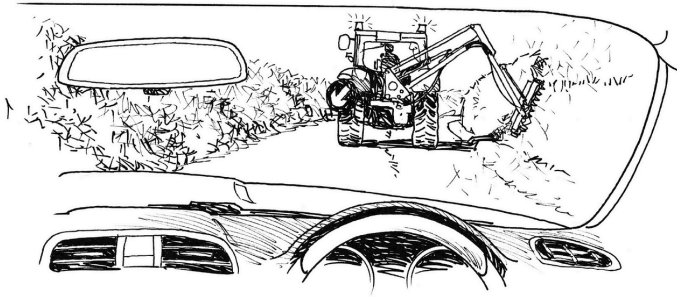


# Seething & Mundham Newsletter



*Autumn 2025*

We share what's going on in the village through this quarterly newsletter and on the village hall website: [www.seethingvillagehal@wixsite.com/home](http://www.seethingvillagehal@wixsite.com/home)

If you would like to know more please contact: Jessica – [jessicadawnbray@icloud.com](mailto:jessicadawnbray@icloud.com) or  
Norma – [norma.middlemiss@gmail.com](mailto:norma.middlemiss@gmail.com)

## SEETHING AND MUNDHAM VILLAGE HALL

### **Norma Middlemiss**

Being a charity, the trustees are responsible for ensuring that our income (excluding grants) covers the running costs of the village hall. As this is no longer the case we are having to increase our hire charges to: private hire : £10 per hour, £25 per four hours and £35 per four hours for children's parties. commercial rates upon application. We can offer special rates for multiple events and support new ventures.

It is some years since we increased the charges and we hope that you will continue to support us in maintaining this valuable resource.

For more information on hiring the hall and charges or if you want to discuss an idea you have involving the hall, please contact Norma at [norma.middlemiss@gmail.com](mailto:norma.middlemiss@gmail.com) or message 07876444479

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

On the first Tuesday of each month, between 12.00 & 2.00, a welcoming lunch provided by local volunteers enables our community to come together to enjoy delicious homemade soup, a fresh roll, cake and a cuppa at £5.00. Proceeds are split between the parish churches. This is an informal opportunity to natter over lunch for all ages.

After a much-needed break over the summer, this reopens again on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Further dates are : Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Christmas celebration 2025.

Morna Hill created this wonderful opportunity over 20 years ago and has been expertly coordinating the activity with our friendly volunteers and support network – even during Covid, when the lunches were delivered. She has decided, due to other commitments, to stand down this year, and we applaud her magnificent efforts and wish her well.

### **Please can you help?**

We have always welcomed new volunteers, and this will be especially necessary this year to keep it running. We need help to boost our volunteer numbers so if you can bake a cake, make soup or help set up on the day, please contact Laura on 07834193809 email: [lcowan206@gmail.com](mailto:lcowan206@gmail.com), Mandy or Kate if you are interested or even mildly curious.

## COMMUNITY CAFE

Drop in anytime between 2 pm and 4pm for cake and a drink, costing £2, usually the third Wednesday of the month. September 17<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup>,

There will be a fundraiser in October. Donations for to tombola or raffle would be gratefully received and can be dropped off at a community cafe event or at no 17 Mill Lane.

Let Julie know on 07984309452 if you would like to donate cake, which would always be welcome.

## **A charity fundraising event at Seething & Mundham Village Hall October 17-19<sup>th</sup> 2025**

### **Exhibition of Paintings by Gerry Nelson**

**Works can be acquired by making a donation to the Charities**



**Information: [gerrynelson80@gmail.com](mailto:gerrynelson80@gmail.com) or 07588 799714**

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Preview/social evening 16.00 - 20.00 hrs £5 donation PP

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.30 - 15.30 hrs free entry

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 12 noon - 16.00 hrs free entry

# MUNDHAM AND SEETHING BOWLS CLUB

## Judy Baldwin

The 2025 season is drawing to a close, with only a few games left to play. We have had a very enjoyable season and at the present time we are mid table in two leagues and in the Framingham league we are at the top. We have been very successful in cup competitions this year and we are in the final of one of the league cup games and in the semi finals of three other competitions, so we are hoping to be in at least one other final.

The weather has been kind to us this year, with some lovely evenings but not so kind to the green and despite being watered every day has suffered.

Perhaps we can look forward to seeing some of you next season. For more information contact Club Secretary Judy Baldwin via email [Judy.baldwin027@gmail.com](mailto:Judy.baldwin027@gmail.com) or phone 01508 520019

# COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

## Ian Hawthorn

Quite some while ago I joined the Seething group of Community Speed Watch. It was an easy decision to make as I had long been concerned about vehicles travelling too fast through our village. My concerns were for everyone, young children being walked into school by family members, runners, walkers, cyclists, horse riders, dog walkers, children playing on (usually) quiet lanes.

The Volunteers were invited to a training session which was useful and well worth the effort of attending where we were shown how and when to use the speed measuring device and we were issued with our 'Uniform' which consisted of a Hi-Viz vest. Some days later we were out at specific locations around the village which were deemed to be safe locations.

In the early days there were often relatively large numbers of 'Speeders' recorded but as the weeks went by the numbers recorded clearly decreased. We received positive feedback from Norfolk Constabulary on a job being done well and this was very encouraging. A lot of drivers have modified their driving through the village now which is a brilliant effect that our work has caused. We have made a significant difference. Of course we are only active for an hour at a time, completing a session or two each week and excessive speed still occurs. This is reflected in the disappointing numbers of dead animals and birds flattened within the village and the approaches. The sessions that we do usually last for an hour sometimes they can be a little dull but this gives time for chat and helps us get to know each other.

The reactions from drivers vary there are far more waves and smiles than there are unwelcome hand gestures!

The group of Speedwatch Volunteers is a small but welcoming one. If you would like to join please make contact by any one of the team members.

# SEETHING PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Hudspith

Whilst enjoying the fourth heatwave of the summer, the warmest North Sea temperatures on record, and the driest spring in over 100 years, I'm sure that you share a nagging concern that a hosepipe ban is likely, and that our climate is not behaving as it once did.....

Seething Parish Council recognise that rapid progress toward net-zero is essential to address the climate emergency driving our barmy weather, and this will require renewable energy to replace fossil fuel use. Consequently, this necessitated a carefully considered response to the large-scale East Pye solar scheme phase 2 consultation, to which we were invited to respond as a statutory body (as indeed were all Seething householders): many of you will have attended the information event at the village hall. It seems likely that large scale solar in East Anglia is an inevitability, and although the establishment of "solar fields" tends to create an instinctive negative response; it should be recognised that correctly managed, their impact upon biodiversity and ecology is favourable. Nevertheless, Seething Parish Council recognise that East Pye would represent an enormous change to our South Norfolk countryside.

Our unanimous view remains that constructive engagement with the developer, rather than outright objection, is the approach most likely to minimise the adverse impact of solar PV, and we have again responded stating that changes need to be made to support the scheme. These would include: avoidance of panels in excess of 2.5m height at the boundaries of the sites and their being set back from areas adjacent to housing and rights of way; protection of existing uncultivated grassland, trees, hedgerows and watercourses; management of the sites as wildflower meadow and grazing; protection of wildlife corridors; protection of existing and historic rights of way; guarantees of reversion to agricultural land at the end of scheme; avoidance of any compulsory purchase of land and that the scheme should promote local employment opportunity. Furthermore, we have expressed our concern regarding the suitability of Harvey Lane for increased HGV traffic, and that the risk of WW2 ordnance from Seething Airfield is inadequately addressed.

The formal application to the Planning Inspectorate is expected in late 2025 and we again shall be consulted. A key point that we will again stress is the necessity to consider the environmental impacts of the scheme in the context of other East Anglian solar PV schemes, rather than considering East Pye in isolation.

With the support of the Wilding Seething Group, the Parish Council have endeavoured to provide more information for the community about our local wildlife areas, ponds and meres: you may have noticed the signs that were installed at each of the sites earlier this summer. Our work on pond restoration in Seething has not gone unrecognised and the Council and Wilding Seething have been nominated for the Richard Waddingham Ponds Award ([www.norfolkbiobiodiversity.org](http://www.norfolkbiobiodiversity.org))

# SEETHING AND MUNDHAM CHURCHES

**Ann Garnham**

I am pleased to say that our Open Gardens were a great success. We were very lucky to have a lovely day and many visitors, some who had travelled quite a distance.

The total amount raised for our two medieval churches was £1,230.

A very big thank you to everyone who made cakes and served teas on the day. Also to all who came and supported the event.

At the time of writing this as yet we have no news on a new incumbent but we are still holding weekly services. There is a notice board at the Church gate which has the services on. The dates and the times of the Harvest Thanks giving will be on the church notice boards in due course.

## FRIENDS OF SEETHING CHURCH

**Caroline Egerton**

SAVE THE DATE! The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 15 November in the Church. Please could you start the annual rummage in your cupboards for Tombola Prizes. There will be a blue leaflet nearer the time. Meanwhile have a good summer.

## MUNDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 5.30pm at Seething and Mundham Village Hall. Items for the Agenda to the Clerk please by 15th September ([mundhamparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mundhamparishcouncil@gmail.com))

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

now available to view on the Council Website or from the Clerk

[www.mundhamparishcouncilweb.wordpress.com](http://www.mundhamparishcouncilweb.wordpress.com)

Details of all meetings can be found on the Council website. Should you want advice, have a query concerning the Village or you would like an item to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting please contact the Clerk at [mundhamparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mundhamparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## MUNDHAM POORLANDS CHARITY

If you are a householder, aged 65 or over, have resided in Mundham for at least two years and you feel you might be eligible for the Poorlands charity, please apply in writing stating your name, address and date of birth to [mundhamparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mundhamparishcouncil@gmail.com) or Tania Howlett, 1 Meadow View, Seething, Norfolk NR15 1AL

Previous recipients or people who have already contacted me need not reapply. Applications preferably received by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## Patricia Everson

1925 records show Seething had a Blacksmith, thatcher, basket maker, wheelwright, 2 poultry dealers, vermin destroyer, market gardener, a children's home and several farmers also a school, pub, and church.

In the early 1900's Godfrey's had the Post Office 1912 then first member of the Freestone family to be Post Master and cycle agent was Harry Freestone a post card has a Seething date stamp of 1913. After his death in 1918 his brother John William Freestone who had been away serving in the 'Norfolk's' during WWI took over then later ran the General Stores with the help of his sister Mrs Ada Vincent whose home on airfield was knocked down during WWII and moved with husband Ted two daughters May and Nancy to live in the Shop & Post Office. This was situated across the road from the current shop today and that is now a private house but then it had a large warehouse and several other buildings that housed beside the Post Office and Grocery Store they had a large range of hardware, household items, clothing, meal and other animal feed, bicycles, nails, paraffin, and petrol. When I left school at 15 in 1949 I started work there we still had rationing so you had to register with a provider, rationing didn't end till July 1954. Sugar came in large sacks, this had to be weighed into blue paper bags, cheese came in a large round block that had to be skinned and cut with a cheese wire, also margarine, butter, lard and cooking fat that came in blocks that also needed cutting to whatever the family rations were, bacon sliced, currants came in large wooden boxes these needed to also be weighed. Biscuits were in large tins so many items came in bulk and had to be dealt with. A large 'round' of orders were delivered around many local villages and the village ones usually on a trade bike. Add to this as most homes had no phone only a village phone box so many telegrams had to be delivered I took some as far away as Thurton, many to a Arab stud farm in Mill road Berghapton some used to have a paid for reply with a stated number of words and it was hard when anyone wanted to add more as this was not allowed! Often another telegram would be waiting to go when you got back we all used the old trade bike. Paraffin and petrol were in demand so with serving in shop and post office, preparing orders everyone was kept very busy.

After J.W. Freestone died in 1955 his son Fred became Post Master and received a Long Term Service Award for 40 years in 1995. I was married in March 1957 and left just before the new shop was finished to have our first son Glenn.

The first purpose built shop and post office built by W. Waters was opened on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1959 across the road from the old one. In those days wholesalers were all trying to get their custom pre supermarkets. They were a Mace store in 1973 with leaflets issued showing 'Double Cut Price' Maxwell House Coffee, granules or powder 8 oz. 57p, in 1959 a bottle of Camp coffee was 2 shillings 6 and ½ pence pre decimalisation in Feb 1971. They also used to hire out T V sets and Keith's dad Jim Turner used to do the repairs in 1993 Keith started work in the shop and after Fred's death in January 1996 he became Sub Postmaster keeping it in the family his grandmother was Ada Vincent nee Freestone.

We are so very lucky to still have the Post Office and General Stores in our village and have Keith who is such an asset and does such a great job as sub postmaster helping out with info and keeping it open for Seething and other villages, plus the shop with fresh milk and bread and a great range of products not easy now.

# SEETHING AND MUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Vicky MacKenzie**

School News: A Vibrant Term Full of Art, Sport, and Community Spirit

It's been a fantastic few weeks at Seething & Mundham Primary School as children across all year groups have been involved in a rich variety of activities celebrating creativity, physical activity, and community engagement.

We marked World Art Day with a wonderful day of mixed-age group collaboration, where children worked together to create shared art pieces. This inclusive approach fostered teamwork and creativity across the school. Our Bittern Class also enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Sainsbury Centre, exploring themes of art and sustainability.

The term also featured a number of sporting highlights. Children in Years 3 and 4 proudly represented the school in a local football tournament, while Key Stage 1 children had a brilliant time at a multisports event, taking part in tennis and even trying their hand at archery. Year 5 and 6 students excelled in their cluster rounders tournament, bringing home a well-deserved first place! We also welcomed a karate taster session into school, offering children a chance to try something new and energetic.

Meanwhile, our Year 5 and 6 children embarked on their residential trip to Hautbois House, taking part in a range of adventurous activities including abseiling and paddleboarding—we were so proud of their willingness to try new things and we know they have made memories for life.

The whole school enjoyed a fabulous trip to the Royal Norfolk Show, where we saw and learned about our Norfolk farming heritage and our school choir performed beautifully, representing the school with pride and enthusiasm.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming Dr Daisy Norton, who visited the Harriers Class to lead an engaging session about the spine and the heart, sparking lots of scientific curiosity.

On the community side, we recently hosted an SEN Parent Support Group meeting, run with support from the School & Community Hub, Early Help, and SENDIASS. It was a valuable opportunity for families to connect, share experiences, and find support. Our Family Lunch Day was another highlight, giving children the chance to enjoy a delicious school meal alongside parents and grandparents—a special event for everyone involved.

And finally, our Sports Morning was full of smiles, effort, and encouragement, with every child participating and cheering each other on in the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Thank you to all staff, parents, and volunteers who help make these experiences possible. It's been a busy and brilliant term!

If you would like to hear more about what is happening in school, we regularly update the news page on our website - [Welcome to Seething and Mundham Primary School](https://www.seethingandmundhamprimaryschool.org) ([seethingprimary.org](https://www.seethingprimary.org)) and our Facebook page - Seething and Mundham Primary School, Norfolk and our X (Twitter) page - @SeethingPrimary (take care to use the correct handle as there is another one, very similar which we do not use).

# SEETHING CONTROL TOWER MUSEUM

**Home of the 448<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group:** Station 146 Toad Lane Seething NR35 2EQ  
Step back into 1940's, find out about the Americans that served at Seething via the 448<sup>th</sup> Collection

Open days 2025: first Sunday of month May to October (1/6, 6/7, 3/8, 7/9, 5/10)

Free entry & parking, delicious home-made cakes & refreshments served 10.00-16.00

## SOUTH NORFOLK MP: BEN GOLDSBOROUGH

Hello everyone,

I'm Ben Goldsborough, your local MP. I always want to hear from you, and I'm here to help. You can contact me any time at [ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ben.goldsborough.mp@parliament.uk) or by calling my constituency office on 01603 570332.

One local issue I know matters to so many of us is rural road safety. That's why I'm launching a review of South Norfolk's highways and byways to find and fix the places that put people at risk.

Villages like Seething and Mundham are too often used as cut-throughs from the A146 to the B1132. I've seen drivers racing round blind bends, only to slam the brakes when they meet a cyclist, walker or tractor. It shouldn't take a collision – or even worse, a fatality – before changes are made. I believe that approach is wrong. We should be preventing crashes before they happen.

But I need your help. I want to hear directly from you about the problem spots you know. I've launched a short survey (it takes less than 7 minutes) so you can tell me where improvements are most needed:

👉 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SouthNorfolkRoads>

I'll share what you tell me with Norfolk County Council, who manage our roads, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Minister for the Future of Roads. Your local knowledge is vital to make sure we get the evidence in front of the people who can deliver change.

Together, we can make our roads safer for everyone. Please do get in touch about this or any other issue.

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Seething and Mundham Village Hall is a registered charity (1069051) run by volunteers, with responsibility for maintaining the hall, playing field and play park.

The Village Hall Committee comprises eight trustees: Kevin Kent, Chairman; Jane Donaldson, Treasurer; Jessica Bray, Secretary, and Norma Middlemiss, Bookings Clerk, with trustees Ian Hawthorn, James Crickmore, Simon Key & Glen Steward. Wendy Whiting as guest/Housekeeper.