

Seething & Mundham Newsletter



We share what's going on in the village through this quarterly newsletter and on our new village hall website: www.seethingvillagehall@wixsite.com/home

If you would like to know more please contact:

Jessica – jessicadawnbray@icloud.com

or Norma – norma.middlemiss@gmail.com

SEETHING AND MUNDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Norma Middlemiss

Hopefully this newsletter will be delivered in better weather than we have been having, with Spring bulbs pushing their way through the mud. If not don't despair there will be a wide range of activities taking place at the Village Hall this Spring. A chance to meet up with friends and neighbours, improving our health and vocal cords. Remember that the hall is an ideal place to hold a birthday party for your child, with plenty of room to run around and the outdoor children's playground which is very popular on sunny days. Please help us to continue this service by using your village hall as much as possible, from the wide range of activities to the one off events.

For more information on hiring the hall and charges please contact Norma at norma.middlemiss@gmail.com phone 01508550398 or WhatsApp 07876444479

Now we are 8!

We are pleased to welcome 2 new trustees, Glen Steward and Simon Key from Seething and Mundham Parish Council respectively.

EASTER BINGO

Please support the village hall and come along on **Saturday 12th April**
doors open at 6.30 pm, eyes down at 7.30 pm
donations for prizes and raffle gratefully received, Keith has kindly said that these can be left at
village store

COMMUNITY LUNCH

First Tuesday of the month @ the Village Hall 12-2pm. (March 4th, April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd)

All welcome, no need to book, just turn up and pay £5 per person for a delicious bowl of home made soup, a fresh roll, home baked cake and a cuppa. An informal opportunity to meet and natter over lunch.

All proceeds split between the parish churches.

This lovely event is only made possible by a team of wonderful volunteers who make soup, bake cakes and make it happen on the day.

New members always welcome. Please speak to Morna if you are interested or even mildly curious on 01508 558589.

COMMUNITY CAFE

Drop in anytime between 2 pm and 4pm for cake and a drink, costing £2, usually the third Wednesday of the month. Meet old friends and make new ones.

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

Dates: 19th March, 23rd April, 21st May, 18th June.

NEW ROOF- update

Jane Donaldson

We are delighted to say that our efforts to raise funds for the roof replacement have met with much success since our last newsletter. Of the organizations approached seven have now responded positively and have either donated or pledged funds. With the addition of the proceeds of the Xmas Bingo and a donation from the Community Lunch plus a generous gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, we are very near reaching the target. Thank you. We are really so grateful to all of you who have supported us in this campaign.

MUNDHAM AND SEETHING BOWLS CLUB

Judy Baldwin

On behalf of the bowls club I would like to thank everyone who donated prizes for our Christmas bingo. It was very much appreciated. It was a very successful evening and we raised £1,306 for club funds which will help us throughout the next season.

It does not seem possible but by the time you read this newsletter we will almost be ready to start the 2025 season. Our league games start at the end of April this year and we will be opening the green about the 20th of April, weather permitting. It is difficult to give an exact date at this time.

We meet on the green Sunday mornings at 9.45am. If you would like to come along and see us you would be made very welcome, we are always happy to have new members.

For more information contact Club Secretary Judy Baldwin via email

Judy.baldwin027@gmail.com or phone 01508 520019

SEETHING AND MUNDHAM CHURCHES

Ann Garnham

We have had some well attended services over the past two months at Seething and the Harvest Thanks giving also at Mundham.

The Loddon Brass Band came to Seething for the Carol Service which was most enjoyable and made us all feel very festive

Our profile for a new vicar has been submitted to the Bishop of Thetford and the Archdeacon Steven Betts so the post will be advertised soon if this is accepted.

While the weather is so cold most of the services are held in Brooke Church as they have heating.

The Easter Service will be held in Brooke on April 20th Holy Communion at 10-30am

The next service in Seething will be on Palm Sunday which is April 13th at 10 -30 am.

Mundham 's next service will be April 27th at 10-30am.

A list of all the services can be found on the Brooke Benefice website or on the church notice boards.

We hope to have a fund raising event during the Summer more news of this will follow in the next newsletter.

Message from Hazel Todd, Woodton:

It is with great sadness that on returning to my parents grave (Dot & Kipper Kent) in Seething churchyard, to remove Christmas items, I noted that one of items, a gift from their friend, was not there, I am sorry to say this is second year running that an item has been taken.

SEETHING PARISH COUNCIL

Rob Stockdale

East Pye Solar Project

Seething Parish Council felt it was important to seek the views of parishioners on this highly significant development before responding, and in November we distributed a questionnaire and information sheet to all 165 local residents. This followed the presentation meeting by the company at the Village Hall on 8th November.

The questionnaire offered four alternatives: support the proposal, require changes to support the proposal, reject the proposal, require more information. The returns were low in numbers (only 36) but showed a roughly equal response to the four options. 31%, 22%, 22%, 25% respectively. While the modest response seems to indicate some apathy it might also be seen as a lack of the hostility that some authorities are assuming is the case.

In any event Seething PC have submitted a response to the project which broadly fits the 'require changes to support' category. Crucially we recognise that regional and national actions are urgently required to end our reliance on fossil fuels and become more energy independent, as well as address the climate emergency. Following from that, ground mounted solar PV is a necessary part of that strategy being relatively low cost and quick to install. However, in order to be acceptable to local populations, such schemes must be appropriately developed and managed to minimise environmental impact. It is the view of Seething PC that by accepting the necessity for such a scheme, and then lobbying hard to achieve these mitigations, we will benefit more than by simply saying no, as that will probably allow the development to occur unmitigated. Our response includes the following main reservations:

1. Data should be available proving the benefit of the carbon gains (including ongoing through its proposed lifespan) and would justify the loss of agricultural productivity.
2. The visual impact needs to be reduced with a maximum height well below the 4.5m proposed and any fencing should be inside the perimeter with effective natural screening (trees/hedges) outside.
3. Critically, ecological impact on native species must be minimised, wildlife corridors kept open, and biodiversity supported.

Other important points, as well as a more detailed summary of the above, are available on our Seething Parish Council website <https://parishcouncil.wixsite.com/seethingpc>

FRiENDS OF SEETHiNG CHURCH

Caroline Egerton

After a very successful Christmas Fair when we made over one thousand pounds, things quietened down. However we hope to hold a Strawberry Tea at the end of May, beginning of June. You will get a blue leaflet nearer the time. Otherwise we are still pursuing our application for Charitable Status and hope to submit the paperwork to the Charities Commission within the next few weeks. After that the hard work begins to raise the money for the work that needs to be done.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Subject to change, for all enquiries call 01603 22303

Thwaite Village Sign. 14.00 ——14.20

Upton Pine Mundham Common. 14.35——14.55.

Seething, Mill Lane pillar box. 15.00——15.30

Seething Post Office. 15.35——16.35

Kirstead, top of Green Man lane. 16.45——17.05

Dates: 17 March, 14 April, 12 May, 09 June 2025

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Rob Stockdale

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

The Seething and Mundham team numbers seven volunteers and operates from three approved sites in and around Seething. We try and field weekly sessions for most of the year but a few extra in the summer as it's a bit more pleasant!

A great way to get out, have a bit of social, and benefit the community. We encounter plenty of support from drivers, as well as other more vulnerable road users, which makes it all the more rewarding. For more info, or to find out about volunteering, please contact the local co-ordinator robstockdale@btinternet.com.

WILDING SEETHING

Jessica Bray

The Wilding Seething Group celebrated its first anniversary in February. We currently number 14 enthusiastic nature-loving volunteers who want to work with, and encourage nature in Seething.

Over the last year, working with Seething PC we have taken over the management of the Church Triangle meadow, producing a fabulous hay crop that is being enjoyed this winter by ponies in the village. Cutting the meadow with a scythe and lifting all cuttings has accentuated the ridge and furrow nature of this heritage meadow. Unfortunately, our attempts to introduce Yellow Rattle (a native annual wildflower that suppresses coarse grass vigour thereby promoting growth of native wildflower species and fine grasses) in the meadow were of rather limited success: we will try again this year with new seed that has been “over-wintered”.

We have cleared goat willow, tidied the hedge and dredged from the Little Mere at the south end of the village which has now been “opened” as an extensive body of water with enormous ecological potential. We have similarly dredged the Church Triangle Pond removing ironwork, carpet alongside large quantities of leaf litter, silt and fallen boughs. The vista from the churchyard gate looking east to the pond is hugely improved. Rather than attempt to re-plant these ponds, (and following NWT advice) we will rely upon existing native seedbeds to repopulate the ponds with native flora and fauna. As we hoped, grass is now shooting through silt and clay that was dredged from the pond and by spring and summer the banks should be much greener.

We will shortly be creating a hibernaculum on the west hedge-side of the meadow with the wood reclaimed from the church pond: this will provide further habitat opportunity for invertebrates, amphibians and small mammals. We are looking forward to another hay crop this year, sequentially cutting the meadow with the intention of encouraging different species of wild flowers throughout the season. The footpath and church car parking areas will be cut, but we would prefer to avoid walking on the growing wildflower areas. Bird nesting will start in March and from then until September, we shall avoid hedge and tree work: please consider this in your own gardens.

Seething is a village of multiple ponds, mature trees, areas of meadow and historical orchard, and these features likely exist in many of the gardens and hedgerows of the village. From an ecological perspective, it is essential that these areas interlink via wildlife corridors and consequently, throughout this year we are keen to create a village-map illustrating these assets.

If you are curious, would like to get involved, or share information about your own gardens and wildlife areas, please contact jessicadawnbray@icloud.com

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Patricia Everson

With the Anniversary of end of WWII this year I thought some of you might find it of interest to hear a little of what was like in our villages.

I was born in one of the new red council houses down Mill Lane in 1934, we had no electricity water from a well for 8 houses heating and cooking was by coal fire or oil stove and oven in the wall. No bathroom and outside toilet built into house plus another small room with a copper that used coal or wood for washing. Baths in tin bath in front of fire! I started age 5 at Seething School in September 1939 just around the same time as WWII started. Early in the war we had to take our gas masks everywhere and did drills at school, no bomb shelters had to get under your desk in those days you had your own desk where you sat most of the day, no talking! the cane sat on Head teachers desk. We had Lbs and ounces- Pounds, shillings and pence- Times tables and the Alphabet, Dictation, taught to knit, sewing, had P.E. There was an open fire in the main room and a potbellied stove in infants, outside toilets with wooden seats over buckets and cold water to wash your hands. Shortage of paper when you started school you had a small blackboard and chalk plus small shells for sums! We had evacuees from London and a full school in those days. Children were given time off to pick ripe fruit at a Fruit farm due to lack of pickers with so many working away or in forces, we also picked Rose hips to make Rose Hip syrup , picked up acorns for pig feed. We had the 'Nit' Nurse who checked our weight and health Cod liver oil and malt if needed. The windows had black tape over to try to stop injuries from glass during bomb raids. You had blackout, air raids searchlights swept the sky during a raid, guns firing, saw red glow in sky as Norwich burned. Very few people had cars and petrol was rationed we played games on the road! At home no phones- people wrote letters to keep in touch, and telegrams for urgent contacts but it was a big worry if you had someone away in the Forces if you saw them coming down the road., my Father was away in the RAF. Just a battery radio it was used mainly for the news or a wind up gramophone for music records. We helped by getting some fallen boughs or twigs to light the fire, worked in the garden and allotment where Mum was growing vegetables.. Gathered blackberries, had cream off milk in jar or bottle and shook it for ages to make butter. Mum bottled fruit, remember no electricity so meat safe with mesh to keep the flies out, a pail of water in the pantry if you wanted a drink. Milk came straight from the farm to your door and kept in your jugs. We had two shops, a butchers, bread, coal and paraffin was all delivered. There were bus services to Norwich for those who worked or attended high school but you mostly walked or if you were lucky rode a bike to go to work or school. Later in 1943 the Americans arrived at the newly built airfield around 3,000 men and the huge B24 Aircraft , this made a big impact in the local villages, they helped local fund raising concerts at the school and Mundham chapel. They gave parties for local schools, held dances on the base.

SEETHING AND MUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vicky MacKenzie

Hello everyone!

Since our last update for the village newsletter, we have had Christmas and although it seems a long time ago, I cannot write this message without talking a little about it.

We were so proud of our children when they once again put on their Christmas performances; two by our Key Stage One children (aged 4-7) and two by our Key Stage Two children (aged 7-11). Our staff worked so hard to help the children to shine, and shine they did! We had beautiful singing, wonderful narrating, awesome acting and more. The Key Stage One performance was a more traditional nativity story, whilst the Key Stage Two children treated us to a very funny performance about a grumpy headteacher (NOT based on anyone we know) who had forgotten how to enjoy Christmas!

In December, we also had a fascinating visit from local wildlife photographer, Harry Read. He shared some amazing stories about the places he has been and animals he has photographed, and he inspired us with his beautiful photographs. The brown bears were a particular highlight.

The beginning of this year has been as fun as always, despite so many children and staff fighting these horrible winter colds and viruses. I have just been out to visit our children in the Forest School area where they braved the rain and wind to make dens, whittle wood, swing on the ropes, dig in the mud and spend time problem solving and socializing with their friends. They were so cheerful – what resilience!

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 \(seethingprimary.org\)](http://Welcome to Seething and Mundham Primary School (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).

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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.