minute silence brought tears to my eyes.

Saturday: The opportunity to see the amazing paintings, drawing and sculptures produced by the Society of Wildlife Artists during this week's visit. Or wander off into the wilds and meet, greet and chat with the Artists in situ. The SWLA love Great Massingham and will be returning again soon! A lot of the work produced will be on display at the SWLA's Pall Mall gallery in London soon.

Sunday: The annual Yard Sale. An opportunity to purchase lovely things at bargain prices. Numbers were down this year, but it will bounce back next year!

Some people attended the short art courses given by the SWLA

Our band, Rhythm Travellers, went off to Croxton to play to an appreciate audience. The event raised nearly £2000 for BreastCancerNow.org, and LittleLifts.org.uk.

What a wonderful community we are!

I'm sure I have missed some of the other things that contributed to the Village's positive activities. If you are aware of any up-and-coming events or have comments on how wonderful our community works together, please email

MassinghamTogether@gmail.com

Bob Bones



NEWS FROM THE HALL

Welcome to everyone as we move into September ... We are looking forward to providing you with plenty of events to keep you entertained at the hall.

Just a quick recap; The **Coffee Morning** in aid of Dementia UK at the beginning of August was an

enormous success, with a large number of very generous people attending and raising just short of £1,000 for the charity.

Bingo is on 5th September and 1st October and, as a special event, '**Innuendo Bingo**' will be held on **24th October** - not for those with a 'delicate' disposition and definitely for the over-18s! This month's **Auctions** are on the **7th and 14th September**, always worth a visit to grab a bargain. There is live music in the bar from the ever popular **DNA at 8pm on 6th September** - free to all members. Don't forget, it is worth getting membership of the Social Club for only £12.50 a year, then all bar events will be free. Karaoke in the bar is on 11th October, so keep an eye out for more details. The

MacMillan Big Coffee Morning is back on the **20th September** - timings to be confirmed as soon as we get them. Any donations of bric-a-brac, raffle prizes and cakes, etc. always welcomed - as is any help on the day. For those of you who have missed the Community Lunches, they are back - **The Lunch Munch Bunch** starts again on **16th September**, not just great food, but good company and the chance to have a chat with your friends - or make new ones. Looking into the future (!), there will be an **Evening of Mediumship** - coming up in **November** and featuring the well known local medium, John Julian. Tickets and times to be confirmed at a later date; look out for more information as this event is sure to sell out. **Creative Arts East** are booked for another interesting session on **17th September**, starting at 1.00 pm. If you have been before, you will know just how good they are and, if not, now's your chance to find out.

And finally - please note that **Great Massingham's Craft Fair on 8th November**. It is on for one day only - 10 until 4 at £10 per table. Please ignore any other advertisements you may see claiming to be us - they aren't!

greatmassinghamvillagehall.co.uk is updated regularly and contains more information about the hall, its facilities and its events - time to check it out ... Be back in October



CRAFT FAYRE AND TABLE TOP SALE

8th November 2025 - 10.00 am to 4.00pm

A chance to come and purchase your Christmas gifts

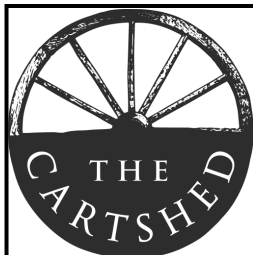
To avoid disappointment, book your table early, cost £10 per table.

Please email greatmassinghamvillagehall@gmail.com or call 07493 406 501

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To look at the menu or book a table.



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GREAT MASSINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Update and future meetings

The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is administered by the NDP Steering Group. A key element of its work is to involve as many residents as possible in the decision-making process. To this end it arranges regular Steering Group committee meetings and focussed "Community Conversation" events that are open to all. Five new meetings have been scheduled over what remains of 2025. Residents are cordially invited to come to these.

Monday 1st September – Steering Group meeting 6pm – 7.30 pm (Village Hall Bar).

Monday 6th October - Community Conversation, Development Boundary Discussion 6pm – 7.30 pm (Village Hall).

Monday 13th October - Steering Group meeting 6pm – 7.30 pm (Village Hall Bar).

Monday 3rd November – Steering Group Meeting 6pm – 7.30pm (Village Hall Bar).

Monday 1st December – Steering Group Meeting 6pm – 7.30 pm (Village Hall Bar).

The Community Conversation on Monday 6th October will explore the results of the Development Boundary walkabouts held in July and discuss changes that could be made to support infill and windfall housing opportunities within the village. Please come and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome.

Wide ranging information about Great Massingham's NDP can be found on our website (www.greatmassinghamndp.co.uk). Dates and times of all meetings and accounts of past meetings, surveys and consultations are all posted there along with much additional information. One further way to keep abreast of developments is 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

Tel/text: 0795643975

E-mail: gmndplan@yahoo.com

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Friday 5th September
Doors open 7 pm,
Eyes down for 7.30pm
At Great Massingham
Village Hall

Massingham Historical Society

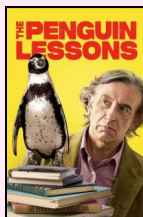
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St Mary's Church
Sept. 13th 10am – 4pm
Sept. 14th 12-4pm

**Books and Post Cards will
be available for Sale**

Refreshments Available



FILM NIGHTS for
7 for 7.30pm

Members Night on
Thursday 4th September
'The Penguin Lessons'
with a glass of wine and
two-course meal

Thursday 18th September
'The Ballad of Wallis Island'
£5 (plus a complementary drink)
at the Village Hall

MASSINGHAM AND DISTRICT TREFOIL GUILD

A presentation by Geoff and Bev Randall:
**Birds and Other Creatures
from Our Travels**

Great Massingham Village Hall
Thursday 11th September at 7pm

Entry: £3 per person
Tea/Coffee and biscuits included
ALL WELCOME
Raffle

THE LUNCH MUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday 16th September, Village Hall Bar
Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm

Chicken and ham cobbler, creamed pota-
toes and seasonal vegetables plus dessert
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 12th September



AT GREAT MASSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
Thursday 25th September 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 joint quizmasters for the night will be
Alison and Phil Henshaw

Please do not hesitate to email
me, robertcharlestaylor@live.com, or call me on
07908 244421 for further information.

**MASSINGHAM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Friday 19th Sept. 7.30pm

JOHORE

A HOUSE THROUGH TIME



7.30pm at The Village Hall

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

NOTABLE BUILDINGS

Guests £3 Bar open



**MACMILLAN
COFFEE AFTERNOON**

at the Village Hall
**20th September
between 2-4pm**

Raffle, Tombola, Homemade Cakes
and much more!

CRAFT & CHAT

Monday 1st September
at 14 Weasenham Rd
15th & 29th September
in Village Hall Bar

From 2pm to 4pm
Everyone welcome.



SCHOOL OPEN AFTERNOONS

Great Massingham and Harpley Primary Schools are holding open afternoons for prospective parents.

Harpley School – Thursday 25th September, 1.30–3.00pm

Great Massingham School – Friday 26th September, 1.30–3.00pm

These visits are a great chance to see the schools in action and meet staff.
More events and activities will be announced once the Autumn term is underway.



**MASSINGHAM
TOGETHER
FUNDRAISING FETE**

**SAVE THE DATE:
OCT 12TH 12PM - 4PM**

**MASSINGHAM TOGETHER:
OUR INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND**

We need to raise £10,000 locally to help
build our new inclusive playground.
Every donation, big or small, will make a
difference.

Please support if you can – together we can
make it happen for our children.

Please contact the clerk
to donate: gmparishclerk@gmail.com

Join us for a
FUNDRAISING VILLAGE FETE on
Sunday 12th October at the Village Hall
Think of...

A village Bake Off
Splat the Rat & retro games
Tombola & raffle

Food, drink & family fun
If you'd like a stall, please contact the Clerk
at gmparishclerk@gmail.com
All proceeds go to the new inclusive
playground – come and be part of it!

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

New Christmas Lighting for the Village: We're pleased to confirm that a supplier has now been chosen for our new Christmas lights. Following a quote from Cozens (UK) Ltd, 350 metres of warm white LED lighting will be installed in the large tree opposite the village pub, covering around two-thirds of its height for a striking festive display. The work, quoted at £3,132, will be carried out in the autumn ready for December. Plans are underway for a Christmas Lights Switch-On Event, with details to follow.

Playground Redevelopment Plans: We're delighted to announce that CAP.Co has been appointed as the supplier for our new playground project. CAP.Co are specialists in designing and building inspiring outdoor play spaces, and their creative plans promise to transform our village playground into a vibrant, safe, and exciting place for children of all ages to enjoy.

To make this happen, we have the opportunity to secure a £100,000 grant from FCC Communities Foundation. Before this major funding can be unlocked, we must raise a local contribution of £10,750—known as “Contributing Third Party” support. We're delighted to share that, thanks to the generosity of a local business, £1,000 has already been pledged. This leaves us with £9,750 still to raise. Every donation, large or small, will bring us a step closer to delivering this much-needed facility for children and families in our community. **To donate, please contact the parish clerk at:**

gmparishclerk@gmail.com

To help reach this target, we're excited to announce a **Fundraising Village Fete on Sunday 12th October** at the Village Hall. It promises to be a fantastic day full of fun, food, and activities for all ages, with every pound raised going directly to the playground fund. Please support if you can – together we can make it happen for our children.

If you'd like a stall, please contact the Clerk at gmparishclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council to Support Neighbourhood Plan: When the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group was first established, the Parish Council agreed to provide financial support if needed. Until now, much of the work has been funded through grants (mainly from Groundwork UK) and by the time and effort of community volunteers. However, in April 2025 the Government announced that no further grant funding would be available for the development of Neighbourhood Plans. To ensure that the important work on our own NDP can continue, the Steering Group requested financial support from the Parish Council. The Parish Council has now agreed to provide this support. For 2025/26, funding of £1,900 has been allocated to cover specialist consultancy from Collective Community Planning to review progress so far and advise on next steps., as well as printing, hall hire and other costs linked to consultation activities.

Further support may be required in 2026/27 to cover technical advice, consultation costs, and the referendum process. This decision ensures that work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan can move forward without interruption.

Overgrown Hedging: A reminder to all residents to keep hedges trimmed where they border pavements or road junctions. Overgrown vegetation can force pedestrians—including children, the elderly and those with disabilities—onto the road, creating a safety risk. Keeping hedges tidy helps ensure pavements remain safe and accessible for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation.

More Information: This month's article can also be viewed by visiting the Parish Council website and going to the News page. Visit the Parish Council website: www.greatmassingham-pc.info. Next Meeting: Monday 15th September 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,

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Date	Time	Service	Location
Wednesday 3rd September	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 7th September <i>12th Sunday after Trinity</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
Sunday 14th September <i>13th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Congham Gayton Gt Massingham
Wednesday 17th September	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Grimston
Sunday 21st September <i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Harvest Holy Communion Songs of Praise	Harpley Grimston Gt Massingham
Sunday 28th September <i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Harvest Holy Communion Holy Communion Celtic Service	Ashwicken Gayton Lt Massingham Gayton Thorpe

For more news and alterations to services please visit our benefice website at
www.ggmbenefice.uk



THE NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST

ANNUAL BIKE, WALK & DRIVE

Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Bike, Walk & Drive event
will take place on Saturday 13 September 2025.

You can register online and access all the information you
need to take part at www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk

TRAVELS WITH PAUL AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN

St Nicholas Church, Gayton, King's Lynn, Norfolk
Saturday 18th October 2025

9.30 (for a prompt 10.00 start) – 12 Midday

Your tour guide – Revd Dr Sue Woan

No, it won't be a lecture!

Yes, it will be interactive!

Yes, you will laugh and learn and leave
wanting more!

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Message for Parishioners from Joy Smith



Dear Friends

September is a time of new beginnings for some. Children going back to or starting school, for some it may be moving on to university, leaving home to start a new life elsewhere. Perhaps for some starting a new job or retiring.

New beginnings do not just happen at the beginning of a new year. They can occur at any time, our lives are full of new beginnings and new opportunities. I wish we could all have this same sense of excitement and joy over new beginnings. Certainly, some new beginnings are naturally exciting – getting married, having a baby. Other times our joy is more conditional, like being excited about starting a new job or moving. We might look positively at these if it was our idea to move or the new job is something we wanted, but we don't always see these as positive moments in our lives.

"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

What new beginnings are you facing this year? New school year, new job, moving to a new house, taking on a new responsibility at work or in your volunteer life, sending a child off to college or university? Or maybe something more difficult, like facing life with a new diagnosis or revised treatment plan, continuing on after the loss of a loved one?

To be honest – I don't always face change very well, usually my reaction includes some bit of kicking and screaming, digging in of heels, maybe a few tears. I'm sure I'm not alone here, am I? But sometimes we need change! No matter what new beginning we are facing, we should look at new beginnings by thinking about the possibilities and potential, rather than worrying about what might happen or what might not be the same.

Whatever new beginning you're facing this year, I want to encourage you to face it with boldness, excitement and anticipation of positive outcomes! Change isn't always bad. In fact, change can be good.

The stories in scripture show time and time again that God offers people a **new beginning**, another chance for great things. God frees the oppressed, Jesus heals and restores, and the Holy Spirit gives us new life. We can take heart from Jesus words that he will always be with us walking beside us every step of the way.

Joy Smith Licensed Lay Minister



Walks Around the Parishes for 2025

Saturday 6th September at 3pm start at Abbey Farm, East Walton PE32 1PP

A walk of 3 or 4 miles 'on the wild side' ~ come along to see the progress of the re-wilding project at East Walton. Refreshments from 4:30pm

Sunday 12th October

The last walk this year will be in Ashwicken starting at the Church a 3pm

More details on the website or contact Rosemary Mehers

rosemarymehers@hotmail.com or Rev'd Sue Martin revdsuemartin@gmail.com

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Open 9 - 5, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9 - 6 Thursday and 9 - 1 Saturday



Useful Contacts

Organisation	Contact	Phone No/Email Address
Allotment Association	Daisy Robinson	07979 723 288
Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Councillor	Alistair Beales	cllr.alistair.beales@west-norfolk.gov.uk
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	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	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
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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A SPECTACULAR BAT EVENING AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

The bat evening at St Andrew's Church was a great success with approximately 90 people attending. Licensed bat handler and expert Phil Parker gave a very interesting talk before setting up cameras and imaging equipment for the audience to see the bats more clearly. As it darkened a spectacular performance was given by the bats as they left the church!

Rosemary Jewers



ST ANDREWS'S CHURCH HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Little Massingham Church will be open to visitors on **Saturday 13th September, 10.00am–4.00pm**, as part of the national *Heritage Open Days* event.

The date also coincides with the Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Bike Ride.

Come along to discover more about the history of the church and hear about plans for its future. All are very welcome.

(Opposite: A carved face can be seen in the pulpit at Little Massingham Church)



MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS 26th September & 24th October

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 | **Weasenhams Rd** 2.45 to 2.55 pm

Some September 2025 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
1 September	NDP Steering Group Meeting	6pm to 7.30pm	Village Hall Bar
1/15/29 September	Craft & Chat	2pm to 4pm	See page 9
4/18 September	Film Nights	7 for 7.30pm (See page 8)	Village Hall
7/14 September	Auctions	12 Midday to 4.00pm	Village Hall
11 September	Massingham & District Trefoil Guild	7.00pm	Village Hall
13 September	Historical Society Exhibition	10am to 4.00pm	St Mary's Church
13 September	Heritage Open Day	10am to 4.00pm	St Andrew's Church
15 September	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
16 September	The Lunch Bunch Munch	12.30 for 1.00pm	Village Hall Bar
19 September	Historical Society	7.30pm	Village Hall
20 September	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Village Hall
25 September	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall Bar