

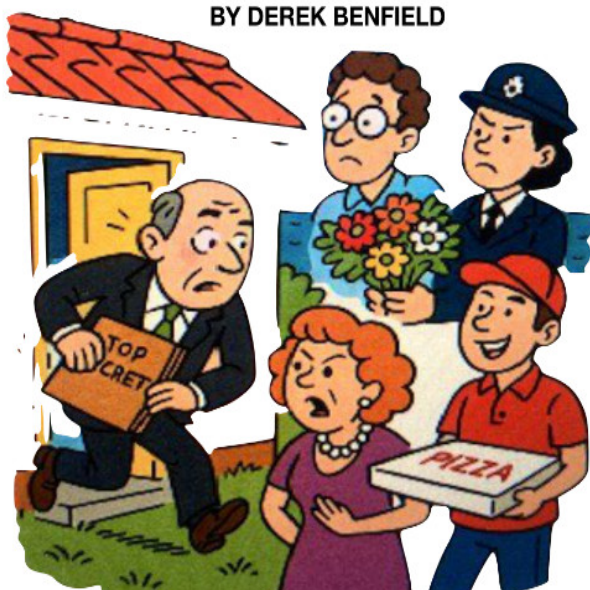


THE WAYLAND PLAYERS

PROUDLY PRESENT A RIOTOUS FARCE

A FLY IN THE OINTMENT

BY DEREK BENFIELD



THURSDAY 13TH & FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.45PM
 SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025 MATINEE AT 2.45 PM
 QUEENS HALL, WATTON
 TICKETS £10 AVAILABLE FROM

An amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

Elvis Lives! Seen Performing at the Ashill Memory Cafe



What a great day we all had at Ashill Memory Cafe in October. We welcomed some new members, celebrated one of our volunteer's 90th birthday and enjoyed being entertained by Elvis. What a great singer and performer who interacted with our members and made us all laugh. We will definitely be booking him to visit us again!

We have various events booked for the coming weeks including pub quizzes & refreshments at the White Hart pub in Ashill (on the last Monday of each month 1.30- 3.30.) Please let Gill know if you would like to join us.

We are also trying our hands at 10 pin bowling in Dereham and have another delicious afternoon tea booked.(both will have taken place when you read this, but we'll let you know if we have any talented bowlers amongst us!)

As well as our monthly meetings at the Call In (2nd Wednesday of each month), we also have our weekly sociable Wednesday drop in sessions from 10.30-12, where you will be welcomed with a cuppa and biscuit. For more info call Gill on 07548626337

Caston Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas Fayre this year will be on Saturday 22nd November in the Village Hall, starting at 2pm until around 3:30pm There will be raffles, games and a Tombola as well as a Cake and Fancy Goods/Bric-a-brac stalls - all the traditional Christmas Fayre contents. In addition, the Hamper draw will take place - a chance to win a wicker picnic basket packed with many items for Christmas. Wh not come along and have a go at winning one of the prizes and enjoy your first mince pie of the season? Proceeds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

RBL Garden Dereham

The net is well on the way to being finished, weather permitting goes on display at the level crossing Norwich Road Dereham 24th October there are 2880 poppies including some purple in memory of the animal's. Thanks again for the donations of wool. Jean Chubbock.

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Where Are We Now?



From Gerry Foster pictured above with Dave "celebrating our three score years and ten!"

I love reading the Watton & Wayland Times which I receive by email. It's especially great to recognise people and to see all that is happening in Watton and the surrounding area. It's now four years since I retired from my role as Vicar of St Mary's Watton and Priest in charge of All Saints Threxton. My husband was also working for the Diocese of Norwich and we now live in Worcestershire, in a village near Evesham and Stratford upon Avon, on the edge of the Cotswolds.

We are pleased to have much more time with family and both old and new friends and to enjoy living in our own home with its garden, although we have very happy memories from our seven and a half years spent living at the Vicarage in Norwich Road. We love being involved in our village community life, including both with the Baptist and St James churches here and the now annual Harvington Festival!

Dave particularly enjoys fundraising walks. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Evesham Vale. In 2023 with the support of friends at Watton and other Rotary clubs, he walked from the furthest easterly to the furthest westerly point of the UK, raising over £12,000 pounds (plus Gift Aid) for Shelterbox, the Disaster Relief Agency, which distributes aid to people in many countries, where they are desperately in need of help. It was wonderful to have friends both coming to see him off in Lowestoft, Suffolk and to welcome

him in St David's, Wales. A thanksgiving celebration was held at St David's Cathedral, organised by the Dean, the staff member connecting with those on pilgrimages, the Mayor and the District Governor of Rotary.

Last year Dave walked 200 miles for the RNLI to celebrate their 200th anniversary, raising almost £3000. He used to be an RNLI chaplain, when we lived in the Isle of Man. I provide what back up I can for his treks! Next year he plans to top that distance, by walking from The Lizard, the southernmost point to just beyond Berwick upon Tweed, the northernmost point of England, raising funds again for Shelterbox...

I'm very happy to be on the church gardening team, helping to tend the churchyard and cemetery gardens. I am also on the church cleaning, coffee and flower rotas... things which I always appreciated others being able to do! We enjoy belonging to different choirs, now that we have the opportunity to make regular commitments to practices.

Newly out on Amazon is a novel by me 'Route 52' and it will be available on Kindle before long too.

If you are interested the book is at <https://amzn.eu/d/iChFWIw>

Or, in the Search Box on [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) type "Route 52 by Gerry Foster" and you will easily find it.

Remembering you with great fondness and, as always, wishing you every blessing: Gerry

The Anti Social Behaviour Debate

What do YOU think of Watton's High Street?

It's rare for a piece in the Watton & Wayland Times to spark a strong reaction in town, but Councillor Bowes' recent article on anti-social behaviour - particularly in the High Street - and Watton Town Council's decision to reject Breckland Council's Safer Street Wardens scheme certainly did. See 'Letters to the Editor' on page six this issue for comments received.

As many readers will know, this paper operates from within Adcocks shop, placing us - quite literally - on the metaphorical front line. We might argue that our daily presence, alongside other retailers, gives us a unique perspective on this issue compared to those who are making decisions from a distance. As Editor, I'd very much like to hear from you - the High Street's actual and potential customers. Yours is the voice that is often

quoted, but, I suspect, rarely heard or listened to!

Does the fear of perceived anti-social behaviour deter you from visiting High Street businesses?

To be clear, I'm not asking about individual shops or services, but rather whether the perceived level of trouble and noise on the High Street affects your willingness to shop here.

I genuinely hope you'll respond. I give you my word that your name and personal details will not be published or shared. I will publish a fair and balanced summary of the views I receive.

Please write to me - whether your opinion is positive or critical, your views are vital to this conversation.

My address is:- The Editor, Watton & Wayland Times, c/o Adcocks, 32 High Street, Watton, IP25 6AE

Or better still, email: highstreet@wwtimes.co.uk

Your Norfolk County Councillor's Community Fund

The 'Norfolk Community Fund' is a new initiative from the County Council to support small, local projects that make a positive difference in the community. Each Norfolk County Councillor has £5000 to award to voluntary community groups in their area and grants of £200 - £2,500 can be applied for to directly help fund a project.

(Please bear in mind that grants over £500 will require match funding. To that end the County Council have partnered with a crowdfunding platform to help groups to raise the extra money should they wish)

A wide range of organisations can apply and projects should particularly be those that bring people together to improve life in the local community. For example: a coffee morning for older residents; a youth sports team needing equipment; community garden; a craft group raising funds for charity or aiding those with disabilities; or a local history education project. In short, projects that support the local community and recognise the needs, character and culture of the local area.

The above are just a small number of examples. I am aware that there are so many small community groups doing invaluable work across my Division that often go 'under the radar' and I would really like to use this fund to reach out to and support them.

Local groups in my Watton Division (including Watton, Carbrooke, Caston, Griston and Ovington) should, please contact myself to request support with their project idea at claire.bowes@norfolk.gov.uk or call me on 07789 796 937

Claire Bowes. claire.bowes@norfolk.gov.uk 07789796937

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Norfolk County Council



Norfolk Community Fund

Grants of

£200

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for local groups across Norfolk

Helping communities thrive through small grants with big impact

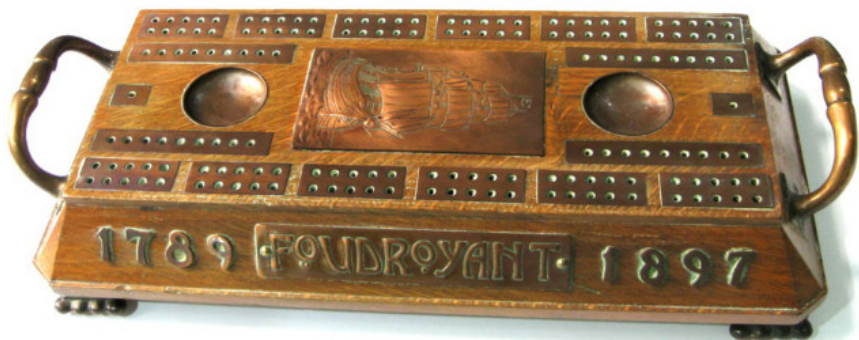
Sports, Pastimes, Games & Leisure

Museum 4 Watton,
Wednesday-Saturday 10-4

This month at M4W, we are turning our attentions to sports, pastimes, games and leisure. One of our most interesting exhibits is a cribbage board made from the salvaged wood and copper from one of Admiral Lord Nelson's lesser-known flagships, The Foudroyant (lightening). HMS Foudroyant was an 80-gun third-rate ship of the Royal Navy. The third rate classification refers to the number of guns she carried. She was launched on the 31st March 1798 and served Nelson as his flagship from 6th June 1799 until the end of June 1800. Although the Foudroyant was not involved in any major naval battle engagements, she did see action during the Napoleonic Wars and did sustain considerable damage during an engagement with the French navy during the Siege of Malta. It is during this time she is likely to have received the shrapnel damage and scorch marks still visible on the cribbage board today. After the Foudroyant was retired from active service, she became a training vessel. In 1891, she was placed on the Sales List and sold the following year for £2350. However, the onward sale to a German shipbreakers caused a public outcry, prompting the author Arthur Conan Doyle to publish a poem titled "For Nelson's Sake". Philanthropist G Wheatly Cobb stepped in to buy her and spent £25,000 restoring The Foudroyant to her former glory. To offset the restoration cost, it was decided to tour the ship around coastal towns, where, for a small entrance fee, the paying public could step aboard. It was during a visit to Blackpool in June 1897, a violent storm occurred, The Foudroyant snapped her cables and ran aground on Blackpool Sands, damaging the North pier in the process. Several attempts were made to refloat her, but to no avail, and she finally broke up in the December gales. Enterprising craftsman used the flotsam to make furniture, and salvaged copper was used to manufacture medals for the public. The cribbage

board we have on display, with the very kind permission of the owners, a Mr & Mrs Maurice Cowles, was made by furniture makers Goodall, Lamb & Heighway Ltd. of Manchester. Amongst other items we have on display are the football boots and darned socks worn by local footballing legend Jimmy Elsigood, dated from the late 1930s to the early 1940s, a pair of Simlam ice skates dating from the 1920s, which can have the skates removed and replaced with wheels, 19th century card games, teddy bears and fishing rods to name but a few. Do you have any memories of the Watton and District M.C. & Car club or any other clubs and societies once popular in the town? If you have any memories you would like to share with us, we would love to hear from you. If you have a passion for local history and would

like to share your knowledge with others why not consider joining our friendly group of volunteers? If you are interested in volunteering with us please call into the museum for more information when we are open, or ring 01953 797060 for more details. On the 1st November M4W, along with other businesses along Watton High Street, will be welcoming Trick or Treaters. Come and meet Hero, our Roman skeleton, and the Babes in the Wood, or learn about how a belief in witchcraft and folk magic was slow to loosen its grip on our isolated rural communities. Our coffee bar will be open, offering free filter coffee, artisan tea or hot chocolate, and free homemade cake. Please, pop in and say hello. All welcome.



Not Your Average Package Holiday

Swaffham u3a

What an inspiring speaker we had this month! The intrepid Marina Shapton took us on her four-month journey around South America by bus. Sleeping under canvas most nights, cooking by the roadside with her fellow travellers, and many extraordinary expeditions because 'when else would she have the chance' to canoe down the rapids or spend time with a local tribe. This was proper travelling not the normal holiday tour! Marina's talk was so inspiring that she will be making a return visit to the u3a next year to talk more about her adventures.

RAF and NATO
Next month we have something totally different - our speaker in November is Charles Howard-Vyse. Charles recently retired from a successful international career in the Royal Air Force talking about his career in the RAF and with NATO including insights into the changing face of defence in Europe and beyond in these current turbulent times. Anyone is welcome to join the u3a. The only criterion to join is that you are no longer in full-time employment and have the time to take part in the activities on offer. We meet at Holme Hale Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Doors open at 9.45am for socialising and the meeting starts promptly at 10.30am finishing by 12 noon. Further details on all the activities covered by Swaffham & District u3a are available on our website: <https://swaffham.u3asite.uk/>



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A Focus On Renewing Britain

By Terry Jermy MP,
South West Norfolk

Last month, I attended the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool.

Conference is a fantastic opportunity for the Government to set-out our ambitions and vision for the country, and the Prime Minister was very clear – this Labour Government is focused on renewal and investment, and a Britain built for all.

A Britain with Free Breakfast Clubs in every primary school, where young people can learn technical skills through a world-class Further Education system, and where the most disadvantaged students will receive grants to support them to study at higher levels to ensure opportunity for all.

A Britain where people can see NHS specialists without needing to leave their homes, and where families will be able to build a life and community in new towns with first-class local GP surgeries, schools, green spaces and transport links.

As a constituency-focussed MP, conference is also a chance to meet with different national organisations to discuss matters in South West Norfolk.

A core issue in rural constituencies like South West Norfolk is transport, and ensuring connectivity – be that through infrastructure (e.g. roads, rails) or internet – is a key focus of mine. It was great to

meet again with Greater Anglia to discuss train services in South West Norfolk. As a regular commuter, I know first-hand the frustration caused by delays and how crucial upgrades to Ely Junction are. Services in rural areas must be firmly on the map, and I will continue to push Greater Anglia and other transport providers to address these as a matter of urgency.

I met with the Stroke Association who I work closely with both in Parliament and the constituency, Dementia UK, and Pancreatic Cancer UK to discuss the importance of early diagnosis and health inequalities in South West Norfolk.

I also met with national charity, Scope, to talk support for the disabled and the ways we can work together to ensure an equal future with disabled people.

As a passionate advocate for animal rights, I was thrilled to meet with the Animals Matter coalition, formed by the RSPCA, Humane World for Animals, Compassion in World Farming, and Four Paws, charities of which I have strong ties with, given our joint work in successfully opposing the Methwold megafarm proposal.

Farming is at the heart of much of the work I do, and I was honoured to be invited to speak at an event hosted by the National Farmers' Union. I also met with the Country Land and Business Association and the CPRE to talk protections for the countryside – a matter of huge importance here in South West Norfolk.

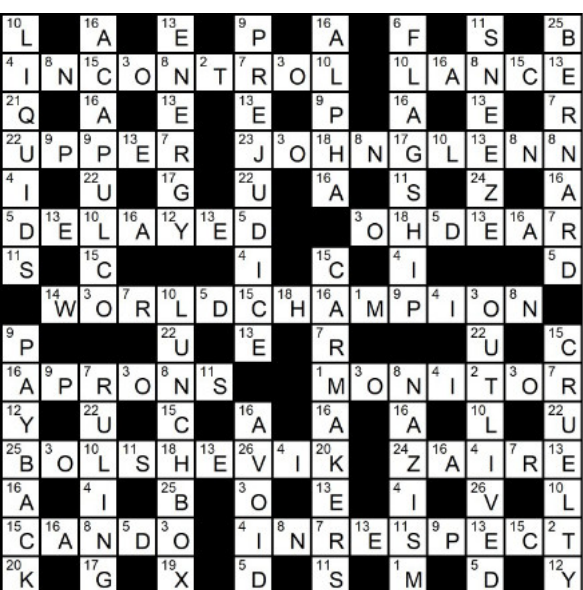
It was an inspiring and productive conference, with clear ambitions set that will ensure a Britain where people can see a better future for themselves and their families.



Last Month's Codeword Result

Last month's winner was drawn by Jenny Mann from The Wayland Players. The prize was a pair

of tickets to see the Players' latest production in the Queens Hall this month.



The answer was:

THEATRICAL BUFFOONERY

The winner this month was J Johnston, and the Runner Up was G Smith.

To explain how the winners were drawn; all correct entries were recorded in a table format as they arrived, each line of which has a single card from a standard pack assigned to it. e.g. 6 of Diamonds or 7 of Clubs etc.

For the draw, Jenny Mann was given the pack, which she shuffled as she wished, and then drew one card for the Winner and one for the Runner Up.

The Editor supervised and correlated the cards drawn with the table of entries, and if there was no assigned winner to that card, it was then discarded and another drawn.

In that way I ensured winners are drawn at random and fair play is ensured.

As always, I hope you found the puzzle both fun and not too challenging.

For the next Codeword grid and more details of this month's competition please see page 14.

In Your Garden With Lotta Potts

Not much going on in the garden in November. Most of it tidying up or hiding from same. End of October saw the end of BST and the start of darker days and SAD syndrome. Oh dear, how sad, never mind just get on with it.

Notable days:

5th Guy Fawkes' Night. Celebrates the failure of said GF to blow up Parliament. There are usually, noisy fireworks and bonfires. Annual plea: please move the bonfire contents about a bit the day before to dislodge any hedgehogs and other wildlife from getting cremated.

11th Armistice Day/Remembrance Day/Poppy Day commemorating those who gave their lives in conflict particularly the two world wars in the 20th century. The service and parade is now held the nearest Sunday and most people observe a two-minute silence on the actual day.

The same day is Martinmas celebrating St Martin's life and compassion for beggars and the destitute.

30th St Andrew's Day patron saint of Scotland and many parish churches throughout the country. I first wrote this paragraph a few years ago and thought it worth repeating as this is what history does. This should be the end of the summer-flowering plants and crops should be pretty much harvested with the ploughing and scattering last month. Except this October has been seriously weird for weather. Early to mid-month was warm to hot so everything became confused. Plants that should have stopped flowering took a deep breath and started over, even some spring-flowering ones joining in for a second go so goodness knows what we are in for this month. Last month we did have a couple of decent frosts and really this month should see frosts more and more frequently. These give us the benefit of clear blue skies showing off the seed-heads and grasses that look so lovely edged in silver. These frosts also help kill off pests and crisp up the last (hopefully) of the fallen leaves so they are easier to rake up and bag for leaf-mould.

Frost always enhances the colours of the leaves and bark of trees such as contorted hazel which is lovely when the leaves have fallen but a bit drab in full leaf. This is a bit of a conundrum as its 'undressed' state is worth showing off but puts it in a position centre-stage when in leaf. Luckily it grows well in a large pot. Job done. Some of the acers and cherry trees are grown for colourful bark and if you have a bit of space are worth seeking out. The deciduous trees and shrubs are putting on a fantastic show with multi-coloured leaves and berries. Even if you only have a small area to spare there should be a bush or small tree that will suit. For instance the Amelanchier is brilliant. It has lovely leaf colour in autumn, yellow and/or red depending on the variety and then in spring the most beautiful white or pink flowers followed by the leaves which start off bronze-tinged. Then there are the fruits in summer which are red and beloved of blackbirds. Although allegedly edible I don't think you will lose to the birds' gain! It will take fairly hard pruning to keep it within bounds but as it eventually gets to about 15x15 feet and is a slow grower it's not difficult. You might think it a bit pricey but you get a tree for all seasons. It isn't even fussy about growing conditions – any decent soil apart from chalk and it will stand all sorts of weather including strong wind.

Another tree for autumn/winter is the Prunus x subhirtella 'Autumnalis', the autumn-flowering cherry. Flowers before leaves on a dainty tree that doesn't seem to get out of control like some of its spring-flowering cousins. The flowers on this variety are white but there is a pink version and a double pink version and even a weeping pink version. The original has the most prolific display of autumn/winter blossom but there's a choice. I don't apologise if the references to Amelanchier and autumn-flowering cherry seem familiar – I sing their praises every year and this year saw one or two in flower on trees that are nowhere near their full height and width yet so are very slow-growing. It's interesting to note that most plants that are at their best at this time of year are unfussy about their growing conditions in terms of soil,

position etc. I suppose it's because they are the ones very determined to survive regardless of alkaline, acid, sun (maybe not), shade but most will benefit from good drainage and a bit of kindness regarding the soil if you have to garden on what is basically rubbish.

This is the start of the bare-root planting season for shrubs and trees, particularly roses and hedges. Make sure to stake new trees with a substantial short stake with the top pointing into the prevailing wind, usually west. The old-fashioned way was to use a vertical stake but a few years ago it was discovered that it was best to concentrate on the lower part of the trunk and allow the top to sway about a bit to make it stronger. The shorter stake secured to the lower part of the trunk protects the roots. It's a still more recent suggestion to use mycorrhizal fungus such as Rootgrow to encourage the roots to develop stronger and quicker than just planting in soil. I have no idea if this works but if Monty Don uses it I think that's a good recommendation. I guess the only way to prove it one way or the other is to plant two woody specimens, one with and one without then dig them up in a year or so. No I have no intention of doing this either. Anyway it's cheaper and easier to plant bare-root rather than containerised, particularly if you have a limited space to put the plant.

Other plantings are tulip and hyacinth bulbs and garlic and hardy broad beans like Aquadulce. If you have any parsnips or carrots left in the ground by the middle of the month it might be a good idea to lift and store them, checking other stored crops for rot and pests. Let parsnips get a good frost first as they are sweeter for it. Potatoes are prone to hosting slugs however careful you are at harvest time. Eventually the little critters will creep out from one damaged spud to find another, fresher one to start on. Put forcing pots on established rhubarb plants for early pickings next year. I found a large, black plastic pot does the job if you don't have the fancy forcing pots.

If you do winter digging now is a good time to start. It's good exercise and freshly dug earth smells great even at this time of year. This is also the time to manure or lime as necessary but not both at once. On sandy soils like ours in Breckland it's not really necessary to dig too deep, a turn over with a fork does the job just as well. If you have clay and it's wet keep off it. If you have any compost now's the time to spread it on whatever soil you have. Spent grow-bag or summer containers' compost is fine as it will improve the soil structure and the worms need something to do over the winter months.

We are likely to get more strong winds. I think we had more than enough in October but November is guaranteed to produce more so it's a good idea to check fence posts and panels and replace any showing signs of rot. This will prevent your having to replace the structures and all the plants they destroyed on the way down. Sheds, gates and greenhouses should have sturdy latches or locks so they don't get battered either and take in anything that might get blown around or away. Tree branches and unrestrained climbers can also do damage in a gale so tie them back or if they look like they might do real damage, cut them off.

The lawn might need the odd cut this month but otherwise keep off it to let it recover from the summer heat and wear. It is still possible to lay turf for a new lawn and it will more than likely get enough wet from rain. Just keep the leaves off the grass and any border plants that will rot if the leaves are left. Sow a wildflower lawn on bare earth if you have space. If you need to use a grassy area first of all cut this grass brutally short and sow seeds with lots of yellow rattle. This plant controls grass.

One of the nicest things to do is go round the nurseries and sheds and see what's in flower. It might be quite surprising and if you can't plant your purchases immediately create one or two fancy winter containers. Skimmias look good and are easily available so they look really pretty underplanted with hardy cyclamen and any bulbs you might find or have left overlooked around the place. There are lots of ideas to be had. On that note spend some time reflecting on what worked and what didn't this year and do a bit of planning. And don't worry about it all. This is the time of year when you can seriously think 'it can wait'. Except the eternal weeding.

Remembrance By George Collins

By the time you read this, Autumn will be well and truly here. With the falling leaves, the morning mists and delights of wearing jumpers again, comes Remembrance Sunday. The purpose of Remembrance Sunday is to provide a National Day of Remembrance. It is not to “celebrate the war”, or anything else for that matter. It is to commemorate – that is, remember – those men and women who have died serving our country in all the wars of the 20th century and since. It takes place in most of the Commonwealth countries and many others too. In most years there are two separate ceremonies – Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 an armistice – a cease fire – came into force between the Allied and German forces in France and Belgium in the First World War. Although British and Empire forces were still fighting elsewhere, this is taken as the date on which “the guns fell silent”. This is commemorated at 11am on the 11th of November across the UK, generally with a small ceremony and a two-minutes silence. Remembrance Sunday itself occurs on the nearest Sunday to the 11th. This is often a more elaborate occasion with, amongst other things, prayers, wreath laying, solemn music and, if possible, the playing of the “Last Post”. The major national ceremony takes place in London at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, in the presence of the Sovereign and government ministers and representatives of Commonwealth countries. Generally, the occasion is organised by the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the local civic authority; this applies in London as well. If there is no local RBL then the local authority or the Parish Council does it all.

As a member of the Watton branch of the RBL, I have been privileged to be involved, under the auspices of Watton Town Council, in some of the organisation of the occasion for the last few years. I am well aware that in almost every human activity it is not possible to please everyone and that some people will always find fault. (Oddly, the people who criticise never seem to be the sort of people who volunteer their services to organise anything). Last year, however, a member of the public informed us, in quite forceful terms, that Watton was “breaking the law” by having its Remembrance ceremony in the afternoon rather than at 11am and “breaking the law” (again) by having the Armistice ceremony in Chaston Place rather than by the War Memorial. This was, of course, nonsense.

Remembrance, like most of the best things in our country, is governed not by laws but by custom and tradition. There are NO overarching laws specifically about Remembrance. Some laws governing shop closures, road closures, and potential discrimination against people wearing poppies (Equality Act 2010) apply, and it is also illegal to wear medals issued by the state to which one is not entitled. The reason why Watton – and many other places – does not have its major ceremony at 11am lies in tradition. Men from Watton and the local villages had gone to war together, many in a unit commanded by the then Lord Walsingham, who was the organiser of the first Watton British Legion Branch. When the first organised acts of Remembrance began in 1921 obviously, they could not honour the dead of all the villages at the same time; therefore, the villages were visited in turn in the morning, and in the afternoon a larger ceremony took place where people from the town could take part. This was, and still is, not at all uncommon in rural parts of the UK. (Wymondham’s ceremony is at 3pm). It is also not “illegal” not to have the Armistice Day ceremony by a War Memorial. I have taken part in a similar ceremony in the Omani desert, with a wooden cross in the back of a 3-ton truck.

I hope that as many people as possible will brave the Autumn chills (as they always do) and take part in the Watton’s act of Remembrance on Sunday the 9th of November. In the afternoon. At 2.30 p.m.

Norfolk Aviation Society (WNAS)

Our speaker on the 7th October, was Keith Mutton who is managing director of Phoenix Bird Control Services Ltd.



He is responsible for bird control at amongst others RAF Lakenheath. Keith has been involved in training birds since he was a child commencing initially with the humble Pigeon. He went to great lengths to explain that to hand rear a bird for this type of work is very intensive as to keep the bird from screaming the house down each time its fed, think Springwatch, the bird has its food delivered when its asleep and in that way it doesn’t need to compete for any food available and believes it just arrives...think Deliveroo!



For our edification Keith brought an Indian Lugger Falcon (above), a Peregrine Falcon, a Barn Owl and a European Giant Eagle Owl which he presented to us. It was truly fascinating to see such magnificent birds and his love and enthusiasm for his birds were obvious to all in the room.

He pointed out that the eagle owl has one ear higher than the other to aid its direction finding for its prey and the Peregrine Falcon has special ‘flaps’ to cover its nostrils to stop its lungs bursting when diving at speed up to 200 mph!

He had many stories as you might expect but the best one was when many years ago he lost a bird in fog and put out an appeal on local radio. A guy from Anglian Water phoned in to state that a bird was trying to get in his van through the side window each time he went along a stretch of road. Keith went to look and sure enough it was his bird, the van they were both using was identical and Keith trains his birds to exit and enter moving vehicles via the side windows to minimise time spent on busy runways! This was a fabulously interesting talk on a different but vital aspect of aviation (bird strikes are a huge danger to aircraft) and a big thank you to Keith for taking the time and trouble to speak to us and how privileged we were to see his beautiful feathered friends.

Mark Burch. Stand In Scribe, WNAS

Dance Away

Queens Hall, Watton IP25 6DA
Ballroom, Latin & Sequence. Bar & Raffle
Next Dances: Nov 1st, Dec 6th

Letters to the Editor

Anti-Social Behaviour and Street Wardens

An opposing view.

Dear Sir, Councillor Bowes (Anti Social Behaviour, Issue 15, October 2025) praises Breckland’s Safer Street Warden scheme as a success in Thetford and laments Watton Town Council’s decision not to sign up. Yet, as Her late Majesty observed, “recollections may vary.”

I was present at that meeting and spoke. That very morning, I had asked Norfolk Police about complaints of street drinking in Watton. Their reply was unequivocal:

“We are not aware of any formal complaints made directly to police on this matter recently.” (Paula Gilluley, Norfolk Police, 26 August 2025) If the police have no record of complaints, how can they be expected to react — let alone request more manpower? This is the reality behind the old adage “you never see any police walking the beat”: without reports on file, there is no evidence base for action or extra officers.

Cllr Bowes also failed to mention that Breckland has licensing duties — including monitoring licensees and reminding retailers of their responsibilities to prevent alcohol being consumed in public. Nor did she explain the poor value of the offer: £10,000 would secure just two wardens, 15 hours a week including travelling time, daytime only, both required to be present at once, with no cover if one is absent. The contract would expire in June 2026 — not even a full year and without any confirmation of costs to the council thereafter.

These omissions matter. Watton taxpayers deserve transparency and value for money, not selective success stories from elsewhere. On the facts, in my opinion, Watton Town Council were correct to vote against adopting this flawed proposal.

A resident of Watton, Brian Dingwall

A Supporting View

Dear Sir, With reference to Cllr Claire Bowes article on Anti Social Behaviour in Watton.

We too share her disappointment that Watton Council voted to not to fund a contribution to the Breckland Safer Street Wardens scheme.

We have phoned in several reports, to the non-emergency number 101, of disturbances and anti-social behaviour near the Clock Tower seating from a small number of drinkers, especially during the summer.

But no police arrived to take action, perhaps it being seen as not worthy of the effort.

And it would seem from Mr Dingwall’s letter that constabulary staff made no effort to record our reports either. This will surprise no one given the many, many reports of police failing to attend or investigate more serious crimes like burglary etc. This gives even more weight to the case for having Safer Streets Wardens active here on Watton High Street. As a High Street retailer, we have witnessed the Wardens diplomatically and tactfully taking alcohol from groups drinking in the High Street.

Whilst we fully appreciate they would have only of had a very part time presence, on and around the High Street for two days, we, and other High Street business owners, we felt their presence provided a deterrent and some level of authority. Needless to say it would be great to see ‘coppers walking the beat’ but we understand that the ‘thin blue line’ is ‘thinner than ever’!

It would have been better to have some level of authority, rather than none at all which is of course the present situation.

Paul Adcock

A Critical View

Safer Streets – Missing the Full Picture By Councillor Stan Hebborn

I was disappointed, though not surprised, to read Councillor Bowes’ recent piece about Watton Town Council’s decision not to fund the Breckland Safer Street Wardens (SSW) Scheme. Her article gave a one-sided view of events and omitted several key facts that are a matter of public record.

I write in my own right and opinion as a Town Councillor, drawing on my experience, research, and twenty-one years as a police officer, however the facts are a matter of public record. Anyone wishing to check the facts can watch the full debate on the Town Council’s YouTube

channel (search “WattonTC260825”).

The SSW scheme was introduced by Breckland Council for five market towns: Thetford, Dereham, Swaffham, Attleborough and Watton. Each was asked to contribute financially. In Watton’s case, £10,000 a year was requested from the Town Council budget. In return, the town would receive two wardens for only a few hours each week, depending on staff availability and intelligence priorities elsewhere. No guarantees.

If one warden was off sick or on leave, the other could not patrol alone. In practice, coverage could fall below forty weeks per year. When questioned, Breckland officers were unable to confirm when the service would start, how long it would last, or how often Watton would see the wardens. What began as a £10,000 “annual” scheme quickly became six months of cover at best.

Councillor Bowes described the scheme as “well received”. That may be true in Thetford, where it was introduced, but three of the other towns, Dereham, Swaffham and Watton, declined to participate for the same practical and financial reasons. (Attleborough had not yet reached a decision at the time of Watton’s meeting)

The SSWs have no police powers. They cannot detain or arrest, or issue fixed penalties without the cooperation of the offender, who could simply walk away. They cannot require personal details or compel cooperation. If someone refuses to engage, the wardens can only report it later. Their main role would be observation and reporting, not enforcement.

Residents already fund the police and Breckland’s own enforcement teams through their council tax. (Watton currently has between 26 and 36 licensed premises within two miles of the High Street, although this cannot be confirmed as Breckland Council’s licensing register is still being updated.)

Breckland’s Licensing Team already has powers under Part 7 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Home Office guidance issued under section 182 to deal with premises linked to nuisance or disorder. Yet what have they done? Pub landlords also have their obligations.

Parking enforcement is supposedly handled by Breckland’s Parking Operations, yet there has been a long-standing ‘parking on the footpath’ safety issue outside several takeaways in the High Street. This has been reported to Breckland repeatedly over the last three years by the police, the Town Council and numerous members of the public, yet the problem continues every night without resolution. If Breckland’s own team cannot deal with such a clear and persistent issue, what realistic hope is there that an SSW could?

It was therefore reasonable and responsible for Watton Town Council to decline participation. The decision was based on evidence and value for taxpayers, not indifference to community safety.

What was disappointing were the barbed remarks made by District Councillors afterwards, implying that only those who supported the scheme had “sensible heads” and that others were being “frustratingly negative”. Disagreeing with an unclear or unevidenced proposal is not negativity; it is sensible due diligence.

If our District Councillors wish to improve local safety, they should first ensure that existing Breckland teams carry out their statutory duties, that licensing breaches are enforced, that traffic offences in the High Street are dealt with promptly, and that more pressure is placed on the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide adequate police cover.

Watton residents already pay for policing and enforcement. They should not be asked to pay twice for the same service.

Ed: Mr Hebborn’s piece was not submitted initially as a letter but as an article. I requested, and he agreed that I include it under this column since, as he stated, he was writing: “. . . in my own right and opinion as a Town Councillor . . . ”

The most important opinion to be heard in this debate is YOURS. I want to hear how you feel on this subject. For full details on this please see the piece on page 3.

Evening WI Lunch Club & Other Activities

Watton Evening WI members enjoy other activities besides their regular monthly meeting.

The monthly Lunch Club had a visit to Thetford Garden Centre recently. The food was good and they had the added opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. During the winter months they visit more local cafes, inns and restaurants.

A Craft Group also meets each month and they have recently been making decorative boxes and also red poppies made from the bottoms of plastic bottles which will be used together with many knitted and crocheted poppies to decorate Watton Methodist Church for Remembrance Sunday.

Our Book Club meets each month at Watton Library to discuss a variety of diverse novels and starting this winter a Games Afternoon will also meet, remember all those games that were available in times past and, of course, the more modern ones.

Following this year's National Federation's resolution we will be arranging CPR and Defibrillator Training at the hall in the new year, look out for details next month as places will be restricted due to space, so booking will be essential. The sessions will be free and open to all members of the public.

So as you can see there is not just the monthly meeting at Watton Evening WI so why not come along meet friends and enjoy all the opportunities on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Watton Methodist Centre in the High Street at 7.30pm. Visitors and New Members are always welcome for further information contact President Margaret Herbert on 01953 882269.

Pictured at lunch are: Ruth Stapleton, Lynne Tarbard, Hazel Gillingham, Suzanne Cairns, Angela Birkby, Carol Robeson, Pat Holdcroft. Photograph by Anita Maslin



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Fireworks

By Miss Mardle

Cold, dark, fire sparks, glittering rain fills the sky ohs, ahs at fake stars.

GRAND SECOND-HAND BOOK SALES

CAROLINE & KEITH'S SWAN SONG

TWO DAY SPECIAL PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE

NOVEMBER 22ND & 23RD

10am - 2:30pm

THOMPSON COMMUNITY HALL IP24 1PY

Please join us for Caroline and Keith's final book sale. Thousands of BARGAIN BOOKS to browse throughout each day. We will also be serving our wonderful selection of home-made goodies throughout both days, along with takeaway bakes to enjoy at home.

Proceeds to benefit Griston Church, Thompson Church and Thompson Community Hall

DON'T FORGET OUR DATES IN 2026:- 14 March, 18 July & 21 November 2026

HOLY CROSS CHURCH CASTON

Saturday 6th December

11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Christmas stall, raffles, tombola

Christmas table decorations and plants

Cakes

Soup, scones, mince pies and mulled wine!

Enjoy your morning coffee, lunch and afternoon cake in the beautifully decorated Church!

Proceeds to Holy Cross Church, Caston

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

CRAFTS | STALLS | RAFFLE

TOMBOLA | TEA | CAKES

RAISING FUNDS FOR VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

12 MIDDAY TO 4PM

CARBROOKE VILLAGE HALL

BAR OPEN

Young Role Models Recognised

By Watton Rotary Club



Photo By Gareth Clifford

L to R Naevia Hucklesby, Sway Hucklesby, Ruby Shortland, Teddy Coleman and Edward Watling with Rotary Club President Andrew Barwood.

Every year Watton Rotary Club seek nominations from local organisations for our Young Citizen Awards. We know there are many exceptional role models who are going out of their way to make a difference to our world, and our aim each year is to locate some of them. We then want to recognise the difference they are making to their community by showcasing their outstanding citizenship, and rewarding them with a trophy and a certificate. Our Young Citizen Awards this year were presented at a special ceremony during our annual Gala Day at Broom Hall Hotel in early September.

There were 5 award winners this year including, for the first time, two sisters.

Naevia Hucklesby was nominated by Ellie Brown, Team Lead for Watton Youth Group. Besides being a Young Carer for her mum, helping her with many things around the home, Naevia is also a great friend to others at the group - always looking out for other people and being the first to support someone when they are upset. She is also finds time to be a valued member of the Watton Army cadets.

Sway Hucklesby (Naevia's sister) was nominated by Aidan Hall, Officer Commanding Watton Detachment of Norfolk Army Cadets. She has overcome severe anxiety during her time with the cadets to become increasingly

confident and outgoing. She has shown great dedication to the detachment and now helps the younger cadets when they join. Like her sister she also cares for her mum, which means she cannot attend training every week. These added pressures have not suppressed her determination but have pushed her on.

Edward Watling was nominated by Alex Stapleton, Officer Commanding Watton Air Training Cadets. During his impressive 4 year career in the Air Cadets Edward has undertaken flying and gliding at local RAF stations, first aid training and many more activities at both Squadron and Wing level. Last year he led the Squadron's drill team to a respectable third place out of 25 units at Norfolk and Suffolk Wing's Annual Drill Competition.

According to his Commanding Officer, Edward embodies the organisation's core values of Respect, Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence.

Teddy Coleman, our youngest Award recipient this year, was nominated by Tracey of Shipdham Spitfires, where he is a wolf cub. He only joined at the start of the year, but has been inspirational with his enormous enthusiasm. A mini marathon in aid of Asthma and Lung UK was organised in the spring, and Teddy was ready to start at 10.00 a.m. despite having only

arrived home from holiday at 2 a.m. that morning. He was also the only member of his cub pack to help with the litter pick earlier this year organised by the Rotary Club. He had driven up from London with his Dad to take part and they drove back afterwards. Tracey has said that Teddy is a pleasure to work with and she looks forward to seeing him develop through the years.

Ruby Shortland was nominated by Ina Coubrough, Vice Principal of Wayland Academy for the award this year. She was apparently a unanimous choice by teachers at the Academy, an indication of the esteem in which she is held there. Ruby is a passionate member of the school council, and a PAL (a pupil who supports vulnerable students in school). Her work ethic is exemplary in school, despite her numerous extracurricular commitments and she is a brilliant ambassador for Wayland. She also volunteers for St John Ambulance's Swaffham Cadet unit, and has been named the County Cadet for 2025.

The awards were presented by the Rotary Club President Andrew Barwood who declared it a privilege to present them to such champions of our Community. The Rotary Club wishes to thank Shaun and Rebecca Yeoman of Salec Travel for sponsoring our Young Citizen Awards again this year.

Christmas Fair

Veterans Central SHQ West

Raynham Address: 5

Blenheim Way, West

Raynham Business Park,

Fakenham, NR21 7PL

Station Headquarters (SHQ) will be decorated for Christmas and as part of our Veterans and Public events we are holding our first Christmas Tree Festival (29th November to 7th December) and a Christmas Fair (6th December).

Christmas Tree Festival (29th November to 7th December): We are inviting groups or individuals to decorate a tree to promote their organisation (e.g. charity, youth group). If you want to participate email us for details.

Christmas Fair (6th December): A great opportunity to browse for presents and have a fun day out at this amazing historic building. The Christmas Fair will include:

- SHQ Christmas decorations and Christmas Tree Festival
- Craft and Gift Stalls
- Book sale of new books, toys and games (at up to 90% discount!)
- Children's Fun Zone: decorating biscuits, making decorations and cards, and more
- Christmas Games
- Festive snacks
- Free entry

For more details or to book a space, email: events@veteranscentral.co.uk

Great Hockham Gardening Club

For our last outside visit for 2025, and indeed, our last gathering for this season, we travelled up to Pensthorpe nature reserve near Fakenham. I have to say that at 28 miles it was a bit more of a trip than we usually do. Also, navigating through Dereham was interesting, particularly as the middle of the town had roadworks and a diversion. Huge amounts of fun and you get to see places you never thought you would.

But to the place itself. The lakes and topography are formed from an old gravel extraction site and the whole reserve has now grown to around 700 acres. It is a destination of some note as it was the location of the BBC's Springwatch programme from 2008 to 2010. But as far as general information is concerned I will not elaborate. Better that you Google the excellent website as they do a lot of seasonal activities.

Not on the website is that some of the wildlife is more likely to get wild on account of not being offered food. There is no need for anyone to worry about this as the well stocked shop will provide you with duck food of the correct variety - for either feeding on land or feeding on water. I remember from my time at Swaffham that ducks see humans as a species to be either exploited or ignored. Another thing I noticed was that the staff had placed strings along some of the handrails to dissuade the birds from depositing guano. What this actually seems to achieve is that it's difficult for a human to take any support from the facility and the seagulls simply straddle the strings. It's the little things that you appreciate.

From a personal perspective I would comment that there are three types of area. There is the entrance area with shops and marvellous kids playing park. Then there are the named gardens, each with a theme and all incorporating a variety of beautiful sculptures. Finally you head off into

the countryside taking you around the rear of the lakes where you can really observe the wildlife. Even here there are more sculptures, but you sometimes have to be very observant to spot them. One thing I will say; something for everyone. Check it out.

Do take a pair of binoculars, but remember to bring them home with you after your visit. Fortunately, ours were handed in. During our original trip we were somewhat tired and came straight home, but on our return after the binocular retrieval trip we thought we would stop somewhere for sustenance. We stopped at The Kings Head, 2 Holt Road, North Elmham. Best meal we've had in ages.

On the gardening front: the grey water drudge is fading into the background as our rainwater storage is now full. However, even with the welcome rain, just below the surface the ground is powder dry. Before we plant anything we fill the hole with water and then insert said plant. I know that's fairly normal, but we really drench the hole and leave it awhile.

Funny thing: I had to clear a combined mass of brambles and nettles. The strimmer found the nettles difficult and the brambles impossible. I tried the hedge trimmer: it got tangled up and achieved nothing. In desperation I tried the shears: a doddle. Sometimes the new fangled stuff is no match for the old handraic kit. Finally, I have been told that my description of the events at our home last month has upset people. I never meant to cause offence as that part of my piece was written as a spoof and is total fiction. However, upsetting one person is one person too many. I am sorry for any upset I have caused.

Our next meeting is on the 12th of November. Bob Coutts will avoid any cutting remarks as he gives us friendly advice on pruning - and how to avoid injury by using the correct tools for the job. This will take place at Hockham village hall at 14:00.

Hope to see you there, Edward.



The Watton Society Welcome Julian & Margery

On Wednesday 17th September we welcomed Georgette Vale who became Julian of Norwich, the first known authoress in the English language. She then became Margery Kemp the first known auto-biographer in English. Whilst Julian remained enclosed in a small cell Margery travelled widely in this country and across Europe. A very informative and enlightening performance.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas evening on the 17th of December at 7.00 pm in Methodist Hall, when we will be entertained by Watton Shanty men along with mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine. The cost for this meeting will be £5 for members and £6 for non- members

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- Volunteer your time
- Hire our space for parties, clubs, events & celebrations

Together we can keep our community strong!

Contact: chair@sahamvillagehall.co.uk

Mid Norfolk Singers

Fauré Requiem

Charpentier Messe de Minuit

Benedict Collins Rice - Music Director
Jonathan Dodd - Organ
Megan Bungard - Soprano Jonathan Midgley - Baritone

St Peter & St Paul Church, Swaffham

Saturday 22nd November 2025

7pm

Tickets: £15.00 (U18s Free)

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Swaffham & District

No longer in full time work?
Live, Laugh and Learn with the u3a

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Create your own special wreath with guidance from

Ivy Floral Events

Wednesday 10th December
11am - 2pm
Caston Village Hall

To include a Festive light lunch

All materials provided

£35 per person - all proceeds to Caston Church

Tickets from Bridget 07789922915 or Lynne 01953 483640

Watton Town Council Updates, News, and Events

Watton Food Hub

Watton Food Hub is proud to be part of the Nourishing Norfolk Network of 26 affordable food hubs based in Norfolk. This initiative which is part of the Norfolk Community Foundation has recently been involved in an extensive research project by The University of East Anglia (UEA). UEA’s evaluation revealed how access to affordable food is just the tip of the iceberg of Nourishing Norfolk’s reach. Food hubs help people to shop with dignity as they are paying for and choosing their own food but at a discounted rate. Food hubs are often confused with food banks (food banks usually help people to access food in an emergency situation). Food hubs help people on a long-term basis which can help their budget go further. Although members initially sign up to save money, the research showed people also continue attending because they feel safe, they can feel connected to the community and enjoy social time. They may also receive advice or signposting to other agencies. The research also found that the social return on investment (SROI) is £6.54 for every £1 that is invested! This is incredible news! If you would like to read more about the research or the SROI report you can scan the QR codes.

If you would like to become a member of Watton Food Hub and you live within the Wayland boundaries, bring some ID with proof of name and address and one of our friendly team will help you to sign up. Membership is just £1 and we are based in Watton Community Centre on Harvey Street, Watton, IP25 6EB. Please see our calendar for opening times.

Watton Food Hub would be happy to receive your donations of food (including fresh fruit and vegetables) and household or hygiene products.

Jo Howe - Watton Food Hub Supervisor

To read the full UEA evaluation of Nourishing Norfolk, please scan the QR code!



WATTON FOOD HUB CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

TUESDAYS - Food Hub Open 12:30-14:30

THURSDAYS - Food Hub Open 09:30-12:00

5 NOVEMBER - Food Hub Open 16:30-18:30

18 NOVEMBER - Food Hub Open 16:30-18:30

Town Council Budgeting

Around this time each year the Town Council begins to think about the budget for the financial year which begins on April 1st.

Budget needs continually grow due to inflationary rises and Councillors try their best to set a budget which will not greatly increase the financial demand on residents. However, at the present time with Devolution and Local Government Reform on the horizon there are many uncertainties regarding what services may suffer and what may fall to the town and parish councils to deliver.

Car parks are a prime example of an asset which could be transferred to the town councils.

Should Watton Town Council take over ownership of or even management of the three car parks in the town (which are currently owned by Breckland District Council), and if the car parks are to remain free of direct charge, there would be a need to increase the Watton Town Council precept to cover future maintenance costs.

The parish precept is the amount of money the Council asks for each year from local residents to pay for the budget it has set. The money is collected by Breckland District Council as part of your council tax.

If any future budget is to include looking after the car parks the precept will need to increase. It is anticipated the cost of managing the car parks should only incur an additional amount of around £1 per month for a band D property.

Any other new ventures the Town Council may decide on would also be likely to add to the precept request. However, the Town Council must always look for best value and try its utmost to only increase its precept by what is necessary.



Town Council Updates

Notification has been received that plans for the pedestrianisation of Middle Street are to be sent to stakeholders, but it was noted that currently there is no funding for the project to be undertaken.

Further communication has been received from Breckland District Council regarding the possible transfer of the Breckland Council owned car parks in the town to the Town Council. The information has been shared with Councillors, and the matter will be discussed at length at Full Council.

Norfolk Youth Justice has been in touch with the office and a site meeting has been arranged with an Officer from the Norfolk Youth Justice Team to look at whether help could be provided to re-paint equipment at play areas.

It was resolved that as requested on the grant application received from Watton Ladies Group, the Town Council will pay for gifts to be given at the 2025 Christmas Lunch being organised by the Ladies Group. Money will be released against invoices produced. It was suggested that the Town Council could possibly support this event further in future years.

It was resolved that the Finance Committee will be asked to include a small amount of funding for biodiversity projects within the 2026/2027 budget and that the current Biodiversity Policy will be reviewed before being presented to Full Council for ratification January 2026.

It was resolved that once the Council has completed the works it is able to, as identified on the recent annual play area inspection reports, a further set of reports will be commissioned for Bridle Road, Lovell Gardens, and the Sports Centre Play Area.

The Town Council has been awarded a grant of £4,800 from Norfolk County Council and Breckland District Council’s Love Your Town fund. This initiative aims to increase footfall and engagement in the town centre by placing 12 hares around Watton. The project includes two large fibreglass hares at the High Street entrances and ten smaller wooden hares in shops and venues. The trail will encourage residents and visitors to explore the town, culminating in a Spring Fayre event with prizes for participants.

The Breckland Officer who was leading on the installation of the light and CCTV for Church Walk left Breckland just after completion of the project. Funding for the project was part of Safer Streets (Local concerns of safety and ASB). Whilst the project did fund additional and upgraded lighting, unfortunately there was never any intention or agreement to place a light on the pole at the end of Church Walk. This was for CCTV only and this is backed up by invoices (this item is column, power ready for CCTV). The additional Street light has been installed (singular not plural). Breckland has offered to contact the original contractor to see if they would be able to provide a quote for an additional street light, to get an idea of cost and other enquiries are also being made. The contractors who put the new footpath in at Church Road have verbally stated that the streetlight that was removed from the corner by the Church is to be replaced in November 25.

Having received a grant application to support the Watton Christmas Hamper Appeal it was resolved to offer to purchase items to put in the hampers. It was also resolved that in future only registered charities will be eligible to apply for a grant.

Breckland Councillor Cowen and Ralph Burton, Breckland Assistant Director of Property & Projects were in attendance at the meeting to answer questions regarding the offers put to the Town Council regarding future management and ownership of the three currently Breckland District Council owned car parks in the town. Councillors had been presented with the option letter in the agenda pack for the meeting and also provide with further information relating to the possible transfer of the car parks. The Town Council would like the three car parks to be transferred from the District Council to the Town Council at nil value (option 2 as given by Breckland).

It was resolved that option 2 will continue to be investigated and a recommendation will brought back to the next Full Council meeting.

In the meantime a small working group of Councillors and the Clerk will meet to prepare the recommendation. It was suggested public opinion should be sought via a social media post.

A word from the Mayor

It has been a busy time for me since last writing this column. I was invited, along with my husband to attend the 85th Anniversary memorial of the Battle of Britain at County Hall, a moving event as so few of the few are still with us. It is difficult to imagine what such young airmen went through; I believe the average age of pilots was around 20 years of age.

In addition to this Steve and I have been lucky to celebrate a very special anniversary with a lovely holiday. Thanks to technology I was able to keep up with events in town and have some information about the possibility of the town council taking over the Breckland owned car parks in town.

In 2024 Breckland district council began looking at introducing charges to use their car parks across the district. Watton town council did not support this for the town. Breckland council commissioned a feasibility report which concluded that 'due to the amount of free alternative parking in Watton, it would not be appropriate or cost effective to introduce parking charges at the current time'. Recommendations in the report included the suggestion car parks could be offered to the town council and a draft lease for the Breckland owned car parks was presented to the town council. The town council has started from the outset it would prefer to obtain freehold ownership. The car parks in question are; Kittel Close (Queens Hall), Thetford Road (Memorial) and Goddards Court (Old Golf House) To date there have been several options given by Breckland council however there are a number of financial and practical issues to be considered and these will be discussed at the full council meeting on the 14th of October.

The Rotary club of Watton held their Charter night dinner at Broom Hall and were kind enough to invite Steve and I to attend. It was a very enjoyable evening with an interesting talk by a former Royal protection officer.

Councillor Gillian Turrant
Watton Town Mayor





Watton Remembers



**Saturday 8th November**
12 noon - Commemoration of Commonwealth War Graves, Watton Cemetery

**Sunday 9th November**
10:00am - Remembrance Day Service, St Mary's Church
14:30pm - The Act of Remembrance, Watton War Memorial
Then moving on to St Mary's Church for
15:30pm - Remembrance Sunday Service, Methodist Church

**Tuesday 11th November**
10:45am - Armistice Day, Chaston Place, Watton
You are invited to gather for the 2 minute silence at 11am

Everyone is welcome

All faiths or none & all Nationalities





Remembrance Parade For the Town of Watton

At the War Memorial



Welcome

Prayer
Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping:
Those who have died for their country in war;
Those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
And all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

The list of those to be remembered by name will then be read

The Exhortation
"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them."
All: We will remember them.

The Last Post will be sounded followed by the Two Minute Silence and Reveille.
Flowers of the Forest

LAYING OF THE WREATHS
Prayers

We say together THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

National Anthem (1 verse)

The Kohima Epitaph
"When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today."

Please join us as we process to the Methodist Church for a 3.30pm Service, followed by Refreshments

The Breckland Birder

September's Observations by Paul Newport

An early morning visit to Houghton-on-the-Hill on the 7th firstly saw a House Martin and Swallow overhead and south. Migrants included a number of Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps (including s ♂ giving sub-song) and Whitethroat. Two Mistle Thrush over Houghton Common was a welcome record and a single Golden Plover passed over south. On the 8th I visited Threxton (Threxton Road) and parked by the small woodland to specifically check and area of scrub which over the years has produced migrants. The habitat watched included Elder, Hawthorn, and Bramble scrub, and on particular small bush of Elder/Bramble mix held 3+ Whitethroats, one Reed Warbler (pictured below), and Chiffchaffs, whilst common resident species were represented by Blue Tits, Robin, and 2+ Dunnock.

returning low over the hedge and away between the houses. A pre-sunrise visit to Cranberry Rough on the 21st was quite productive with ♂♀ Tawny Owls calling in Rules Belt area. At Cranberry Rough at least 10 Chiffchaffs present (some song heard). Hawthorn and Birch scrub held Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, and Chiffchaff. Two Kestrels and Sparrowhawk seen and on the fen two Stonechats seen with a ♂ collecting a Zebra spider from long grasses.. At least 5 Siskins overhead. A very interesting movement of four Grey Herons seen at dusk over Watton at great height and in a NW heading. On the morning of 22 September I visited Houghton with the aim of finding migrants as



Also seen along Threxton Road was 3 Red Kites and a Sparrowhawk which flew low along the valley. A visit to Wretham Heath on the 9th felt quite autumnal to begin with, it was cool and a fog covered parts of the heath and Langmere, it was beautiful. The main highlights came from Langmere with a single Common Sandpiper and 7 Snipe around the muddy shores. Later, as it was getting warm I saw some good counts of Geese arriving on Langmere, these included 100 Greylag Geese, 72 Egyptian Geese (a good count), and 64 Canada Geese. A single Meadow Pipit dropped in at Langmere, my first bird of the autumn. A visit to the marsh and meadows next to the showground (TF8900) on the 10th saw two Whitethroats in a Bramble/Bindweed patch alongside Watton Brook. Whilst here a Peregrine flew low over meadow and hedgerow putting up Crows and Gulls in the process. A single Little Egret was mobile in the valley. The 11th was another rewarding day for migrants in the Watton Brook valley with a single juvenile Reed Warbler seen in thick cover alongside the brook, this bird gave both sub-song and an alarm call. Also seen was one Whinchat (Right upper picture) in the valley, a stunning little bird. A Hobby appeared over Gravel Hill wood soaring and drifting west to east. Along the sheltered eastern boundary of Bodney Slip a ♂ Blackcap was seen to take an elderberry, also, a further Blackcap was heard along with a couple of Chiffchaffs. On the 12th September, an hour long watch of the skies from the garden between 0700-0800 produced two Little Egrets together overflying Watton in a NW heading. A ♀ Sparrowhawk seen over houses then overflying garden then

well as doing some vismiggig (Visible Migration).. The morning began with a Barn Owl in the former village site. A calling Raven (illustrated right lower) was scoped in conifer woodland N/E of Houghton Common, later, two Ravens were seen north of the path leading to the church, these birds were engaged in chasing display and calling. Just a decade ago Ravens were unheard of in Norfolk, how wonderful to see this very large Crow now being seen with increasing frequency. 10+ Blackbirds and a Song Thrush were seen in bushes and hedgerow on Houghton Common. Migrants included several Chiffchaffs (some singing), 3 Blackcaps (2♂♂ and one♀) seen with a ♂ seen to take an elderberry. A single Whinchat was very briefly seen on the hedge east of the church. On the 26th September I parked at Great Cressingham village hall for a circular walk along Priory Drive, the Peddars Way, and west along the Watton Road back to the village hall. Despite the east wind I saw no evidence of visual migration. Beginning at the village hall I heard Coal Tit calling in the churchyard. Highlights along Priory Drive included at least 3 Chiffchaffs (2 singing) and 30+ Goldfinches near the Barn conversion. A single Goldcrest was foraging amongst Oak leaves. My walk along the Peddars Way produced another Chiffchaff as well as several Robins and Dunnock. The long walk back west along the Watton Road saw more Robins (8+), Dunnock (3+) and an overhead local movement of 6 Skylarks. A check of the large field south of the Watton Road saw a wandering flock of 30+ Linnets. As I re-entered Great Cressingham a single Crossbill flew over

When the Voice Sounds Familiar

How Vishing Is Evolving in the Age of AI

Welcome to the era of 'vishing' voice phishing - where deception no longer comes with a foreign accent. Thanks to powerful voice cloning and AI synthesis tools, scammers can now sound like anyone: a bank manager, your cousin, even a local vicar. The comforting cadence of a familiar voice is no longer a guarantee of safety. For years, we've relied on instinct to spot a scam. A voice with an unfamiliar accent, an odd turn of phrase, or a rushed tone might trigger our alarm bells. "This doesn't sound right," we'd think - and rightly so. But the world is changing. What used to be a crude impersonation over a crackly line has become a polished performance. AI-generated voices can mimic regional accents, emotional tone, and even speech quirks with uncanny precision. And unlike traditional scams, these calls don't rely on poor grammar or robotic delivery—they rely on trust. So what can we do? **We must shift our focus from how something sounds to what is being asked.** Is the caller urging urgency? Asking for sensitive information? Pressuring you to act before thinking? These are the red flags that matter now.

In today's world, vigilance must be constant—not just when something sounds “off,” but even when it sounds reassuringly familiar. Protecting yourself against vishing There are a number of ways you can help protect yourself against vishing scams, like keeping up to date with latest guidance. Of course, the more you understand vishing, the more prepared you'll be to handle a bogus call should it come. Here are a few simple measures you can take: avoid answering phone calls from unknown numbers. Instead, let them go to voicemail never share your personal information over the phone. Banks, credit card companies and service providers will never call asking for sensitive information hang up immediately if a caller from a purported reputable company sounds suspicious. Then call the company yourself, so you can be sure it's legitimate or not be sure to report any vishing attempts straight away. The sooner you do, the quicker the scam will be squashed. Reporting a vishing scam If you spot the signs of a vishing scam, you can report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing or by calling 0300 123 0240, they are the national fraud and crime reporting centre. They'll review your report, and send it to the police if necessary. If money's been taken from your account or you're worried a scammer might have enough of your details to do so, do let your bank know straight away using the phone number on the back of your debit or credit card. They can then protect your account from further issues.



the village and calling. A Nuthatch was heard in the village churchyard. A late morning visit to woodland scrub at Carbrooke produced a roving flock of Tits, mostly Long-tailed Tits, and with these was a single Willow Warbler which appeared to have quite yellow underparts. On the 29th a passage Chiffchaff passed through the garden early afternoon. This bird was seen in the hedge where I watched it sidle up a sprig of

Hawthorn and then made a fly catching sally for a fly. The Chiffchaff flew into the willow where a few tail dips were seen before the bird flew over the house in a southerly heading. An afternoon visit to St Mary's churchyard in Watton was mostly quiet with the exception of a Robin in the hedgerow. 5+ Buzzards were seen from the churchyard at great height and two Red Kites passed low overhead. More at <http://brecklandbirder.blogspot.com>

Watton Evening WI

Our meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month and are held in the community rooms of the Methodist chapel.

Sandra Roberts (left) was the speaker at our October meeting. She lives locally and has a life long passion for crafting. Her latest craft that she enjoys is paper craft, a passion that has been popular in the USA for many years. In fact, Sandra explained how the Americans produce a multitude of products which are used in a variety of ways. Sandra showed us some of the items she has made and told us how products are colour coordinated to help crafters achieve some special makes.

It was then the turn of the WI ladies to have a go! Sandra provided each lady with a craft pack to make a Christmas card. A Christmas tree had been punched out and double sided tape applied, a variety of coloured ribbon was distributed and instruction given on how to use the materials. It was a very enjoyable task; everyone quickly made their card, embellishing it to make it very personal. Sandra then judged the finished cards and awarded 1st place to Angela, 2nd place to Suzanne and 3rd place to Val.

We were all amazed by how few materials were needed to create something so pleasing, also a great way to recycle materials that are easily found in the home.

Tea and biscuits followed then the business of the evening was shared.

A number of ladies had made poppies for the decoration of the church for Remembrance Day. Details of upcoming events were outlined; our stall on the Festive Market on 30th November, Christmas Buffet at the Sports Centre on 5th December and our coffee morning on 10th December.

Dates of all the usual activities were given, the raffle drawn and the meeting closed with the a Final Thought, given by Karen



Norfolk Wildlife Trust Breckland Local Group

Well we had two successful tours at Wild Ken Hill and a very interesting tour of Cavenham Heath to round off Summer. Now we're into the Autumn talks which started with Chris Durdin, ex RSPB, giving an illustrated talk on The Norfolk Crane Story. This was very well attended and everyone said Chris was very good.

The next talk is on Wednesday November 12th at 7.30pm.

It's by a local couple who grow pineapples and keep bees and make honey. They can't bring any bees, Wong time of year, but promised a pineapple! Join us at The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton. IP25 6AB. Members £2 non-members £3. Refreshments and a raffle available.

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Trouble Buzzes In

The Wayland Players
present . . .
'A Fly in the Ointment'
a riotous farce by
Derek Benfield

When Ron Coley MP sneaks into the seaside bungalow of his ex-mistress, Donna, he is hoping for discretion – not disaster. But chaos erupts as his virtuous wife, Louise, arrives unexpectedly followed by a lovelorn doctor, a suspicious policewoman and a pizza delivery boy who has more than pepperoni on his mind. Secrets unravel, identities blur and increasingly incredible explanations pile up faster than the pizzas. Expect mistaken identities, outrageous twists and non-stop laughter at the Queens Hall on November 13th to 15th. There are evening performances on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th with curtain up at 7.45 and a matinee on Saturday 15th with curtain up at 2.45. Tickets, at £10, are on sale now at Adcocks in Watton High Street. We look forward to seeing you all there. Jenny Mann, The Wayland Players

CODEWORD

This month is our
“Blast me thas bin getting’ a
bit chilly these days so how
about winning a little winter
survival kit?” Codeword.



The prize this month is a small collection of gadgets to help you manage the colder, darker months. We have put together a Slow Cooker suitable for one - two persons, an electrically rechargeable hot water bottle, a Dusk Till Dawn Light to plug into a socket in your hallway and light your way to the loo in the night should you need to, a small LED hand held torch and a battery powered switchable light for a cupboard or other dark area. Each number in the Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this puzzle, 7 represents T and 26 represents F; so fill in a T every time the figure 7 appears and an F every time the figure 26 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid. *Consecutive squares are not necessarily just one word!* Finally, when you have all the numbers in the control grid, decode the following codeword(s):
8, 19, 19, 18, 20, 10, 4, 8, 5, 3, 4, 13, 3, 21, 17, 2, 21
Send the Codeword you think is the answer along with your name and contact details in an envelope marked ‘Competition’ to Julian, Care of Adcocks, 32 High Street, Watton or by email to wattontimes@gmail.com
All correct entries received BEFORE midnight on the 12th of the month of the paper, will be put into a draw, and the first entry drawn will win the prize detailed above. There will also be a Mug & Coaster set for the Runner Up
Last month’s winner’s name and the solution to last month’s Codeword are on Page 6. Entry is open to everyone, and in relation to all aspects of the competition’s conduct and results, the Editor’s decision shall be final.

11	19	7	7	24	23	21		13	12	24	21	2	18	3
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The Wayland Partnership And Dragonfly Gallery

Partnership

DRAGONFLY

At the end of October we will have had our big launch of the next stages of the Digital and Creative Media and Community Hub (DCMC), which will have been held at Dragon Hall in Norwich. We will report in more detail next month. This event was designed to reach the wider businesses, tech communities and other interest groups across East Anglia to spread the word about what the proposed new build will be able to offer. If your group, or you as an individual, would like to know more please contact us at Wayland House. This is an exciting project designed to contribute to and help boost the regeneration of Watton and Wayland. We are happy to do presentations or talk to you face to face.

We have applied for funding from various sources for both the DCMC project and for other activity at Wayland House and are awaiting the results.

IMPROVE YOUR USE OF YOUR IPHONE AND IPAD

The first of these courses went very well with everyone learning a lot more about their device, how to update it and all sorts of ways of doing things we never knew were there! Also we are learning a lot about protecting ourselves from scams and unwanted calls. If you would like to take part we do have spaces available. Our tutor has been excellent in being flexible to meet the differing needs of those attending, making it a relaxed session rather than a step by step course. The course is free due to National Lottery funding.

WATTON CHRISTMAS MARKET

We shall be having a stall on the market and also opening Dragonfly for a hot drink and cake during the event. We look forward to seeing you there. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes organising such events so we hope the weather is kind and everyone has a great day on the High Street.

LUNCH AND ACTIVITY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 10th 12.30 onwards.

Thanks to the Norfolk Community Fund we are able to put on some free activity which we hope will attract people as the colder weather and darker days increase. Gardening isn't so appealing or so urgent and summer activities have come to an end, so if you would like some social time this might be for you. We are beginning with a light lunch followed by a games afternoon but we really want to gather your thoughts as to what we can provide in future. If lunch isn't for you just come along for a cuppa. Our ideas are: talks on topics which might be of interest; mini workshops; or even short courses. Or perhaps you prefer somewhere simply to relax and chat, play a table game if you wish. However, we might find there are ideas we haven't considered. We will begin at Wayland House but if the group grows we will look into using a larger space in future. Our first one is Monday November 10th from 12.30 onwards so do drop in.

WORKSHOPS

We are increasing the number of workshops in the run up to Christmas. We are always open to suggestions or, if you would like to run a workshop for us, we are always keen for new ideas. If there is a demand for learning a skill we will try to meet it – would you like to learn to knit or crochet for example? Would you like a session where you can join with others to recycle materials to make something new or improved? Get in touch if we can help. We have ideas but there might be people out there asking 'Why don't they have a workshop for.....?' that we haven't thought of doing. It is your Partnership so please tell us.

OCTOBER 30TH HALLOWEEN WORKSHOPS

If you receive your latest Watton Times before the end of the month this is a reminder that we are

holding a Halloween workshop on Thursday 30th November to make some spooky decorations. It is suitable for children provided they are accompanied by a responsible adult. Cost is £5.

NOVEMBER 4TH 10am-4pm

Make a quilted Jacket. Cost £15. Pattern provided. We will send out requirements upon booking. Space is limited so booking is essential. You will need a sewing machine, although we have a couple we can loan, and some intermediate sewing skills. This is not suitable for beginners. We have two made up examples to show how you can vary the pattern to suit your taste.

NOVEMBER 14TH 10.30am -12.30

Make a Redwork Christmas Decoration with Wendy of CollinsCrafts. Another of our mindfulness stitching sessions in relaxing surroundings to create a pretty decoration for your home or to give as a gift. £12. All materials supplied.

DECEMBER 12TH 10.30am – 12.30.

A workshop with Wendy of CollinsCrafts. Details still to be confirmed but will be on a Christmas theme.

WANTED

If you are a local crafter or artist we are looking for items to sell for Christmas. We usually have a wonderful display. Even if you only have a one off item we welcome all contributions which will either be suitable as a gift or as a decoration. We take a 20% commission on sales, with the money raised helping to keep the gallery open to all.

CONTACT

DETAILS

For all of the above and any other queries please contact us at Wayland House, High St, Watton IP25 6AR.

Email: officewaylandpartnership@gmail.com or dragonflygallerywayland@gmail.com or phone 01953 880204.

Please note that our office is open mornings 9-



12 Monday to Thursday and 9-1 on Fridays Dragonfly is volunteer dependent so we apologise if it is unexpectedly closed occasionally due to illness, holidays and other commitments. If you arrive during our office hours and you find it closed please go to the reception at the front of the building and Nicki will be happy to open up for you. If you would like to join the team and help us keep it open for longer please get in touch. You can do a weekly slot or join the group who can be called upon to stand in when needed. We are now able to open most Saturday mornings due to a lovely new volunteer but please be understanding if she occasionally needs a weekend off! Our usual hours are Monday 10-4, Tuesday 10-1, Wednesday 10-1, Thursday 10-4, Friday 10-1 an Saturday 10-1.

The Moths and Butterflies of November

It's all too easy to think that now that the days are getting shorter and the temperatures colder that we have seen the last of the beautiful moths and butterflies that brighten up our walks and our gardens, but there is plenty still to see.

Some garden plants like salvias, buddleia, ivy and asters will flower well into November and will attract more robust butterflies like Comma, Peacock and Brimstone. These species are capable of hibernating through the coming winter but they will be keen to feed up on nectar on warmer days, a bit like the new queen bumblebees who will also be visiting our gardens.

In our moth trap on the reserve we will expect to see a whole range of beautiful moths whose colouring and patterning matches autumn colours perfectly- so that when they rest by day amongst the trees they are well hidden from predators. We will see species like Mallow - a larger, triangular brown moth with fine bars across the wings, as well as the fallows- these are a group of moths that come in beautiful shades of yellow, orange, rosy pink and warm browns. One species of moth you may see when you are out and about is the Feathered thorn- these are quite easily disturbed by people when walking in the woods as they tend to settle on leaf litter and low vegetation which we might brush past. They get their name because the males have very well-feathered

antennae- these pick up the female moth's pheromones (hormones that only members of the same species can detect) so that he can find her through the darkness of an autumn night.

If we are lucky, we may even catch a Merveille du jour- a stunning lichen-mimic moth whose name translates from French to 'marvel of the day'. They migrate to the UK from Europe so we don't see them every year- but when we do it is a real treat.

It's also not too late to spot dragonflies in November too- we expect to be able to still see Common darters this month- these are a smaller species where the males are bright red and females pale brown. They are quite sociable as far as these territorial insects go - you can often spot several together on a fence post or bench, keeping an eye out for their smaller insect prey, or for other passing dragonflies. Migrant hawkers will still be around too- with our milder winters these now breed in the UK (they used to be solely migrants) and they are a bit bigger than Common darters- and a beautiful mix of black with blue and green spots and stripes.

When you get out and about this Autumn, do keep an eye out for insects if the weather is warm- they will be taking advantage of the better days as we will too. With best wishes, Heidi Jones (Visitor Experience Officer, RSPB Lakenheath Fen).

Events Diary

Places for all events need to be booked online- please visit <https://bit.ly/LakenheathFenEvents> to read more and

book tickets.

Treasures of the Moth Trap

28 November, 27 February (10am to 11am)

Learn more about the amazing world of moths- join us to admire what we catch in our harmless trap.

RSPB members £5 (£2.50 for Under 18's); non-RSPB members £6 (£3 for Under 18's).

Wild Wetland Winter Guided Walks

Sundays 23 November, 11 January (9:30am-12:30pm)

Wrap up warm and join us to see the best that winter has to offer- we will be looking for seasonal highlights with our knowledgeable guides on this beautiful reserve!

RSPB members £12 (£6 for Under 18's); non-RSPB members £15 (£7.50 for Under 18's).

Raptors in the Reedbed

Sunday 25 Jan, Saturday 14 Feb 2026

Watch the reserve come to light as darkness falls, and birds of prey gather to hunt or roost in the reedbeds.

RSPB members £12 (£6 for Under 18's); non-RSPB members £15 (£7.50 for Under 18's).

Winter Walking Safari

Sunday 8 February 2026 (9:30am-3:30pm)

Many parts of the reserve aren't usually open to the public, and this behind the scenes tour provides a great opportunity to see the wildlife hiding out in pools and reedbeds which aren't visible from the current visitor trails. This walk is just over six miles long, and will include a visit to Botany Bay SSSI. RSPB members £20 (£10 for Under 18's); non-RSPB members £25 (£12.50 for Under 18's).

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Days by Coach 2025

Saturday 8th November **Birmingham Shopping & Food Festival** Adult £40 Child £25

Saturday 29th November **Bury at Christmas** Adult £20 Child £10

Thursday 4th December **Fakenham Christmas Trees** Adult £15 Child £10

Sunday 14th December **Christmas Lunch** Adult £45

Saturday 20th December **Christmas Lights Tour & Chip Supper** Adult £30 Child £15

Saturday 10th January **Lakeside Sales** Adult £35 Child £20

Saturday 28th February **Freeport Designer Outlet Braintree** Adult £35 Child £20

Holidays 2025

Turkey & Tinsel Bognor Regis 5-8th December

Shows 2025

Knitting & Stitching Alexandra Palace 11th October Adult £45 TBC

Abba Voyage & Westfields Shopping Centre 1st Nov. SOLD OUT
Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Friday 12th December 2pm Show **SOLD OUT**

Cromer Pier Christmas Show 16th December
2.30pm Show Adult £45

NEW 2026 BROCHURE OUT NOW!

Please Call for Further Information or to Make a Booking

St Mary's Church

Church Road, Watton, IP25 6DQ
www.stmaryswatton.org
Weekly Wednesday Services at 10am

Worship in November

Sun 2nd	10am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	All Souls Service
Sat 8th	12noon	Commemoration of Commonwealth War Graves in St Mary's Churchyard
Sun 9th	10am	Remembrance Sunday Service
	2.30pm	Congregate at Memorial Car Park for a parade to....
	3.30pm	..The Town Remembrance Service at The Methodist Church, High St, Watton.
Tues 11th	11am	Armistice Day at Chaston Place
Sun 16th	10am	Holy Communion
Sun 23rd	8am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am	4th Sunday
Sun 30th	10am	Café Church

Polish Catholic Community

St Mary's Church, Watton, IP25 6DQ
Every Thursday and Saturday at 6pm – 8pm

Watton Methodist Church News

57 High Street, Watton IP25 6AB
wattonmethodist.chessck.co.uk

Sunday Service times

10.30am in Church
6.30pm in the Large Vestry
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays

Coffee Morning

in The Methodist Centre
Every Wednesday 9.30am to 11.30am
Alongside the Country Market

Tuesdays@2 in The Methodist Centre
11th November at 2pm
Christmas Tree Decorations
All welcome - refreshments included -
suitable for all abilities

The Methodist Centre has 2 halls available
to hire either on a regular basis or one-offs.
Hire includes WiFi, hearing loops, facilities
for the disabled, kitchen for light catering.
For details of very moderate rates and
availability phone 01953 881451.

**All Saints Church,
Threxton****Service of Remembrance**

Sunday 9th November
10.30 a.m.

Everyone Welcome

**We offer you a warm welcome at
Purpose Church**

The Watton Sports Centre,
Dereham Road, Watton, IP25 6EZ
purposechurch.org.uk

Sundays: 10.30am morning service
**Thursday: 10.00am Community coffee
and chat**

If there is something you would like
us to pray for, please let us know.

More information contact Nick
07940049933: nicknundy@gmail.com

**What's On! at St
Mary's Church,
Watton -
November**

Church Road, Watton, IP25 6DQ
www.stmaryswatton.org
wattonchurch@gmail.com
01953 881252

Sat 1st 10am – 12noon Saturday Chat: Join us
on the 1st Sat of month for our coffee morning.
Come with friends or alone and make new ones!
Mon 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th 9.30am – 11am:
Storybags: FREE Children & baby playgroup,
meeting every Monday, term time, for plenty of
free play, a chance to meet others, & some fun to
finish off all together.

Tues 4th 5pm – 6pm Prayer & Praise: Sing
your favourite worship songs & pray with & for
the community. 1st Tues of month.

Wed 5th 1.30pm – 4pm (location in Watton)
Bereavement Group: Contact Linda Benton on
07803 017340 or linbenton2978@gmail.com for
details. 1st Wed of month.

Fri 7th 2pm – 4pm Craft Group: Enjoy
refreshments & company whilst crafting. £1

donation.

Thurs 13th 2pm – 2.30pm Prayer Gathering -
Led by Rev Dave Cossey. Come join us as
God's people to lift up both our community & the
wider world in a time of informal prayer. 2nd &
4th Thurs of month.

Wed 19th 1pm – 2.30pm Ecumenical Ladies' Prayer Group: At Home Church, Dereham Rd,
Watton. Fellowship followed by prayer time.
Please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks provided.
Fri 21st 2pm – 4pm Community Cinema:
Showing 'The Friend'. Doors open at 1:15pm for
2pm start. £5 ticket on the door inc. hot drink &
cake.

Tues 25th 2pm – 4pm Tuesday Club: Join us
for a social afternoon of games & laughter here at
St Mary's. Confectionary prizes to be won!
Donation gratefully received for refreshments.
All welcome!

Thurs 27th 10am – 3pm Open Church: St
Mary's open to all to visit.
2pm – 2.30pm Prayer Gathering: Come join us as
God's people to lift up both our community & the
wider world in a time of informal prayer. 2nd &
4th Thurs of month.

October's Winners of the 200 Club!

1st prize £50: Margot Hornsby, No.28
2nd prizes £25 each: Mirjam Johnson for Amy,
No. 119, Pauline Blackmore, No. 70.

**Remember,
Remember, the Fifth
of November!**

I have fond memories from my childhood of Guy
Fawkes Day. Each year my brothers and I would
make straw effigies, known as Guy, before carrying
them around our neighbourhood in a wheelbarrow
whilst shouting "penny for the guy", in the hope
that we'd earn enough to buy sparklers. The
annual firework display was held on the Hadleigh
Salvation Army Farm Colony in Essex, where we
enjoyed the sight of a large, crackling bonfire, and
a colourful display of noisy fireworks which would
be a source of fear to some children. Treats like
roasted chestnuts, marshmallows on sticks, and
toffee apples were also a popular part of the
celebrations.

These days, Bonfire Night - or Guy Fawkes Day -
is mostly about getting together with friends and
family around a big bonfire to watch fireworks. But
the roots of this centuries-old tradition are much
more than an evening of sparks and illumination,
they are a story of rebellion, religion and riot.
Historically, it commemorates the failure of the
Gunpowder Plot of 1605, during which a group of
Catholic conspirators attempted to blow up the
Houses of Parliament. Led by a man called Robert
Catesby, the group of 13 conspirators united in
their anger at King James I for failing to support
greater religious tolerance to Catholics, whose
freedoms had been oppressed by Protestants.

But the conspirators' plot was never to come to
fruition. An anonymous letter informed the
Parliament of the group's radical plan, resulting in
guards being placed on alert. On the day of the plot,
Parliament guards discovered Guy Fawkes with a
rather incriminating fuse on his person! All co-
conspirators were either killed resisting capture, or
tried and executed. This included Guy Fawkes.

Some say that Bonfire Night's spiritual significance
stems from two main sources: the ancient fire
rituals with meanings of purification and protection,
and its modern interpretation as a celebration of
freedom and resistance against tyranny and injustice
with a desire for liberty and democracy. The Church
of England highlights the need to respond to human
need by loving service, and transforming the unjust
structures in society. But whilst there is a deep need
for those things, I also pray that we don't become like
the embers of fire which float outside of our bonfire's
heat and lose their light. For when God fills us with
spiritual fire, we stay in the heat of God's presence,
thus enabling everlasting light to draw others to the
love of Christ. Vanessa

Reverend Vanessa is the rector for the Wayland
parishes of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham,
Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon. You can
contact her on 07984 318885 or by email at
vanessadlayfield@gmail.com

**The Wayland Group
of Parishes
Worship in November**

Sunday 2nd November
10.30am United Holy Communion &
All Souls
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

Sunday 9th November
Rev Adrian Bell
10.30am Service of Remembrance
St Peter & St Paul, Griston

Tuesday 11th November
10.45am Service of Remembrance
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham
and
Holy Cross, Caston

Sunday 16th November
10.30am United Holy Communion
St Botolph's, Stow Bedon

Sunday 23rd November
10.30am United Holy Communion
St Martin's, Thompson

Sunday 30th November
10.30am United Holy Communion -
St Margaret's, Breckles
6.30pm Advent Service -Darkness to
Light - St Margaret's, Breckles

St Margaret's, Breckles
Holy Cross, Caston
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham
St Peter & St Paul, Griston
St Botolph's, Stow Bedon
St Martin's, Thompson

HOME CHURCH

info@homechurchwatton.com

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

SUN | **SERVICE 10.30 - 12.00**
Sunday Service

FRI | **FRIENDSHIP 10.00 - 12.00**

TUES | **BIG HOUSE 10.00 - 12.00**
Mother and Toddler Group

WED - THURS | **HOME GROUPS**
Wednesday evening Thursday afternoon

1ST & 3RD | **PRAYER MEETING 11**
Wednesday of the month

GET IN TOUCH
homechurchwatton.com

**Thompson
Community Hall**

Our upcoming events for November are:

**WEDNESDAY LUNCH AND GAMES
AFTERNOONS**

We are fortunate to have some funding to hold
a weekly lunch and games afternoon free of
charge. We will be extending the existing
Stitchers sessions into the afternoon but, you
may come along to Stitchers and stay on for
lunch or arrive any time from 12noon. This is
not just for women! We will provide a light
lunch and table games such as scrabble,
yahtzee, cards and more. For the more
energetic we have a table tennis table, a darts
board and, in good weather, a petanque terrain.
Or you can just socialise. The funding is short
term until Christmas but if games is something
needed during the winter months and proves
popular we will find a way of continuing.

FILM NIGHT November 7th We are
screening Black Bag starring Michael
Fassbender and Cate Blanchett. This is billed
as a gripping spy drama of divided loyalties.

GRAND SECONDHAND BOOK SALE
November 22nd and 23rd 10am-2.30pm each
day

The last in our series for 2025 is a special two
day event. We will be marking the retirement
of the founders of the sales, Caroline and Keith
with this two day special. We wish them both
well for the future and thank them for such a
brilliant idea. We are also mindful that not
everyone can get to the sales on a Saturday and
that the nights are drawing in, so that our
normal 4pm closing time is a bit late for some.
We shall open as usual at 10am but close
earlier at 2.30. You will still be able to enjoy
our delicious cheese scones, home made cakes
and lunch. As a special offer all book prices
will be even cheaper than usual so come and
bag a bargain or two.

2026. We already have plans in hand for the
sales in 2026. The committee made up of the
three charities of Thompson Community Hall,
Griston Church and Thompson Church groups
are continuing to run the sales. We have
purchased a large shed for book storage on site
at the hall and it is now equipped with
equipment and power ready to begin sorting
books. We take donations of books at the hall
on Tuesdays 10-12. Wednesdays 10-12 or
Thursdays in term time only 3-4.30.
Otherwise contact us to arrange. Dates for the
diary for 2026 sales are: March 14th, July 18th
and November 21st.

Book sale contact is
booksale@thompsoncommunityhall.co.uk or
phone 01953 488 508 and leave a message.

QUIZ NIGHT November 29th 7.30pm
Teams of up to 6. £3 per person. Licensed bar
selling wine and beer. Tea and coffee also
available.

To pre-book your team contact us.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE HALL

If you wish to learn more about any of the
above or future events, or you wish to hire our
lovely facilities please contact us.

EMAIL: info@thompsoncommunityhall.
co.uk or phone 01953 488 508

**November - What's On at
The Queens Hall
Norwich Road, Watton**

1st Ballroom Dancing 19:30 - 22:30

3rd and 24th Bingo

4th Norfolk and Norwich Hospital

Diabetes Session 13:30 - 16:30

5th, 19th and 26th Carpet Bowls 13:30

6th Pilates 18:15 - 19:30

8th Christmas Craft Fair 9:00 - 14:30

21st Ju Jitsu 17:30.

18th CLM Fitness Dance Classes 8:45 -

19:45

25th NHS Blood Donors

26th Line Dancing 19:00 - 21:00

28th Medium 19:00

For more information check out the
website queenshall-watton.co.uk

Wayland Men's Shed



This month marks our ninth year as a Men's Shed. All is going well at the shed with plenty of support for all the different sub groups that we have. Last month I mentioned the Shanty group and as to how popular and successful they are. We are always looking to enhance our performances and if any readers with a musical instrument would like to join us then please make contact. This month I would also like to give a mention to the music

appreciation group (pictured), which is growing in popularity. The last session had a record 21 in attendance. Dave Cooper runs the monthly session selecting some interesting topics for those attending to rifle through their collections and come up with an eclectic mix of music. Each member picks out a piece of music and introduces it saying what it means to them and why they have chosen it. All members of the group then give a mark out of

ten. It is a thoroughly enjoyable morning. For all activities, pictures and news about events please visit our website. That is all for this edition but I hope to report further in the next one. If you want any further information on Wayland Men's Shed please visit our Website www.waylandmensshed.co.uk or contact : Malcolm Trayhorn, Chairman & Social Secretary Tel: 07729993163

Final Touches Made to the Poppy Display

The final touches to the Remembrance Day Poppy Display, at the Watton Methodist Centre, are being organised ready for viewing outside the church from Saturday 1st November. Inside the church there will be window displays created by groups from the community and individuals, as well as the children's poppy colouring competition entries including the winning one. These can be seen on Saturday 8th November from 10am until 12noon or at the Remembrance Day service at 3.30pm on Sunday 9th November.



The Inner Wheel



President Heather decided that our September meeting would be a day out and she thought that an afternoon tea at Peter Beales Roses would fit the bill, having a cafe and beautiful gardens to explore with the possibility of buying something for our own gardens. This was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

On 1st October, members arrived at the Queens Hall ready to start laying tables, heating urns, filling rolls and generally preparing for our lunchtime concert. Well before the start time, the tables began filling up and there was an increasing buzz of conversation as friends met up. We had a 'new to us' singer joining us this time. Darrin sang songs from our youth and was very well received by the audience. He will be joining us when we do our annual Christmas concert on 10th December - a date for your diaries. Pictured: President Heather with Darrin On 26th November you might see a group of us walking down the High Street. We will be wearing or carrying something orange as we will be supporting Orange the World. This is a United Nations initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls across the world, and Inner Wheel are supporting this global campaign. We would love anybody interested to join us and there will be more details in the next edition. Jenny Simons (Club Correspondent)

Breckland Council allocates almost £300,000 to enhance leisure facilities in Watton

Breckland Council has allocated almost £300,000 to help deliver a range of projects to boost leisure and recreation facilities in Watton.

The money is helping to pay for the resurfacing of a local hockey pitch, the installation of new basketball facilities, refurbishing toilets and a play area, and the launch of a new Junior Park Run in the town. The money comes from developers who have recently built additional homes in the area. As with many new home developments, a condition of their planning permission was that they were required to provide a financial contribution to enhancing local leisure facilities. Breckland Council is the administrator of the funding. Watton Sports Centre was allocated £108k to support the creation of the recently-opened Watton Skate Park. The money was secured from Bennett PLC, the developer of the former RAF radar site on Norwich Road. A further £88k was provided by Barratt David Wilson Homes, the developer behind the 180 homes built on Thetford Road. The Thetford Road developer also contributed to a number of other schemes, including £80,657 to resurface the hockey pitch at Watton Sports Centre. Other projects included: £7,400 to Watton Town Council to refurbish the play area on Bridle Road

£1,800 towards the start-up costs for the Junior Park Run at Watton Sports Centre £6,500 for the refurbishment of the reception toilets at Watton Sports Centre, ensuring accessibility for all visitors £4,163 for the Loch Neaton Charity to install an outdoor all-weather basketball hoop set, seating, and litter bins at the Old Bowling Green site Cllr Paul Hewett, Executive Member for Property, Projects and Procurement, said: "It is great to see the positive impact new developments can have on local residents of all ages. The financial contributions made by developers in our district helps to further enhance community activities ensuring both our residents and our businesses can thrive. These recreational spaces will be used and enjoyed by all for years to come." Cllr Claire Bowes, Cllr Keith Gilbert and Cllr Tina Kiddell, Ward Members for Watton, added: "We are excited to see the investment into community facilities in Watton. As the town grows through the local developments there is more need than ever to provide outdoor spaces for all to enjoy, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have on our community. We would also like to thank the Breckland Youth Advisory Board (YAB) who have worked closely with councillors to help implement the new skate park, their input has been invaluable."

Gardening Naturally - changing from chemicals to nature

Ashill, Holme Hale & District Garden Club

September's monthly meeting was ver much a practical presentation by Norfolk based gardener and beekeeper Annette Hurt (right). Annette is a strong proponent of using nature instead of chemicals in your garden, both to help grow healthy plants, fruit and vegetables and also deal with the predators they attract.

Annette started her presentation with an explanation of why less chemicals means healthier soil, which leads to better plant growth. This was followed by a discussion of the 'No Dig' approach to gardening, accompanied by a practical demonstration of how to make a 'no dig' bed in your garden with the use of cardboard and home grown compost. One of the advantages of 'no dig' approach, or more accurately 'less dig' gardening is not breaking up the soil structure, thus allowing mycorrhizal fungi in your soil to support good root growth of your plants.

Annette then talked about the importance of using plant based compost, ideally home made for your garden beds and liquid fertilisers made from either nettles, comfrey or borage to support plant, fruit and vegetable growth. In addition to providing natural sources nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium these garden derived fertilisers provide many trace elements important for

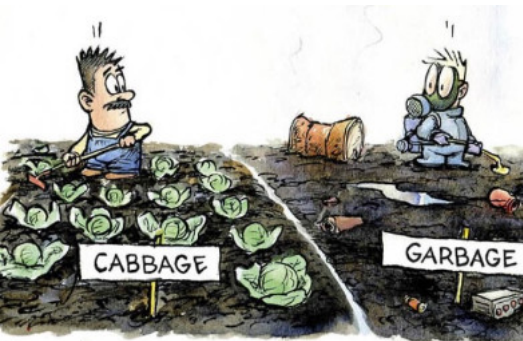
healthy soil and plant growth. To avoid the strong smell of these plant based liquid fertilisers Annette provided a recipe for fermented versions, which both concentrate the fertiliser and replace the 'stink' with a much sweeter smelling product.

The latter part of the presentation explained the advantage of companion planting with aim of both attracting pollinators to your garden and controlling insect pests such as aphids and whitefly, both of which are repelled by marigolds. Attracting ladybirds will help control aphid populations in your veg patch. Using natural approaches to manage weeds on your patio and gravel driveways was also discussed. A good recipe for a natural weedkiller is a combination of cleaning vinegar (20% strength), salt and washing up liquid (not antibacterial) used as a spray, although it is important to keep this off garden beds or lawns. Using these naturally based, non-chemical, approaches in your gardening will lead to healthier soil and plants, with improved productivity from your fruit and vegetable growing.

Upcoming Events

Our October meeting (23rd) will have well known Norfolk naturalist Simon Harrap, of Natural Surroundings near Holt, talk about the 'Flowers of the Norfolk Coast'. Our November meeting (20th) will have Graham Watts talk about 'Hydrangeas and how to look after them'. All meetings are held at Holme Hale Pavilion and start at 2.30pm. New members from anywhere in the district are always welcome, so come along and improve your gardening knowledge, while enjoying a welcoming environment with like minded colleagues.

Website: ashillgardeningclub.wordpress.com/
Email: ashillholmeahalegardenclub@gmail.com



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You can email us at info@wattonbankinghub.co.uk

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Or Search **Watton Banking Hub** using Google or Bing etc.

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- **Monday: Halifax**
- **Tuesday: Natwest - Every Week available from 9am - 4.30pm**
- **Wednesday: HSBC**
- **Thursday: Lloyds**
- **Friday: Barclays (with two community bankers available)**

These community bankers are on hand from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, other than noted, offering a walk-in service for your convenience. Whether you need advice, have questions about your account, or require assistance with more complex banking matters, they're here to help.

Please note: All community bankers take a dedicated lunch break from 1pm to 2pm each day.

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Red Squirrels - Did You Know?

By Rosalie Osborne Gibb

Did you know there are no wild red squirrels anywhere in Norfolk? Or indeed, most of the UK. However, we do still have some, thanks to breeding programmes. Since 1999, Kelling Heath Holiday Park has been involved in a conservation scheme by keeping a captive breeding population whose monitored release through projects across the country supports established colonies of wild squirrels.

Red squirrels have been native to the UK for thousands of years, but are now only found in a few enclaves, primarily Scotland (around 75%), the Lake District and Northumberland plus a few isolated populations further south including in the National Trust pine forests in Formby, (a coastal village north of Liverpool, a veritable nature haven, including some of Europe's most important and protected sand dune habitats, where rare species such as sand lizards and natterjack toads thrive), Anglesey, Brownsea Island off the coast of Dorset, and the Isle of Wight. I was very much up close and personal to red squirrels on Brownsea Island a few years ago, where they regularly turned up to see if there was anything tasty on

offer, when I conducted a residential week of creative watercolour workshops for the John Lewis art group in Brownsea Castle.

The red squirrel population first started to decline as far back as the fourteenth century, long before grey squirrels were introduced to the UK, when the demand for wood in the timber industry grew. Habitat loss due to the destruction of woodland has also been a contributory factor. However, their decline is mainly due to the introduction of grey squirrels from North America by the Victorians in the nineteenth century, when they were deliberately released by wealthy landowners and collectors as ornamental pets onto country estates. The first known release was in 1876 at Henbury Park, Cheshire, by banker Thomas V. Brocklehurst. Wealthy individuals, such as the 11th Duke of Bedford, who released grey squirrels onto his estate at Woburn Abbey, are also credited with introducing the species and gifting pairs to friends for release on their own estates.

Between 1876 and 1929 grey squirrels were introduced to more than 30 different sites across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Being larger and therefore more competitive when it comes to feeding, as well as stripping the bark from trees thus causing damage to the red squirrels' habitats, grey squirrels also carry squirrel pox, a disease relatively harmless to them, but which kills red squirrels. So with the combination of these factors, the UK's population of red squirrels has declined drastically to approximately 250,000 and the population of grey squirrels has increased to several million. Without conservation management, red squirrels are very much at risk of becoming extinct.

However, help now seems to be at hand, coming from an unexpected source. Pine martens suffered from hunting for their fur and were killed as predators of game birds until they gained protected status in law during the 1980s. Now their numbers are increasing and there are a few thousand living in Scotland. New research carried out in Scottish woodlands has confirmed that where there are pine martens, there tend to be more red squirrels and fewer greys, possibly because grey squirrels have no native predators similar to pine martens and therefore don't see them as a threat until it's too late. (Best not to think about that too much!)

Research is under way into a managed contraceptive for grey squirrels which will hopefully lead to a natural drop in their numbers, allowing the red squirrels to thrive throughout the UK, and native broadleaf trees no longer suffering from grey squirrel bark stripping.

Red squirrels often make several dreys, or nests, from twigs, leaves and strips of bark high up in the tree canopy, to safeguard against a nest being found by predators, getting damaged or waterlogged, or having too many fleas! Should you be lucky enough to see a red squirrel leaping across branches and spiralling up tree trunks, it would no doubt be a male chasing a female.

Red squirrels are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Conversely, grey squirrels are considered pests and it's illegal to release them into the wild or allow them to escape from captivity, and legal to cull them humanely.

A few random facts about red squirrels – did you know their characteristic ear tufts develop in winter, they can be left or right handed or even ambidextrous, recognise and remember humans who're nice to them, in other words feed them, have an exceptional sense of smell and can find food buried beneath a foot of snow and sense a rotten nut without having to open it, on average live for three to five years but have been known to live until ten in safe enclosures, bury or place food in holes to be eaten later when food is scarce, don't hibernate, have no fixed partners, mate twice a year between February and March and between June and July and have three kittens on average per litter who're born blind with no teeth or hair? And if anyone can tell me what this nest primarily made from twigs is in my Magnolia tree I will be forever grateful! Looks like, but can't possibly be, a squirrel



Watton (Loch Neaton) Outdoor and Short Mat Bowls Club.

Our Competition finals took place on September 13th, with Shirley Ball our Ladies Singles Champion for 2025, Bob Davies took the Mens Singles Trophy plus Judy Willis and Bob Davies the Mixed Pairs Trophy; all will be presented with their silverware at our AGM / Presentation event on November 15th. For the first time, we will run the AGM and buffet followed by Presentation as a morning to early afternoon event.

On the Monday following the finals afternoon, the green, and the club, with a huge amount of effort from our Greens Team, and members, some of it on the hottest day in September, was closed up for the winter months. Other members cleared flower borders, cut hedges and many other jobs. Here's hoping for a mild winter!

The Bowls Club ran two charity events during the 2025 season- so it was with great pleasure that our Ladies League Captain, Ollie Hutchings and Chairman Len Green recently made a presentation, of £150 to Watton Sports and Social Club, Len Green gave a further £150 presentation to the Memory Café at the Methodist Centre, both local charities.

Staying with bowls - Loch Neaton Indoor Short Mat, our sister club is open on Tuesday afternoons, from 2:00pm, where new and experienced players are most welcome.

For further information on our Club, have a look at our website: www.wattonbowlsclub.co.uk

Pictured right (L to R) Phil Kibler, Sports Centre Trustee, Centre Watton BC Ladies League Captain Ollie Hutchings, Right: Watton BC Chairman Len Green

Below Watton BC Chairman Len Green at Memory Café, Watton.



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This issue of the Watton & Wayland Times was compiled and edited by Julian Horn At 32 High Street, Watton IP25 6AE and is published by Watton & Wayland Times Ltd. Company Number 16140119 Registered Office: 38 High Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AE And printed by: Sharman & Company Ltd, Newark Road, Peterborough PE1 5TD. Phone: 01733 424 949