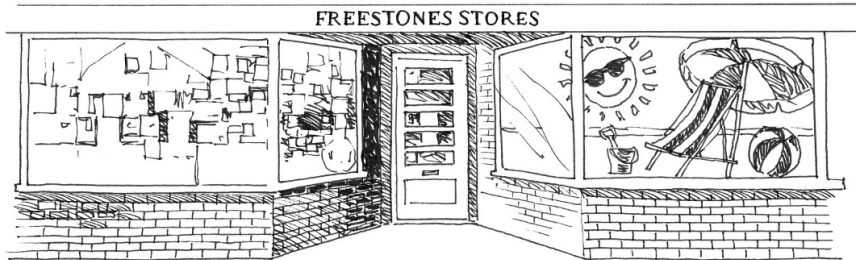


# Seething & Mundham Newsletter



*Summer 2025*

We share what's going on in the village through this quarterly newsletter and on our new 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**

A big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, who go out in all weathers to deliver this newsletter. If anyone out there would like to lighten the load in Seething or Mundham please contact me as per information below.

As you are probably aware by now we have reached our fundraising target for roof renovation and so we are now looking forward to our local contractor Gray & Jarrett undertaking the work in June, lets hope the weather holds!

With the wonderful summer weather we are experiencing it's an ideal opportunity to book your children's party at the hall. There is plenty of space for children to run around both inside and outside, including the children's playground. Parking is free if you are using the hall or playground.

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

First Tuesday of the month @ the Village Hall 12-2pm. June 3rd, July 1<sup>st</sup>, taking a well earned break in August, then September 2nd.

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. June 18<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, resting in August, then September 16th.

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.

## MUNDHAM AND SEETHING BOWLS CLUB

**Judy Baldwin**

The bowling green opened for the 2025 season on the last weekend in April and for the first week we had some wonderful weather. Things soon changed and we have had some cold evenings but hopefully the weather is improving. The green is looking good and we have made quite a good start to the season by winning three out of our first four games.

We are pleased to have welcomed two new players and would be happy to see some more new faces on the green.

The green is always open on a Sunday morning from 9.45am, so if you would like to come and give us a look you would be very welcome.

For more information contact Club Secretary Judy Baldwin via email

Judy.baldwin027@gmail.com or phone 01508 520019

## 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

# SEETHING PARISH COUNCIL

Phillip Garnham

A Victory for Common Sense—But the Fight May Not Be Over

After years of disruption and strong objection, residents in Seething, Mundham and Thwaite have finally been heard. **Norfolk County Council's Planning Committee has refused retrospective permission for the industrial waste lagoons off Ugate Road.**

These pits—holding the equivalent of 11 Olympic swimming pools of food and drink waste—have made everyday life a misery. We've endured floodlights through the night, relentless noise, and an unbearable stench. Despite council officers recommending approval (again), the committee listened. The vote was tied 4–4 until the Chairman, William Nunn, cast the deciding vote against the plans. His words: "I vote with a clean heart. I think it was the right thing to support the community to try to prevent what I think is a dreadful thing."

This is a significant victory for our villages—but we must stay alert. Officers warned that White Recycling Ltd may still attempt to claim 'established lawful use', which could make enforcement difficult. And indeed, this has since been confirmed that this will be their intention. For now, we can take heart. This decision sends a clear message: industrial-scale waste operations have no place in our rural communities without proper planning, scrutiny, and respect for the people who live here. Thank you to every resident, councillor and parish who stood up and spoke out. This isn't over, but it's a step in the right direction—and proof that when we work together, we can make a difference.

Dates of Seething PC meetings are published on the noticeboard outside Keith's Freestones Stores and on our website <https://parishcouncil.wixsite.com/seethingpc> where the Agendas and Minutes of past meetings are available.

## SPEED SIGN

The speed sign (or VAS, Vehicle Activated Sign) has been a familiar sight around the village for years now and is maintained by a team of ten volunteers organised by Jim Dunlop. The sign was installed in 2019 in a partnership initiative between our own Parish Council, the manufacturers Westcotec, and the Highways Authority. While the degree of its effectiveness is debatable, it can certainly help in ongoing efforts to educate drivers as to the anti-social nature of excess speed. The sign is relocated monthly (as part of the original criteria for installation) but the team manning this has been reduced slightly since its formation and we could do with another couple of volunteers. It takes less than an hour, approximately once a year, to be part of the rota.

Please contact Jim at [jjldunlop@googlemail.com](mailto:jjldunlop@googlemail.com), or [robstockdale@btinternet.com](mailto:robstockdale@btinternet.com)

# SEETHING AND MUNDHAM CHURCHES

## Ann Garnham

I expect by now many of you will have heard about the sad passing of Lynn, who had been our Priest in Charge for almost a decade. Lynn left the Brooke Benefice in February last year to take her new post as Vicar of Hethersett with Great Melton and Little Melton. Unfortunately not long after she became unwell but was still able to take services. Lynn's funeral service will take place at Wymondham Abbey on May 29th at 2-00pm.

Services are still being held regularly at Brooke each week but now the days are getting warmer we will be using the other churches in the Benefice as well. Look on the Church Notice Boards or Brooke Benefice website for times etc. We are still advertising for an Incumbent but as yet we have not had any applicants.

Spring has seen an abundance of snowdrops primroses and now bluebells in the churchyards. We look forward to seeing what comes next.

## OPEN GARDEN

The Garden of Mere Cottage the home of Roy and Ann Garnham will be open on Sunday June 22nd 10-00am- 5-00pm in aid of Seething and Mundham Churches. Any offers of help or donations of cakes would be much appreciated.

# FRIENDS OF SEETHING CHURCH

## Caroline Egerton

After a very successful Christmas Fair when we made over one thousand pounds, Since the last Newsletter the Friends have been grappling with the bureaucracy connected with the application process to become a Registered Charity. Thanks to Gary Tuson, who has produced a template for us, we now need to have a meeting after which we will submit our application to the Charity Commission and after that, we are told, it will take a relatively short time.

For the immediate future, we are holding our annual **Strawberry Tea on 7 June** in the Church from 3-5 p.m. The blue leaflet should be with you any time now and you may already have seen the posters around the village. It was good fun last year so do come along and join us.

Date for your Diary: Our Annual Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. in the Church. We hope to see you there. Have a lovely summer!

# WILDING SEETHING

Jessica Bray & Mike Hudspith

It is pleasing to see a flush of buttercup in the spring sunshine beginning to colour the Church Meadow, which upon closer inspection is harbouring a wealth of different species. Prominent at the southern end toward the war memorial are the furry flowers and seed-heads of meadow foxtail above lush grass despite our unseasonably dry weather. Toward the churchyard, the meadow becomes progressively dryer – more so on the ridges than the furrows - with a predominance of lower growing grasses and (hurrah!) a small population of yellow rattle that is just about to flower. If the spring remains dry, we may have an early start to hay-making, and this year, the plan is to cut from the southern end of the meadow back toward the church where the abundant early grasses near the kissing gate reflect the damper soils. Cutting this area first should encourage flora that flower in July / August to flourish later in the summer. Dredging the church pond produced a large quantity of waterlogged root and tree that has been dried, then used to create a hibernaculum close to the Sycamore, halfway along the School Road hedgerow: this should provide an excellent habitat for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Cutting back the hawthorn adjacent to the pond created abundant “brash” that has been incorporated into a dead-hedge between the five-bar gate into the meadow and the pond. However, the hedge is not as “dead” as it might seem: the coppiced hazel that was used for the uprights to retain the brash have rooted and sprouted! The pond dredgings themselves have begun to green over alongside this hedge, and with the kind assistance of Roy Garnham, we have redistributed the clay mound that had been present adjacent to the gate. We have continued to cut the area between the footpath and the churchyard boundary on the School Road side to suppress what has previously been abundant bramble overgrowth. Although this area provides parking when necessary for church services, it is essential that we avoid any cars or other vehicles on the historic ridge and furrow elsewhere in the meadow. The footpath itself has thus far remained closely manicured by footfall rather than needing cutting! We have deliberately left the Broad Mere bank uncut this spring and you may have noticed the Cuckoo flower that has appeared from the natural seed bank, alongside flag iris, water mint and other marginal plants that are perhaps enjoying greater exposure of the waterside edges as the water level has dropped. The Little Mere has proven watertight since excavation, retaining a large volume of water despite our near-drought conditions. Flora and invertebrates are beginning to establish a hold in this new expanse of water that has also been “rediscovered” by ducks and moorhens. Finally; a date for your diary. Wilding Seething group will join the **South Yare Wildlife Group Open Gardens event on 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Parking will be at the Village Hall – not the Church Meadow – with visitors being able to enjoy the meadow (and even hay-making) from the footpath and then explore our Meres.

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

Patricia Everson

Through the years I have heard from many new residents of our villages that they think it is lovely living here but it would have been great to have a village pub. So thought some might like to hear about 'our' two village pubs that are now private houses.

In Seething the first known mention of a public house was in 1789 in some old directories and one map it was called the Garden House on the road to Brooke. Jesse Garrard was the Landlord in 1851 and there was painted sign facing Brooke it had a dark Green Tree laden with bright Red Cherry's ( there was a large orchard with some cherry trees beside the pub).

Out the back was a large Bowling Alley and in the early 1800's Jesse Garrard & William Harry Thrower produced a paper in the tap room it was a single sheet folded with a 1 1/2d stamp! Jesse Garrard was believed to have been landlord for over 50 years.

In 1928 there was a new sign but with no cherry tree just then name and in that year Landlord Albert Sharman put up a new straw capping on. He was the landlord through WWII and often the American service men would come on their bikes, pubs were vital social areas in a village where traditional pub games were popular with many card games. Darts, dominoes and dice games such as Pokey Die! On special occasions with a large crowd and a sing song they would offer a pint and persuade mainly Mr J Baldwin and Mr A Forder to sing their family traditional songs that had been passed down verbally through the years, they had a main story and a chorus that all joined in so sad these kind of things no longer happen now.

My dad was the youngest of 16 and as my granny was living in part of Well cottage often a family would come to visit from around the country usually from area the girls had gone away to 'into service' and they ended up getting married there. The highlight was when we all walked together to the Cherry Tree and the children could sit outside with a bag of crisps and some lemonade. The last landlord was Ronald Appleton and it was closed in July 1971.

Mundham Garden House the first known mention was in 1789 it was a Free House until 1837 when Steward and Paterson's took it over and much later by the Watney Mann Brewery'. This popular pup had many landlords through the years and during WWII the Landlord was Frank Garrard and often some 'Yanks' would come across the fields from their airbase with no pass and sometimes young boys would be hanging around outside hoping for some gum!

If they saw the MP's coming they would shout through the door "The snowdrops are coming" so the landlord would let the airmen into his home until they had left, and the boys might then get some gum! ('Snowdrops' name due to the white tops on their helmets).

Much later as well as the usual pub games they had men and women's dart teams, pool teams plus many special occasions some with fancy dress. They sponsored the local football teams and built a very popular bowling green by the side of the pub. But sadly it closed in 1996 and it is now also a private house. The loss of the bowling green was keenly felt and after playing at Hales the Mundham and Seething Bowling Club at last they were able to play on brand new bowling green built with the help of some sponsorship by the Lottery out the back of Seething and Mundham Village Hall which is our main social centre.

# SEETHING AND MUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vicky MacKenzie

Hello everyone!

We've had an exciting few weeks filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit. From magical book-inspired classrooms to thought provoking assemblies and an uplifting choir performance, our school is buzzing with energy and enthusiasm.

Here's a look at some of the recent events:

## World Book Day

This year's World Book Day was an unforgettable experience for all! Our classrooms became enchanted places, with book characters teaching and inspiring our students, from Little Red Riding Hood to Fantastic Mr Fox! In addition, parents were invited to visit for a Reading Festival, where they shared books with children and learned more about the teaching of reading. We also had a dance workshop inspired by Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, where students explored the joy of movement, creativity, and teamwork through fun dance routines.

## School Council Leadership: Promoting Safety and Sustainability

Our School Council has been busy leading important assemblies focused on safer parking around the school and sustainability initiatives. The children are learning how to care for their environment, and we are so proud of their leadership in these crucial areas. We will always continue to teach children about this to help make our community as safe as possible for everyone.

## Kestrel Class: Discovering Anglo-Saxon Settlements

Kestrel Class has been deep-diving into history, learning all about Anglo-Saxon settlements. They had an exciting field trip to explore wattle and daub construction in our local area, guided by our amazing Forest School leaders. It was an experience that brought history to life!

## Choir Performance at CASMA 2025

A huge congratulations to our school choir who performed beautifully at the CASMA 2025 concert at St Peter Mancroft Church. Their harmonies filled the church, and we couldn't be more proud of their hard work and dedication.

## Our School Therapy Dog

We are thrilled to share with the community that our school therapy dog, Elke is now visiting weekly! This wonderful addition to our school is already making a difference in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for our students. She is helping children with emotional support and providing a calming presence in the school.

## Easter Assembly: A Celebration of Learning

Our Easter assembly at church was a heartwarming event, with all the children participating in performances. Some shared their learning, while others sang or read beautiful poetry. It was a wonderful way to come together as a school community and celebrate the season.

## Harriers Class Trip to Bridewell Museum

Harriers Class had an exciting trip to the Bridewell Museum, where they learned all about the life and impact of Florence Nightingale. The children gained a deeper understanding of her pioneering work in healthcare, bringing history to life in a meaningful way.

## World Art Day: Collaboration and Nature

On World Art Day, our students worked on themes of collaboration and nature. They explored origami, creating beautiful paper designs, and took inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy's natural art made with stones and leaves. The day was full of creativity and teamwork, producing some truly stunning artwork.

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://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).

## MUNDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At the recent gathering of the Council, there was lengthy discussion about funding for the replacement roof for the Village Hall. The fund appears to have nearly reached its target and Mundham Council are pleased to be able to pledge £500 towards the cost with a further yearly contribution of £80 towards the upkeep. It was agreed that the Hall is a valuable asset to our villages and as such needs to be cherished.

The Council continues to meet bi monthly at the Village Hall and parishioners are welcome to attend. Recent discussions have covered the ongoing problem of the Lagoons at Seething Airfield, one which seems to drag on with little progress. White's Recycling continue to operate, apparently within their rights, despite not having planning permission. Councillor Tim Hirst continues to ferret out information from the Planning Department with little response. In other news, all Councils that expressed interest were given a portrait of the King to celebrate his Coronation. We hope to put this up somewhere for everyone to enjoy.

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)

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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.