

The Mallard

Issue 347

September 2020

Village Hall & Bar opens up. Below & P4

Memories of Miriam. P7

Peddars Way Charity Walk

Please consider supporting Rosemary Jewer's fundraiser for Little Massingham Church.

Rosemary says, "I'm going to walk almost 90 miles to raise money towards restoring Little Massingham's Church roof, following the theft of the lead.

On 22nd September, I'll be walking from the Roman, Balcerne Gate, Colchester to Holme next the Sea; looking for and, at times, walking on, the ancient Roman route known as Peddars Way.

I've been keen to follow up a story handed down through some four generations of my family that said Peddars Way ran between Colchester and the Norfolk coast. Having been born and raised in Little Massingham, this family story really resonated with me.

The walk was due to have taken place at the end of April but Covid-19 put it on hold. I'm trying to raise £5,000 plus. If you could help, that would be wonderful.

I welcome anyone wishing to join me as I trek along sections of this timeworn road. The research and details of where I will be on certain days can be found on my blog.

<https://peddarswaycharitywalk.blogspot.com/>

Lings Country Goods, Lynn Lane, Gt Massingham have kindly offered to accept donations. Cheques can be made payable to me.

I also have a JustGiving page <http://bit.ly/2wBvJS5>

I do hope you can help and support this fundraising."

Rosemary Jewers née Brereton



The Village Hall Bar Re-opens Thursday, September 3rd at 7pm

Opening hours

Thursdays - 7pm to 11pm

Fridays & Saturdays - 5pm to 11pm

The Staff and Directors are complying fully with the latest advice on Covid 19 prevention measures to minimise the risk to members but they will be relying on you to show patience and consideration for the safety of others.

We need our community to support the Village Bar as you have in the past.

September is a trial month to see if the bar is financially viable under the constraints placed on it by the need to guard against Covid 19.

Please come along and socialise with friends and family.



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

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

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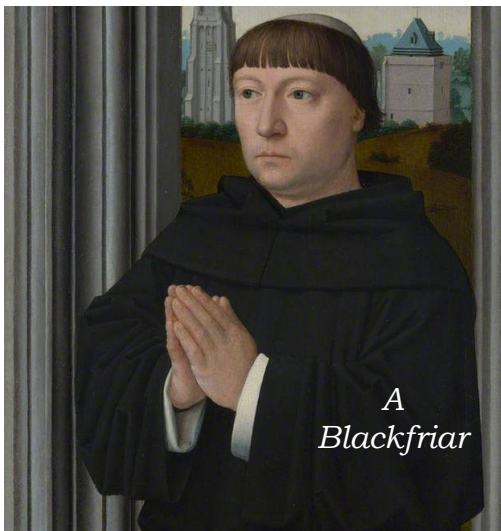
See updated
advert on page 12

'Histry Bits'.... Monks in Massingham

The priory at Massingham belonged to the Augustinians, one of the most popular monastic orders in the Middle Ages. They were pledged to poverty, obedience and chastity; and they lived and worshipped together; labouring alongside the people in the fields and meadows of the village.

They were commonly known as Blackfriars on account of their dress, which included a black cloak worn over a black cassock. They must have been one of the most striking sights in the village, crossing and re-crossing the green as they went about their daily business, no doubt pausing to exchange the latest gossip as they did so.

The Priory was founded by Nicholas of Massingham, in about 1260, and was described as a *hospitium* – a cross between a hospital to treat the sick and needy and a place where pilgrims and travellers could find rest and refreshment, free of charge, on their way to the Holy Shrine at Walsingham.



*A
Blackfriar*

One of the most important visitors was King Edward I who stayed at the Priory in the spring of 1302.

In the early days, the Priory was quite large. In 1299, it had a Prior, a Sub-Prior and a Cellarer but, by the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, its population had shrunk to just four, with two monks and two poor brethren, and its buildings were described as wasted and decayed.

Over the years much of its masonry was recycled, and was incorporated into the walls of various village houses and barns.

David Miller



Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Primary Schools Federation

Firstly, we want to thank Mrs Beardall and Mrs Stibbon for all their hard work over the past year and also the way they have managed the current situation with COVID 19 to ensure the



two schools remained open safely, for Key workers and specific year groups. This has required tremendous work and worry to achieve. Special thanks, also, to all the staff for the total commitment shown. We are so lucky to have you all.

Both schools re-open on the 7th September after the summer break and, this time, all children will be returning. Mrs Stibbon, who has been our Assistant/Co Head Teacher for the past two years, takes up the post of Head Teacher as Mrs Beardall stepped down from the role at the end of August, as part of her phased retirement. Governors are pleased, however, that Mrs Beardall will be continuing for two days each week as our SENCO (Special Needs Coordinator) and will continue to be a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We express a huge thank you to Mrs Beardall whose contribution over the years has been second to none.

Continuing the current system of having both a Headteacher & Assistant Head, supporting Mrs Stibbon will be Mrs Sophie Stephens as Assistant/Co-Headteacher. Both have worked across the Federation, know the schools well, are very experienced and are keen to take the schools forward to the next phase.

We want to thank all our volunteers and PFA members for their contribution over the past year with a special mention to our Gardening Club volunteers - Julian, Barbara, Gemma, Kerri, Lucy & Joyce - who have been brilliant. Thank you all very much.

Lastly, we have a special plea for people to volunteer as school governors. We have a strong Governing Body but need to ensure it continues in this way. Having a good team is the only way we will continue to maintain the standards we have achieved. Please email Bev Randall - mallard.editor@btinternet.com to volunteer or find out more.

Noticeboard



Macmillan Coffee Morning Put on Hold

We are say sad to say that there will be no Macmillan coffee morning this year as it was felt that safe distancing would be problem.

Maybe next time round!

Please read about the Yard Sale, on page 7.

Many Thanks.....

On Thursday 20th August, someone kindly found my medic alert and hung it on my gate for me.

I just wanted to say thank you to that person, whoever you are, for doing that. I really do appreciate it. *Maria West x*



Congratulations on Fifty Years together

Liz and Ivor Attew celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Saturday, 25th July.

Congratulations and love and best wishes to you both from Hayley and all the family.

SNAP!

We celebrated our 50th on the same day! Hope you had a good day. Bev and Geoff Randall.

Do you have a Property for Rent?

I am a retired teacher, female, looking to rent a small cottage or annexe in Great Massingham. Call **07551 689 089**
Please get in touch.



Village Hall and Bar Start to Open Up

As you will have seen from the advert on page 1, the Hall and Bar is beginning a trial opening during September, to see if it is viable. Please read the 'Frequently Asked Questions & Answers' below to give you an idea of the procedures. Remember to adhere to the one way system and to sign in. **Help us to make this work!**

Frequently Asked Questions about the Re-opening of the Village Hall & Bar

Have you put your prices up to cover the cost of the closure?	No, our prices remain the same for September.
Can we bring our own chairs and sit outside in our family groups?	Yes.
Will there be table service for ordering drinks?	No, one member of the group will have to go to the bar and buy the drinks for the group.
Will we have to sign in?	Yes, a member of your group, bubble, must sign in and give a contact telephone number at the bar before you can be served.
Will hand sanitiser be provided?	Yes, as you enter and leave the bar, also in the toilets (<i>along with bacterial/virus preventative spray</i>).
Can we bring our own food and eat outside or inside?	Yes, we are happy for you to bring food e.g. a take-away from local pubs or chips from the van, but you must buy your drinks from the bar.
How do we pay?	Like the village shop, we prefer you to pay contactless.
Will there be a one way system in the bar?	Yes, you will enter near the snooker room and exit near the tennis courts.
Will the toilets be available for people drinking outside?	Yes, if your group has been signed in at the bar. You must use the one way system.
What do we do with dirty glasses?	There will be a used glass area, inside and out, where you can leave your glasses.
Will I be able to sit at the bar?	No, you will buy your drinks and take them to a table.
Do I have to wear a mask inside the building?	No, but if you feel safer wearing a mask to order your drinks, or go to the toilet, you may do that. It is your choice.
Can we still play pool?	Yes, but cues must be returned to the bar for cleaning after each game.
Will the snooker room be open?	Yes, for regular snooker players who have devised their own safety protocol.



Trees on Jubilee Field - Woodland Trust Application Success

You will recall from last month's Mallard that the Village Hall Trustees, working with the Biodiversity Project, are seeking to provide wooded and picnic areas for the parts of the Jubilee Field not required by existing or potential sporting needs.

You will be pleased to hear that the Woodland Trust has accepted the Biodiversity Project's submission and plan and has granted us some 420 saplings of native species which will be ready for planting in November. The intention is to create three separate wooded areas, one of which will have within it a primula and foxglove glade. We hope that a wildflower meadow and picnic area with a walk linking with the glade can also be realised in the not too distant future.

There are also plans for areas of heritage fruit trees subject to suitable varieties being found.

The Biodiversity Project and Trustees will be seeking to involve as many members of the village as possible with the tree planting. We are particularly keen to involve young people, including our primary school pupils, thereby giving them ownership of this new, long-term Village amenity.

Special thanks go to Mike Jackson and Tim Baldwin of the Biodiversity Project who worked hard on the successful plan and submission.

Village Hall Trustees

PARISH COUNCIL AUGUST MEETING

The meeting was once again held remotely via Zoom. Six Parish Councillors, two representatives from GMACCS and four parishioners joined the meeting.

Council Meetings

From the 1st August, the Coronavirus Act was amended regarding Parish Council meetings. It now says that the **public notice** of time & place of meetings must include details of remote access for the public and press to be posted on the Parish Council's website. This implies the link to the meeting should be included on the agenda, rather than stating 'contact the clerk for the link'.

New Parish Councillors

The Parish Council welcomes two new Parish Councillors – Alexis Brun and Kim Frazer – to the Council after being successfully co-opted on to the Council at the August meeting, following receipt of five applications. We look forward to them joining us at the September meeting.

External Audit

Each year the Parish Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd, who is PKF Littlejohn Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published on both the Parish Council website

and the notice board. Please note that it is subject to change after the review.

Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2020, these documents will be available, on reasonable notice, by application to:

Miss Sarah Harvey (Clerk/RFO), Byanoak, Leicester Rd, South Creake, NR21 9PW

Tel: 01328 823391 or

Email: gmparishclerk@gmail.com.

The inspection period runs from **Tuesday 4th August** until **Tuesday 15th September**,

The **Next Meeting** will be held remotely via Zoom on the 14th September, at 7.30pm.

Members of the public can still join the meetings. If you wish to do so, please contact the Clerk or obtain the access details from the relevant agenda in order to join the meeting. You will be able to join the meeting either by phone, computer or android/apple device. As always, there will still be an opportunity during the meeting for parishioners to speak.

Gert & Daisy....

How are yew awl gitting on?

Goodness gracious, that's August gone! Is it us or has toime speeded up? Hopefully, the children will be gawn back ter scule next week and we will git back another small bit of normality. Some of them hint bin at scule since March – bet their parents will be pleased not ter hev ter dew hum sculing anymore. Wonder who hev learnt more?

We hev got ter menshun the weather – cors we're British. Blimey, hint that bin hot? Thort we was gorn ter melt. Daisy wish she still hed her pool and we wud hev bin in it. Then the rain cum thank goodness. Bert's lawn hed turned in ter hay!

We wroite this afore the new teashop is open but we are sure it will be a grut success and an asset ter the village. We shall be gorn but due ter social distancing that will be take-away only. We will tek it away ter the green and enjoy it there. Again, well dun Mark and team – we are so lucky ter hev such a grut shop in our luvly village.

As most of you know, dear Miriam Flower passed peacefully away on 1st August aged 103 and a half exactly. We were very pleased to have been invited to her funeral on 17th August. It was so nice to be able to say our goodbyes in these very uncertain times. We had to smile (under our masks) during the service in the church because as the sun was shining through the window, we were listening to a recording of 'In the Bleak Mid Winter' – Miriam's all-time favourite hymn/carol. We think she would have smiled too.

Bert hed a buthday in August and awl the family came round as they hed bort him a new tool! We carn't say what ut is but ut is supposed ter dew lots of things. He was very pleased ter git it. That wus a bit different meeting in the garden and being careful – how big is the bubble spus ter be anyway! They awl hed a few drinks but Danny Chase hed a few too many and when Mel got him hum he decided ter go owt on his push boike. He dint git far afore he fell orf and cut awl his face. He hed ter be patched up at A&E!

We hev sin people people playing petangue now so looks loike things are easing up.

There are alwus lots of people playing tennis too. The hall bar is opening soon sew we hope everywun is careful. Hope all the extra visitors are being careful too.

Well thas awl fer now.

Dew yew keep atrosing.

Gert and Daisy.

No space for our jokes this month but please read our memories of Miriam right →



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Miriam's Childhood Memories

One thing that will always stick in my head is something Miriam said every day and many times a day - "I'm a lucky old woman".

She used to tell me stories about how as a child she lived in a large house on the side of the road and used to watch the man come round in the evening and light the street lamps and how Fakenham Town Band would always call there, last thing on Christmas Eve, to play a few carols. With her siblings, she used to watch though the landing banisters into the hall where her mother would be decorating the tree and she said her mother always put an old towel on the floor where the trombone player was, as he used to blow the spit out. Also, funerals used to pass and she would stand in front of the house and watch them walk by with her head bowed. As soon as it had passed she would run and get a dolly and put it in a shoe box, then take it to the gardener who would lay it in a wheel barrow. She would then walk behind him as he pushed the barrow up the garden where he would then bury it. After she had laid a few flowers on the grave she would then dig it up ready for the next time!

The family used to go to Burnham Overy Staithe every summer where Miriam learnt to swim and became a very confident swimmer. She used to swim for the school team, the school being a girls only in Old Hunstanton. She used to hate going and would sit on the stairs crying. Her mother used to comfort her and tell her mummy and daddy would still be here waiting until the end of term when she came home and Miriam would reply that she wasn't crying for them but didn't want to leave her dog. She had a great love for dogs and was never without one until she was well into her 90's. She even had a small monkey called Jenny, which used to live in her mother's orchid house which was always a tropical temperature.

That is just a few of the things she used to tell us but what we remember is a lady who never complained but still liked an argument. Someone who knew the garden had gone wild but liked to remember how it was, as she loved gardening. She would always have the latest gossip even though she didn't leave the bedroom. She would always ask after people, still caring about others. When she was a 100yrs old, the electric went off in the early morning and she phoned the electric company to report it. Considering she couldn't see all that well and her fingers were stiff from arthritis, that was quite a thing for her to do on her own. She said that someone had to do it and, as everyone in Weasenham Road seemed to be abed, it was up to her.

She really was a remarkable person and, when we used to visit her at the home in East Bilney, she was still full of fun and we would come away feeling very happy.

So to quote dear Miriam 'We are lucky old women' for having the privilege to have known such a wonderful person.

You can read more Memories of Miriam on the Great Massingham website.

Great Massingham

Village Yard Sale

Sunday, September 6th,

9am until 1pm, on the Village Green

Pitch money, £5, in aid of St Mary's Church.

For more information or, if you would like a stall to raise some cash for yourselves contact

Chrissie on 01485 520 173

The Village Hall is not open but they have kindly allowed parking there.

GRASSROOTS MALAWI

Fantastic day. The Stall held on the 15th August made £552 including donations, plus £70 raised since the last Stall in 2019, making a total of £622!

Many thanks to everyone who donated and helped. Items now wanted for the next stalls on 6th and 19th September.

Please leave in greenhouse, if we are not at home, or phone 520542. Jenny Borley

Biodiversity Project News



The meadow faded quite rapidly as August became hotter and attention at the site now turns back to the damper meadow area adjacent to the pond and mown green.

Here, great willowherb (*left*) is still flowering and has grown particularly tall in this summer's conditions. The flowers are a lot less showy and a softer pink than the more familiar rose-bay willowherb, which is often found in drier situations and on disturbed ground. Standing tall among the other plants are two umbellifers that look broadly similar – these are hogweed and wild angelica.

The angelica (*right*) can be distinguished by its sprays of smaller toothed leaves, more domed flower heads and the striking sheath like structures from which the flowering shoots emerge, where they join the main stem. The flowers are attractive to hoverflies and the largest UK species, the hornet mimic hoverfly, has recently been recorded on site.



The bright yellow of fleabane (*left*) is putting on a good show too, concentrated in the area between the viewing platform and information board. This nectar rich species has benefitted from the pulling out of young shoots of competing great willowherb in the spring, without which it would have lost out in the competition for light and space. This serves to highlight the fact that maintaining biodiversity in a small area such as this involves a considerable amount of intervention. In the woodland, sharp eyes may detect some species of fungi becoming more evident but that is a topic for another month!



During September we will be cutting the meadow and raking off the cut stems which helps to disperse the seed that will grow next year. We also look forward to supporting the Village Hall Trustees with their plans to plant native trees around the perimeter of the playing field. For those who use social media, the Project now has an Instagram account at www.instagram.com/gmbiodiversity. This will hopefully spread awareness of the Project and provide a pictorial record of wildlife to be found at the site and sometimes more widely around the village.

Tim Baldwin

SHORT MAT/CARPET BOWLS



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

As, at the moment, the club is only open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Vic has said we can play on Thursday instead of our usual Wednesday evening. Whether any of this takes place this year is very much up to you and whether you feel safe enough to take part. Of course, it will also depend on the number of people wishing to take part.

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), give me a ring on 01485 520476 or email me on cobby47@aol.com

Looking forward to welcoming you. Bob Nash



Churches open for Private prayer are -
St Andrew, Congham (Sundays 6am to 6pm), St Lawrence,
Harpley and St Mary, East Walton (every day 8am to 6pm)
*Please use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving
and observe 2 metre social distancing.*

**We are continuing with our live, online worship service
each Sunday at 10.30am. (For details of readings please see website)
Mid week meetings also continue, at 3pm, each Wednesday. (See p 10)**

We are holding a
9am, Holy Communion service, each
Sunday, at the Churches as listed below.
*In line with regulations, it is compulsory to
wear a mask at these services, unless exempt.*

September Date	Church
6 th	Grimston
13 th	Great Massingham
20 th	Grimston
27 th	Harpley
Also Tuesday 29 th	Michaelmas Service 6pm at Ashwicken

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Steve Williamson either by phone on 01553 636413 or email Steve at
stephenwilliamson001@gmail.com

We are continuing to review our pattern of services as we receive more information from
The Church of England so do look out on the website for any changes.

www.ggmbenefice.uk



**Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child
2nd to 8th November, 2020
PLEASE PACK A SHOEBOX.**

This event, at the moment, is still planning to go ahead following both
National Government and Local guidelines.

The COVID 19 global pandemic continues to disrupt the every day lives of millions of
people around the world but we want children to feel they have not been forgotten during
this time of fear and uncertainty. Plans are being made to collect 'Operation Christmas
Child' shoe boxes during the beginning of November 2020. There will also be an option
this year to pack a shoe box online via the Samaritan's Purse website.

***Please contact Yvonne - 521706 or email: yvonne1inm@yahoo.co.uk
Drop off point - St Mary's Church, Great Massingham. More info next month.***

QUIZ NIGHTSThe quiz subjects & questions for the September online quiz will
go out the week commencing 31st August. It is possible that, subject to checks & fellow
quizzers' approval, it might return to the village Hall in October. *Peter James*

Message for Parishioners from Rev'd Judith



Maintain justice and do what is right...

My sister and I are in the process of clearing our former family home in Nottingham ready for it to be sold – a challenging task. It's the house where my mother, now in a local care home, had lived for over fifty years. It's striking how much one accumulates in a lifetime and how cherished possessions can become less of a joy and more of a burden as the years go by.

It's a familiar story and there's a lesson here for us all. **Less is more**, it really is! The stories behind personal effects can so easily be lost because people - in our case our mum - can no longer remember them, even treasured artefacts from the time when the whole world was at war. **Medals**, for example, from long-ago campaigns: tangible reminders of qualities we still esteem and remember today: courage, selfless devotion to duty, care of one's comrades.

Importantly, last month, we commemorated the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day when the war in the Far East was finally ended by the atomic bombs that fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was not until VJ Day that the war could finally be declared over. Captain Tom Moore, famous as an extraordinary fundraiser and veteran of the war in Burma, now a 'Sir' and elevated to the rank of honorary colonel, tells us: "VE Day felt bad – my friends were still in the jungle in Burma." In 1944, Vera Lynn insisted on visiting Burma to entertain the troops, a brave action that really touched peoples' hearts. The Armed Forces in the Far East became the so-called 'Forgotten Army' – like the courageous 'Chindits' Special Operations Units, commanded by Orde Wingate, who gave so much to secure the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Bible says: "Maintain justice and do what is right" and that is precisely what those brave troops were doing on our behalf. Some veterans of the war in the Far East are amazingly **still with us** despite their advanced age and the intense physical privations they endured in a particularly brutal war; we **marvel** at their fortitude and humanity, as exemplified by Captain Tom. In our own families and villages we have personal knowledge of exceptional people who have shown bravery of the highest order, honourable men whose lives reveal God's truth. It is a huge privilege to have had such heroes within our villages.

An Act of Remembrance in our benefice of ten churches was held in Great Massingham for VJ Day. At the end, the church bell was tolled 75 times, once for each of the **seventy - five years** in which we have remembered the sacrifices made for us in the two World Wars and beyond.

As John Donne said: "Ask not for whom the bell tolls" – it tolls for **us all**.

With my love and best wishes to you all, Reverend Judith

Funerals from The Registers

at
St Mary's,
Gt Massingham
16th July, in the
churchyard,
a service of
thanksgiving
for the life of
Keith Bowes



Mid Week Meetings

2 nd September	Prayer meeting
9 th September	Celtic Service
16 th September	Lectio Divina
23 rd September	Reflections
30 th September	Looking Forward, Looking Back

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Biodiversity Project	Tim Baldwin	520 813
Borough Council	James (Jim) Moriarty	07879 492400
Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	Martin Matthews	520 707
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
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When you go home tell them of us and say: for your tomorrow we gave our today.



Film Night is back!

Thursday 17th September 2020
7 for 7:30pm. Film and pop-corn £5.00.

Exact change only. Wear a mask. Best to email massinghamfilmnight@gmail.com to book so we can plan for social distancing. Limited numbers. Bar open.



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For future events email as above.



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September Events

3 rd	Hall and Bar Opens
6 th	Village Green Yard Sale
6 th / 19 th	Stalls on the Green
12 th	Church Sponsored Event
15 th	Parish Council Meeting
17 th	Film Night (Village Hall)