



Sedgeford Village News

September/October 2026

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Sedgeford Village Hall News

We welcome a group at the end of the month from the British Caravan Club. They will be with us from the 30th September through to the 5th October. I know you will, but please respect the space they have and make sure your dogs do not stray into their site. We have one final rally with a returning group towards the end of October.

On Saturday 5th December we will be holding 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 found in the newsletter and online. sedgefordvillagehall.co.uk

The committee are still considering what could be added to the playing field for the enjoyment of other groups of people. Committee members would welcome your views on a Pétanque rink being added with a shelter. Many years ago, there was a group who played at the King William on a Sunday morning. If there is enough interest the committee will investigate final costings. We understand that there is a rink in Heacham, and we are told it is very popular. If this would interest you and your friends let us know.

If you have other ideas as to how we can develop the field, please tell us so costs etc can be investigated and funding sourced.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A VILLAGE HALL EVENT The hall has been hired for a charity Music night on Friday 30th October. There will be music from Jeff Gallant and a fish and chip supper, all for £14. Bring your own drinks, with tea and coffee available for a small donation. To purchase tickets for this event contact 07595004850. Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start.

John Ward

Chair

07545 377507 john.ward53@outlook.com

Sedgeford Church

Wall paintings

Work is still continuing on the Wall paintings at the church and will continue until the middle of October. The church is open during the week from 9.30 am until 5 pm and our Conservator is happy if people want to visit the church during that time. The church is closed on a Saturday and just open for services on a Sunday. Gifts for the Foodbank and Baby Basics is always welcome and can be left in the church during those times.

Harvest Festival

It is our Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October at 9.30 am. All are welcome and harvest gifts will go to the Hunstanton Foodbank. If you would like to donate to the foodbank the following items are needed: Breakfast Cereals, tinned fruit (No prunes), tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, tinned vegetables — especially carrots, peas and sweetcorn, tinned potatoes and instant mashed potato, hot and cold tinned meat, tinned soup, pasta and jars of pasta sauce, tins of spaghetti hoops, biscuits, chocolate and sweets, jam and marmalade, long life milk and tea and coffee.

Also, washing up liquid, hand soap, deodorant and shampoo.

Baby Basics

Now that Autumn is approaching it is time to start knitting and sewing and articles such as blankets, baby clothes, nappies etc., are very much needed. Plus, soaps, shampoos etc., for mums and babies. These can all be left in the box just inside the church.

We do appreciate all the help you can give – Thank you.

Sedgeford Village Hall Entertainment

This comedy's not too far off...Saturday 17th October, with George and the Drag Queen.

Join Maddie, George and Usman at the local village fete...George is a bluff, ex-military, and self-appointed mentor to Maddy, who wants to be sure their last event together as St John's Ambulance volunteers goes well before George retires. They're expecting a quiet day, but then, Usman, a drag queen booked to open at the fete, turns up, expecting to use their gazebo as his dressing room. Usman is waiting to find out if his homeland is safe and if so, he must return. He and George know each other from a former, almost unrecognisable life...

Ticket reservations can be paid for online at:

Barclays: (account name - Sedgeford Village), Acc. no: 40519138 - Sort code: 20/46/65 - Tickets are £13.00 adults and gates open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Dave Carter

During the interval, there'll be potential for some additional narrative and in-character action going on. The first half runs to about 1hr 15 mins. Then a 15-30 min interval, and the second half is about 45mins. As a part of this interval opportunity, we're asking Sedgeford Village Hall helps us to promote a biscuit making competition This will be judged in the interval by our queen, Eliana Sultana. It's not compulsory of course, but an alternative way of engaging with you, the audience, and bringing the whole village fete vibe to life.

Women's Friendship Group 2026

Our meeting on the 9th September was titled: 'All about Surnames' and was a talk by Christine Earnshaw. The origin of your surname is a fascinating subject, and different from tracing your family tree, which many people like to do as a hobby. Granting yourself a surname did not occur until the 12th Century. As people became more settled and moved around less, households collected personal possessions, thereby resulting in families wanting to inherit such valuable items. It became necessary therefore to know who was legitimately entitled to inherit the contents of a household. England was the first country in Europe to start hereditary surnames. Most names are traced back to Medieval times, although a lot of French and Jewish names became Anglicised. Many discrepancies occurred where monks registering people's surnames spelt them in a variety of ways. Surnames were based on the following categories: An area (Field, Forest, Bush, Lake). A village, or city (Rutland, Cambridge, Norwich, Terrington). A person's occupation (Weaver, Butcher, Abbot, Freeman). Or based on a person's first name (Simon, Thomas, Richards). Lastly, a surname could be taken based on a nickname (Little, Small, Strange, White).

Christine had taken a few people's surnames and researched their origins. This was fascinating to the person concerned and produced some gasps and laughter! It had clearly taken Christine a lot of time to complete the research and to write up her findings for each individual name given. This was greatly appreciated.

Diana Hallford

The events programme for 2026 is available. Membership remains at just £20 a year or £4 per meeting for visitors. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in Sedgeford Village Hall at 7.30pm. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14th October and the talk will be titled 'From beet to bowl. The story of British Sugar'. This will be an open meeting, so please spread the word!

Please contact Helen Cummings (trevnhele@btinternet.com 07762174525) or: Sally Ward (sallyward1954@hotmail.com 01485 570504) for further information.

Local Library

Do you belong to a Norfolk Library? (Psssst! It's FREE to join!)

Did you know the mobile library comes to Sedgeford every 4 weeks on a Tuesday morning? Goodm

They have all the latest titles and can help you access Borrowbox too - all free!!

Did you know you can borrow / return / order :- books / audio books / dvds from any Norfolk Library - (Hunstanton / Dersingham / Wells / Great Yarmouth / Norwich etc (except Heacham which is an independent one-off library) and return them to any Norfolk Library?

The Mobile Library van is at Goodminns Estate near Sedgeford Church between 10:20 and 10:40 every 4 weeks on a Tuesday.

If you would like to view this information online, visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/mobilelibraries>

CHURCH NEWS

CONTACT Rev'd Peter Cook, Docking Rectory 01485 517157

We are now in the middle of September. The Equinox is fast approaching and there is definitely more than just a hint of Autumn in the air. Although the days are still bright and the sunshine still has quite a bit of warmth in it, it is clear that the year has turned and is now heading into its last few months. September, that month of mists and mellow fruitfulness, is also the month when our schools return and a new academic year begins.

It has been good to be back at the school in Docking. Our children are well served there, by a head teacher and a body of staff who really do care about the children they look after and teach. When I first arrived in the benefice here, we had three schools. Now, we have only one and we should value it, as it serves our communities well and does a good job of socialising our youngsters and getting them ready for the next stage of education in their journey through childhood.

I go into our school every week, on a Monday. And we start the week with what was once called an assembly, but that now bears the much grander title of 'Act of Collective Worship'. I can assure you that it isn't anywhere near as fusty nor as pretentious as it sounds (or at least, I hope it isn't). The children say they enjoy it and they do engage with what's going on and respond to questions or requests for input or volunteers.

This year, as we've started back, Mrs Woodrow (our Headteacher), has asked me to focus on the school's 'Vision', so that the children are all familiar with it. It is a very simple line that is distilled from a passage in St Paul's first letter to the Christians in the Greek city of Corinth. The strapline is: "Many people, one body. Many gifts, working together." It is a good vision for a school to have – for a school is a place where many people are gathered together under a common banner and where the children and the staff work together, using their gifts to grow and improve both themselves and the wider community around them.

It seems to me, that this sentiment is a good starting point, not only for building up a school but, for building up our village communities as well. If we could only see ourselves as members of one body and be ready to work with others, sharing our gifts, talents and resources for a common good then, our villages would be all the happier for having a shared purpose – the widening of our collective horizons and the attempt to make life better for everyone living around us. It is already happening, if you are willing to look for it. It's happening in the work that our village halls do to bring us together – or in the efforts of those who try to make our villages bloom and be more beautiful to look at – it's there in the efforts of our village Cub, Scout and Brownie groups and the football and cricket clubs – and all of the other social activity of the many associations, societies and clubs that people belong to. And, of course, it's there in our last remaining school as well. But, for a body to be healthy, you have to make the effort to get involved. You can't sit back and just leave it to others, or what we have now will gradually be lost. We have to work together if the body we belong to is going to be healthy. They know that at Docking School - for the sake of the villages beyond the school, let's hope that we can all learn that lesson as well.

Peter Cook

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Abby Leah Thomas

Sophie Jane Goddard

Jasper Max Clark

MARRIAGES

Oliver Bond &
Eliza Talbot-Williams

R.I.P.

Pierre Spake

BIRCHAM ~ CURRY & QUIZ

Sat 10th October starting at 7pm ~ St Mary's Church, Bircham
Choice of Chicken Curry or Vegetable Cassoulet – Tickets £12.50
Please call John & Sally Lilliweb to book on 01485 779669

DOCKING ~ QUIZ & CHIPS

Saturday 14th November ~ 7pm start at Docking Village Hall
A team quiz with fish & chips at half time
A date for your diary – more details to follow next month

BIRCHAM ~ CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Sat 28th November – 11am till 3pm - at St Mary's Church
Refreshments ~ Raffle ~ Tombola
Books ~ Gifts ~ Stalls ~ Cakes ~ Games
Entry is free and all are welcome.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2026 & NOVEMBER 2026

SUN 4th OCTOBER

09:30am	SEDGEFORD	Harvest Festival	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	Harvest Festival	Led by Peter Cook

SUN 11th OCTOBER

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

WED 14th OCTOBER

10:00am	SEDGEFORD	Cancelled due to works in the church	
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SUN 18th OCTOBER

09:30am	SEDGEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Petra Yates
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

SUN 25th OCTOBER

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	SEDGEFORD	Hymn Service	Led by Peter Cook

WED 28th OCTOBER

10:00am	SEDGEFORD	Cancelled due to works in the church	
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SUN 1st NOVEMBER

09:30am	SEDGEFORD	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	All Souls' Service	Led by Peter Cook

SUN 8th NOVEMBER ~ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

09:30am	SEDGEFORD	Remembrance Service	Led by Peter Cook
09:30am	BIRCHAM	Remembrance Service	Led by Petra Yates
09:30am	FRING	Morning Prayer	Led by Richard Collier
11:00am	DOCKING	Remembrance Service	Led by Peter Cook
12:00pm	FRING	Act of Remembrance at the Cross	
2:45pm	STANHOE	Act of Remembrance at the Monument	
3:00pm	STANHOE	Remembrance Service	Led by Peter Cook

WED 11th NOVEMBER

10:00am	SEDGEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
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SUN 15th NOVEMBER

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

SUN 22nd NOVEMBER ~ CHRIST THE KING

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	SEDGEFORD	Hymn Service	Led by Peter Cook

WED 25th NOVEMBER

10:00am	SEDGEFORD	Holy Communion	Led by Peter Cook
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SUN 29th NOVEMBER ~ ADVENT SUNDAY

09:30am	FRING	Holy Communion	Led by Richard Collier
10:00am	STANHOE	Group Communion	Led by Peter Cook

SEDGEFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



The Parish Council would like to welcome all new residents in the village. Should you wish to get involved in any village activities please let us know.

Councils supporting Sedgeford

In the last newsletter we outlined the Parish Council activities but there are also the Borough and County councillors, who cover matters important to the residents of Sedgeford. Following local elections there have been some changes in recent times.

- **Parish Level:** Sedgeford Parish Council, as outlined in the last newsletter, consists of a non-political group of seven volunteers, with a part-time Clerk. A leaflet identifying the current Parish Council activities will be published soon.
- **Borough Level:** Handled by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, which manages housing, planning, and waste collection. Sedgeford is in the Heacham Ward of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk. The borough councillors for this ward are **Terry Parish** (Independent) and **Paul Powers** (Reform UK), who was elected following a by-election in August 2026.
- **County Level:** Norfolk County Council manages major services like roads, schools, and social care. Sedgeford is represented at the county level by **Julie Costley** (Reform UK) for the **Docking Division** on Norfolk County Council.

Councillor Michael Chenery

Two Parish Councillors attended the Memorial Service arranged in Walsingham for Michael Chenery of Horsburgh on 4th August. Michael was our County Councillor for many years, during which time he came to our Parish Council meetings regularly. On many occasions, he was able to advise about grants available and often contributed to village projects, especially those relating to highways and footpaths. In 2022 he supported and provided funding towards the Trod, in 2024, towards the additional path at the cemetery and in 2025 a replacement SAM2 sign for Speedwatch.

Sedgeford Neighbourhood Plan and the Housing Needs Survey

Sedgeford Neighbourhood Development Plan was formally adopted in September 2019. During the past seven years, there have been a few changes in the village, which mean that this Plan is not completely up-to-date. Parish Councillors have recently contacted the Borough Council's Planning Team to arrange an initial discussion about how we might best proceed. The most significant change has been the closure of Sedgeford School and the planning applications put forward for the site. Legal agreements between the developers and the Planning Team should be finalized by the autumn, containing measures they must take to reduce their impact on the community. By the time you read this, we hope to have some feedback from the Housing Needs Survey Questionnaires sent to residents in July, which should provide useful information about current needs and how these might be met.

Sedgeford Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page was created in October 2016. At that time, we were creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the village and the group was set up as a forum where residents could discuss ideas for future development. With 'lockdown', it soon became a place to post messages, often urgent, about offers of help with shopping, stray animals, fallen trees and road closures. Intended primarily for those living and/or working in the village, if you are not already a member and would like to join, contact Liz Wilce or Sue Crump.

Village Hall Activities

Sedgeford Village Hall offers a programme of classes and meetings during the week and is also available for private hire at weekends. Regular weekly classes include table tennis, yoga, martial arts, fitness, adult ballet and carpet bowls. The Arts Society meets on the 2nd Monday afternoon and the Women's Friendship Group on the 2nd Wednesday evening. For most of these activities, organisers welcome new participants on a 'drop-in' basis, especially at the start of the new term. For full details of the programme and who to contact, go to the Events and Activities page on the website: <https://sedgefordvillagehall.co.uk/> In the near future, they will be moving towards an on-line booking system on the website so people will be able to see at a glance if the hall is free on the day they would like it.

Anglian Water

The parish council continues to engage with Anglian Water on two issues, first regarding the River Heacham. In June Anglia Water completed a two day walk over of our section of the river to understand the problems causing the lack of flow. Sadly, the river has now dried up: undoubtedly the drought we are experiencing is adding to the problem. We have requested a temporary stop to the extraction from the aquifer until levels are back up and are still waiting to hear the results of the walk over.

Secondly are the supply issues that residents have faced recently. We urge everyone affected to please keep reporting problems directly to Anglian Water on 03457 145 145, online or on their app.

The photo below shows the river as it was when flowing well.

The one on the right was taken in mid-August.



Update on the Parish Council short term aims for 2026

One of the Parish Council's objectives for 2026 was to improve communication with residents, with the first of these a six-monthly newsletter. Further ideas are being considered. We welcome your comments.

Another objective was to provide more information about significant planning applications, in the monthly newsletters and on the village Facebook page. In recent months, we have provided such updates, particularly about proposals for the former school site.

The Parish Council through John Ward has continued to engage with the King William, especially in relation to special events and regular activities.

Sedgeford Parish Council Clerk



The Clerk, **Roger Quick**, is the first person to contact if you have any questions or comments about the Parish Council. Employed by the Council, he works 3 mornings a week, Tuesday – Thursday, 10.00am – 12.30 pm and can be contacted during his office hours on **07598 702826**. Alternatively, you can e-mail messages to clerk@sedgefordparishcouncil.gov.uk