



Sedgeford Village News

May/June 2026

Edited and prepared for printing by:

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Parish Council

The **Mobile Post Office** calls at the **VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK** on **MONDAYS, TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 14.15 – 14.45**. Matt & Suzi would be delighted to welcome all on board! They provide all postal services for Royal Mail and Parcelforce including Drop 'n' go; Cash withdrawals; Cash deposits for personal or business accounts; Change giving for businesses; Cheque deposits; Bill payments; Phone top ups; Balance checks for all high street banks; Redeem the Government's energy coupons. Withdraw pensions. Also on board, they have a great selection of stationery, cards, sweet treats, bakery goods and much more, all able to be pre-ordered. They also offer dry cleaning services. **USE IT OR LOSE IT!!** Occasionally there may be a reason why the van does not arrive. If you are waiting for the van and it is late, please ring Massingham Post Office on 01485 520272 to speak to the store or contact Matt directly on 07814554344. This number is also available on the noticeboards outside the Village Hall. **Follow on Facebook & Instagram and leave a review on Google.**

At the Annual Parish Council meeting on 20th May, Sue Crump was re-elected as Chair and John Ward as Vice Chair. Meeting dates for 2027 were agreed. A set of Parish Council policies, procedures and forms were reviewed and adopted. These appear on the Parish Council website, <https://sedgefordparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>.

June Meeting. The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Wednesday 17th June** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The agenda and papers will be on the noticeboard and on the Parish Council website <https://sedgefordparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/> a week beforehand. Our new County Councillor, Julie Costley, has been invited to this meeting and plans to come along. We have also invited the local Police Liaison Officer, as the issue of speeding will be on our agenda. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and to contribute during the public session.
Sue Crump, Chair. Roger Quick, Clerk.

Sedgeford Village Hall News June 2026

Our next event is on **Saturday 18th July**. We have an outdoor theatre production on the field with a play based on the Pickwick Papers, by Rain or Shine who performed last year. You can now reserve your tickets by paying your £18 for adults and £8 for children to Sedgeford Village Hall and Recreation Ground account 40519138 code 20-46-65 please use your name as a reference. We hope for a nice warm summers evening and it will be another great night. This is a bring your own drinks and refreshments night however there will be a licenced bar on site as well as the local Pizza van which was very popular last year. There will be the usual raffle so bring a little cash with you.

We have a play booked for the **17th October** called "George and the Drag Queen" which we look forward to. **Saturday 5th December** A Christmas Party night with the return of two acts a folk Duo and Graham McGrotty a singer and guitar player. More details on this will follow

Details of the above events will be posted in the newsletter and online.

If you have ideas of events that could be held at the hall to raise money for its upkeep and running, please get in touch. The committee are also discussing what other facilities we could add that would make good use of the field and space we have. The biggest stumbling blocks are cost these days but if you have any ideas again, let us know. Occasionally grants are available and if we have projects ready to go then we could apply. We recently received £500 from the Tesco token scheme, and we are using this for a new picnic bench for the play area which will have an activity top for children to play with. This should be in place in early June.

John Ward Chair

07545 377507 john.ward53@outlook.com

Women's Friendship Group

On Wednesday, 13th May we enjoyed a very informative and entertaining talk given by classical singer, Carole Gibb. Carole talked to us about her life as a singer in opera, concerts, churches and synagogues performing everywhere from the great opera houses of Europe to the end of the pier at Folkestone. Her professional life was nothing if not varied.

Carole began singing at a very early age, in fact she can't remember a time when she didn't sing. After her school days were over, she was determined, despite parental disapproval, to pursue singing as a career. She gained a place at the Royal College of Music and after graduating she was employed at Welsh National Opera as a chorus member and minor soloist. After seven years of relative job security, she took the plunge and launched herself as a freelance artist, a move which took her to many different places often at very short notice. She had to be prepared to sing in French, Italian, German and even occasionally in Russian as well as English. Carole had us all laughing at some of the things that can go wrong even in professional performances. The important thing is not to allow yourself to be embarrassed or you will make your audience embarrassed. Most people don't notice mistakes if you look confident, smile and carry on. There was time for a lively question and answer session before we enjoyed some tasty refreshments provided by Avril and Carol.

Next month's meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10th at 7:30 and is titled "Conservation today for Wildlife Tomorrow" and is about the Watatunga Wildlife Reserve near Downham Market .

For further information please contact Helen Cummings trevnhele@btinternet.com 07762174525 or Sally Ward sallyward1954@hotmail.com 01485 570504.

The Arts Society North West Norfolk

Our next illustrated talk, presented by Mike Higginbottom on Monday 8th June at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00pm, is entitled *Temples of Sanitation*. A look at the extraordinary engineering and decorated buildings created in the 19th century to deal with sewage.

Come and join our friendly society. Membership has many benefits besides illustrated talks. For more information visit www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk or ring Gerald Pepper on 07831 586940.

Joana Jones

What's On at the King William

Quiz Night Every Monday from 7:30pm

June

Friday 19th - Comedy Night – 7:30pm (doors 7pm)

Sunday 21st - Father's Day lunch (food served 12-6:30pm) booking essential

July

Saturday 11th – Charity Bingo – Eyes down 7pm

Sunday 26th – Live Music in the garden (weather permitting) with Goz Unplugged – 3pm

August

Tuesday 4th & Thursday 6th – Childrens' Craft Mornings – 10am-2pm

Sunday 23rd – Live Music in the Garden (weather permitting) with The Fallen – 3pm

Newsletter

I have been Editor of the newsletter for some time and wondered if anyone in the village would be interested in taking this on.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please give me a ring on 01485 579002/07747126079.

Letter from Sri Lanka No 17

"THE SKY IS SHOUTING!" the young boy solemnly announced as the crashing thunder reverberated all around, the lightening was giving the impression of being a strobe light in a disco and the rain was coming down in biblical proportions. We are now in the pre-monsoon season, water levels in the rivers are already rising and the sluice gates on the reservoirs are being opened on a regular basis. 200mm falls very quickly! Another more unusual site to visit is **Richmond Castle** an imposing Edwardian mansion set in 42 acres of land. It sits on top of a hill on the south bank of the River Kalu on the west coast of the island and has spectacular views across the countryside. It was built by (take a deep breath) Pakikara Mudali Nanayakkara Rajawasala Appuhamilage Don Arthur de Silva Wijesinghe Sriwardena.

Sriwardena was a wealthy landowner, friends with the British royal family, he studied in Britain, and on completion of his studies he was created Mudaliyar by the King and returned to what was then Ceylon to take up his position. Mudaliyar was a Colonial title for a Headman. He drew up plans for a grand house and building materials were brought in from overseas, floor tiles & marble from Italy, Burmese teak for the main staircase, an iron spiral staircase from England and the windows were Scottish glass.

The two storey castle was completed in 1910 in time for Sriwardena's wedding. Railway track was laid to transport the representatives of King George V and the social elite of Colombo from Kalutara on a royal train.

Sadly they never had the longed for son and heir and separated after more than 30 years together.

Sriwardena bequeathed the mansion to the government to be used as a boys home. The formal gardens still exist, a forlorn statue of a woman looks away from the house, while statues of two small children, one of whom is a boy look towards the house.

The main building is open to the public for a small fee and the outbuildings are still lived in by boys who are orphaned.



EIGHT GARDENS TO EXPLORE

2.00pm - 5.30pm

SATURDAY 20th JUNE

*£7.50 entry fee permits entry to **ALL** gardens*

**CREAM TEAS - PIMMS BAR
RAFFLE - CAKE STALL - PLANT STALL**

Parking and Tickets at Village Hall and Church

In aid of All Saints Church Stanhoe

Kindly sponsored by

Bedfords

ESTABLISHED 1966

CHURCH NEWS

CONTACT Rev'd Peter Cook, Docking Rectory 01485 517157

At the end of the month of June, on the 29th June in fact, the Church sets aside a festival day for two saints together. On that day we remember both Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

Saint Peter was one of Jesus' first disciples. It says in the gospels – the books of the Bible that tell the story of Jesus' life – that Jesus was walking one day along the beach by the Sea of Galilee and he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew, working away by their boat. We are told that Jesus called out to the two brothers saying, "Leave your nets and come, follow me instead." The two brothers heard his words and immediately, they got up and followed him. Now, Peter had plenty of failings. He could be very emotional, fiery even, and he would often open his mouth and speak before he'd fully engaged his brain. But, he was a loyal follower and Jesus even called him the rock on which his Church would be built.

Saint Paul, on the other hand, was a later convert to Christianity. In fact he first started off persecuting Christians, before having a blinding vision of Jesus as he was travelling on the road to Damascus, intent on smashing Christianity in Syria. After that vision he was a changed man. He went from being a persecutor of Christians to becoming one of the most important Christian missionaries – spreading his new-found faith to people living in countries all around the Mediterranean Sea.

Both Peter and Paul were leaders of the early Church and their festival day has become a day when Churches ordain people to the priesthood. It has become a day associated with vocation and service. Two words - and two ideas - that are still batted about, but that seem, too often, to have become devalued in our society today. They are notions that we would do well to recover and rehabilitate. For vocation usually leads on to service – and without a sense of service our society risks becoming ever more selfish, inward looking and lacking in any sense of community and care.

We live in a nation that seems to be increasingly polarised and divided. Too often on social media platforms, people seek to promote their ideas in a combative manner, against the views held by others. We look for echo chambers where all we get to hear are ideas similar to our own. This, of course, just leads to a world where people become increasingly intolerant of different opinions and dismissive of those who hold them. If we are ever to bridge the growing divides in our society then, we will need to start looking beyond self – beyond our own ideas, opinions and wants. The thought of trying to heal international or even national divides may well seem to be way too big a project for any of us to get to grips with. But we can make a difference by getting involved in attempts to build a sense of community where we are and to offer our efforts in service to our neighbours.

That's how Peter and Paul attempted to live – building small communities as they travelled: communities that grew and went on to nurture further communities around them. We all have our own vocations, or callings. We all have our own gifts, talents and abilities. We are all able to serve our communities in one way or another and there are always groups and institutions crying out for help. So, what might your calling be?

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION

Jennifer Parkinson

Barnaby McCoy

Tilli-Evelyn McCoy

Alexander Willis

MARRIAGES

~ ~ ~

R.I.P.

Steven Lowe

BIRCHAM ~ SHANTY SINGALONG WITH THE CASTAWAY CREW

Sat 6th June - Bircham Church – Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start
Come join the all-female Castaway Crew for a lively evening of shanties!

Tea, Coffee and Soft Drinks available at half time

Feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks

Entry Free – Donations Welcome

STANHOE OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 20th June ~ from 2pm until 5:30pm

Eight Gardens to Explore

Cream Teas ~ Raffle ~ Pimms Bar ~ Cake Stall ~ Plant Stall

Parking and Tickets available at both the Church and the Village Hall

Entry £7.50

SERVICES IN JUNE 2026 & JULY 2026

SUN 7th JUNE

09:30am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	FRING	Holy Communion	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	DOCKING	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
4:00pm	BIRCHAM NEWTON	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook
6:00pm	STANHOE	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook

WED 10th JUNE

10:00am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
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SUN 14th JUNE

09:30am	BIRCHAM	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	SEDFEFORD	Morning Prayer	Led by the Congregation
09:30am	FRING	Morning Prayer	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	DOCKING	Family Communion	Led by Peter Cook

SUN 21st JUNE

09:30am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	FRING	Holy Communion	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	STANHOE	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
4:00pm	DOCKING	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook
6:00pm	BIRCHAM	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook

WED 24th JUNE

10:00am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
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SUN 28th JUNE

09:30am	BIRCHAM	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	FRING	Morning Prayer	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	DOCKING	Family Service	Led by Peter Cook
6:00pm	SEDFEFORD	Pet Service	Led by Peter Cook

SUN 5th JULY

09:30am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	FRING	Holy Communion	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	DOCKING	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
4:00pm	BIRCHAM NEWTON	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook
6:00pm	STANHOE	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook

WED 8th JULY

10:00am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
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SUN 12th JULY

09:30am	BIRCHAM	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	SEDFEFORD	Morning Prayer	Led by the Congregation
09:30am	FRING	Morning Prayer	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	DOCKING	Family Communion	Led by Peter Cook

SUN 19th JULY

09:30am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	FRING	Holy Communion	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	STANHOE	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
4:00pm	DOCKING	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook
6:00pm	BIRCHAM	Evening Prayer	Led by Peter Cook

WED 22nd JULY

10:00am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
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SUN 26th JULY

09:30am	BIRCHAM	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	FRING	Morning Prayer	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	SEDFEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook