



## The Wayland Players On Tour

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THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

WELLS COLE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
SAHAM TONEY  
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

LITTLE ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL  
FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

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FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

GREAT CRESSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL  
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## Saham Methodist Chapel Closure

Sadly, the Methodist Chapel at Saham Hills has now closed bringing to an end Methodist Worship in Saham Toney, Saham Hills and Saham Waite. Where once there were four active chapels, now there are none.

The chapel in Saham Hills was opened in 1876 to replace a smaller one in Coburg Lane. According to the Treasurer's Book, the old chapel, now a house, was sold for £30, the equivalent of £3,000 in today's money. The new chapel in Hills Road cost £665 5s 9d (£677,220) and was completed in just 5 months.

In the early days of Methodism few working families would be fluent readers, so it was common practice for the minister to read the hymns a few lines or a verse at a time, after which he and the congregation joined in singing what he had just read.

The story goes that on one evening the minister felt

constrained to remark

"The light is going very dim; I scarce can read the hymn"

Whereupon the congregation sang these words too.

At this he admonished them, saying

"I did not mean to read that as a hymn, I simply said the light was dim"

So, they sang that too!

Owing to increasing age and mobility issues of the congregation, the decision was made last year to reduce the number of services to 2 a month then at Church Council meeting in July this year, we reluctantly voted to close. This decision was presented at Circuit Meeting the following week and thence to District.

Our final service took place on 30th August ending 150 years of worship in the chapel.

## Car Parks In Watton Move Into Town Council Ownership

Breckland Council has now signed over ownership of more car parks in the district, helping to ensure they continue to be managed as close to local communities as possible.

Three car parks in Watton are now owned by Watton Town Council, instead of being owned and run by Breckland Council.

The transfers were agreed between the authorities after Central Government announced plans to abolish Breckland Council in 2028 as part of its Norfolk-wide reorganisation of Local Government. Transferring the car parks to town councils now will ensure they remain in local control rather than being taken over by a new,

larger local authority for the area.

Cllr Paul Hewett, Breckland Council's Executive Member for Property, Projects and Procurement, commented: "These transfers are about Putting Breckland First and ensuring these important assets remain in the hands of local people so they can continue to best serve the needs of our residents and businesses for years to come."

The car parks which have changed ownership are Goddards Court on Watton High Street, Thetford Road Memorial car park, and Kittel Close car park.

Cllr Sarah Humphries, Mayor of Watton, added: "The transfer of ownership of Watton's car parks is excellent news for our residents, businesses and visitors. By securing these car parks, we are helping to protect easy access to our town centre thereby supporting local shops and services. Watton will remain a welcoming and convenient place to live, work and visit. This is a positive step for the whole community and I am delighted that the town will benefit from this important asset for many years to come."

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# Lt Ellingham Working Weekend

## You did East Anglian Air Ambulance proud

Wow. What a fantastic show and THANK YOU to all our supporters.

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th August 2026 We had lots of visitors and raised £2500.00 over the two days on our stand. The volunteers who manned the stand on both days are so grateful for your support.

We had a landing by the helicopter and crew on Saturday at no cost to East Anglian Air Ambulance as sponsored by Babcock the supplier of our helicopters and pilots. Sadly, they had a call-out after a brief visit and had to leave earlier than planned. However, we did get to see them fly over to another call out on Sunday, which just goes to show how vital

fund raising is to keep the service running. Thank you to the Baker Family and the Lt Ellingham Working Weekend committee for allowing us at East Anglian Air Ambulance Charity to attend. On our stand we sold Christmas Cards and Calendars for 2027 for those eager to plan ahead, alongside running a treasure hunt. The treasure hunt was supported by some of our local businesses who very kindly donated prizes for special squares. Thank You to Tesco Watton, Spoilt for Choice, Adcocks Electrical, Myhills Pet and Garden, Watton Edwards Premier and Total Health Pharmacy. Your generous support is much appreciated.

We also had Olivia's Bakes from Attleborough who sold delicious helicopter cookies and donated money from the sales along with Jenny's Dee-lights who supplied bottled water and asked for donations towards our vital work. We really appreciate your support. Thank you to all who attended. Your support is so vital. We look forward to next year when the show celebrates 25 years.



# Six Counties, Two Days and 200 Miles: Young Farmers Take on Epic Charity Bike Challenge

A group of Young Farmers from across the Eastern Area of Young Farmers' Clubs are preparing to take on an incredible challenge this September — cycling around 200 miles across six counties in just two days.

The Eastern Six Connected Bike Challenge will take place on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 2026, bringing together riders for a unique charity challenge linking Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

The challenge will begin in Newmarket, with riders travelling through the six counties before finishing at the Norfolk Showground.

While some participants will take on the entire challenge, others will be joining the ride for individual sections of the route, making the event an opportunity for people of different cycling abilities to get involved. With novice riders among those taking part, the challenge is set to be a real test of endurance, determination and teamwork.

The event is being organised by Benjamin Johnson (right), Chairman of the Eastern Area Committee of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, with the aim of raising money for three important causes: Eastern Area YFC, Priscilla Bacon Hospice and East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The Eastern Area covers six counties and brings together Young Farmers' Clubs from across the region. The bike challenge has been created to celebrate that connection while bringing people together for an ambitious fundraising challenge.

Benjamin Johnson, one of the organisers, said:

“The Eastern Six Connected Bike Challenge is something we are really excited about as this year's Chairman's Challenge. It is a fantastic opportunity to bring together members and supporters from across all six counties while taking on a challenge that will really test us.

“Around 200 miles in two days is no small task, particularly as we have riders of different experience levels taking part, but that is what makes the challenge so special. Everyone involved is coming together to support three fantastic causes.

“We hope people will follow our journey, come out and support the riders along the route, and help us raise as much money as possible for Eastern Area YFC, Priscilla Bacon Hospice and East Anglian Air Ambulance.”

To donate visit: [tinyurl.com/3tv5mcp4](https://tinyurl.com/3tv5mcp4)



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### Antiques and Collectors Fair

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the Antiques and Collectors Fair on the 16th August, and hosted by Museum for Watton, such a success. We had a busy day selling antiques and collectables, and serving home made cakes, and savouries to our visitors, who we hope had an enjoyable day with us.

We would like to thank those people who answered our chairman Chris Hutchings appeal for donations of antiques on social media to sell to raise much needed funds for the museum. We were delighted to receive, amongst other items; an old wooden Berwick car wheel, two rush backed nursing chairs, books and WW1 embroidered postcards. Without generous donations from the public for our event on Sunday 16th we wouldn't have made the fabulous sum of over £1000. This isn't the first time we have organised a sale at M4W and building on the success of this sale and previous years sales we hope to make this an annual event for many years to come. As a charitable organisation we rely on our supporters' donations to help with running costs which ensures the museum remains a free asset for the people of Wayland, and our visitors from further afield. So I will once again take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those people who donated goods, refreshments and their time to make our fair such a success, it was much appreciated. If you have anything you would like to donate to the museum please do consider getting in touch.

### Volunteering Opportunities

Are you interested in history, especially local history and would like to learn more about volunteering with us at M4W, please get in touch. For more details please give us a ring or drop in when we are open. Details above.

### Watton Witch Trail 31st October 2026

Museum4Watton will be joining in the spooky fun on the high street on Saturday 31st October, Halloween. We will have treats available for all the children who visit us that morning. If you are brave enough....why not say hello to our Roman skeleton, Hero, who was found buried at the edge of an ancient Bronze age burial ground on what

was to become The Signals housing estate in Watton.

Perhaps you are looking for protection against witchcraft. At the museum we have a so-called witch bottle and other items associated with protective magic. A belief in folk magic lived long in the Norfolk psyche long after its demise in other areas of the country. It was common custom in Norfolk to conceal objects such as mummified cats, shoes and witches bottles in the structure of a building. The thinking behind it is that these counter magical devices helped to draw in and trap harmful magic directed at the homeowner and their property. Early witches bottles used included Bartmann Jugs, also referred to as Bellarmine jugs. These heavy 16th and 17th century stoneware vessels were frequently repurposed in England to protect, trap and reverse malicious curses. The example at M4W has been x-rayed, so you can see the contents, which look to include iron nails, pins and hair. There may have been nail clippings and urine included as well. Later witch bottles were made of glass. If you are lucky enough to live in an old property with original features you may come across strange markings etched or burnt into the fabric of the house. These apotropaic marks, sometimes incorrectly referred to as witch marks, are most often found near fireplaces, and doorways. These can be very detailed in design and are used to ward off evil and protect the house and its occupants from ritual magic. They include hexafoils; six-petaled flower patterns drawn with a compass to confuse wandering spirits. Marian marks involving Vs or VV to invoke the protection of Our Lady, and deliberate scorch marks made with a hot taper to stop fire and evil. Not all markings will be apotropaic; some may be the work of masons and carpenters, (or the kids!!) Many date from the mid 16th to mid 19th centuries, but as a belief in folk magic and witchcraft persisted well into the early 20th century in Norfolk don't be surprised if they are a little bit younger! If you are not lucky enough to have examples in your own home, try your local parish church. A number of our rural parish churches have examples of apotropaic graffiti, including Griston and Thompson. Again look to the older church furniture for examples. Although an acceptable form of self expression and personal devotion in past centuries, it should go without saying, please don't add your own inscriptions to our ancient buildings. We look forward to welcoming you soon at Museum4Watton.

## Ashill, Holme Hale & District Garden

### Club Fruit & Veg Show, AGM & GQT

Our August meeting saw the club hold its annual Fruit & Vegetable Show as well as its AGM and a Gardeners' Question Time. Despite a very difficult growing season due to the drought and heat of a 2026 summer there were over 60 entries to the show. While there was a shortage of berries and lettuce, our independent judge, David Taylor, commented on the high quality of submissions. There were 8 different winners across the 9 classes.

While the judging was taking place the club Chair, Neville McBrien, carried out the AGM presentation, covering the club activities thought the preceding year, its current finances and election of the management committee for the coming year. The club is in a sound financial position, has good membership numbers and active programme planned for the coming year.

After results of the show judging were announced and certificates awarded there was a lively Gardeners' Question Time, with a panel of 4 experts answering members gardening queries. Questions covered a wide range of topics from soil health, pruning summer fruit bushes, over-wintering geraniums and much more, with lively participation from the members in the audience. On completion of the Gardeners' Question time the submitted entries to the Fruit & Veg show were auctioned off by member Roger Baldwin, with the help of the club's show coordinator Fleur Whitby. This proved both amusing and also raised funds for the club to help subsidise future events.



### Upcoming Meetings & Events

Our September monthly meeting (September 24th) is a presentation by Mark Mason on 'Salvias for the 21st Century' which will include plants for sale.

Our October meeting (October 22nd) is by Topiary expert Dr Paul Everdeen, winner of the UK Henschman topiary award. All events 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 join us.

Website: [ashillgardeningclub.wordpress.com/](http://ashillgardeningclub.wordpress.com/)  
Email: [ashillholmeahalegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:ashillholmeahalegardenclub@gmail.com)



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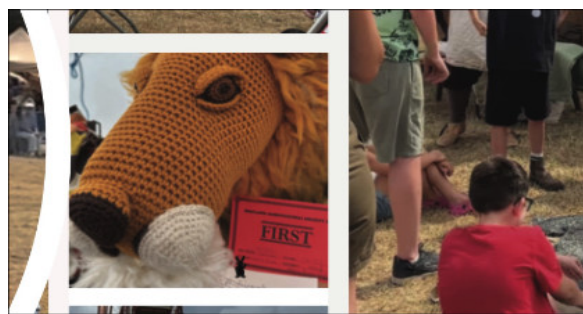
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## Hare and Seek - the Answer, the Winner & the Next Clue

Last month's clue read:

Well, if you want my onion, I think Harry has been Showing off too much lately. That's my First thought. The onion was a bit of a clue and a red herring! I did think some of you might think that's my terrible typing and the word was 'opinion', and I was right - I meant onion as a clue. 'Showing off' and 'First thought' have capital letters. So we have a Show (with onions) to think about and of course the centre pages were The Wayland Show pictures. In those is a picture of a red First card by a knitted Lion's head (which was very good!). In that picture is a tiny black hare called Harry.



The winner drawn last month was: H Gould.

Well done to you! A £10 voucher to spend at Watton Bakery prize is yours! If you took part, call into Adcocks and you can collect a small Fridge Magnet for your trouble if I haven't seen you already. Now I wonder where Harry is hiding this month.

### How to Play Hare & Seek and a clue to help

Each month, a tiny black hare (or it may be a white one some times too) will be hiding somewhere in the pages of the Watton & Wayland Times. Your job is simple: spot him. He could be tucked into an advert, peeking from a photograph, or lurking in a puzzle grid or somewhere else, but he won't make it easy for you, he is quite good at staying unseen. Once you've found him, just let me know where he is. Pop your answer over to me by email or message, and you'll be entered into the winners' draw. One correct finder will be crowned that month's winner, and win a £10 Watton Bakery Voucher.

### Sharpen your eyes...

Harry found a picture of himself in his younger days recently while turning out an old Form.

He asked me if I would be a sport and include it somewhere appropriate for all his old mates to see.

So I have. Can you find him?

# In Your Garden With Lotta Potts

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness well upon us this month. Assuming that your fruit didn't cook on the trees of course. I'm afraid I am one of those people who view October with a certain amount of depression due to the clocks and general gloom. Not to mention how close we are getting to the end of yet another year which seems barely to have begun. Oh dear. Get on with it.

## Dates for this month:

21st Apple Day. A good day to celebrate the apple and its many varieties. Good day to plant one. Last Sunday. Those wretched clocks.

31st Halloween. No comment.

Rapidly moving on. Things to do. Officially this is the second meteorological month of Autumn as some parishes plough the fields and scatter in September; while others wait until this month. Some people including me tend to think of October as the start of Autumn. However, we can confuse ourselves as if we think of October as the first month of Autumn where does that leave December? In the deep midwinter that's where thus Autumn is rather short! So accepting that Autumn is now underway and finishes in November which seems reasonable from a weather point of view we should be looking at getting on with cleaning up and cutting back.

Certainly we need to cut back dead, diseased, crossing and dying shoots in shrubs as we can now see into the middles of the deciduous ones and the roses. It's not necessary to hard prune but take down about half to prevent wind rock. The rest of the pruning should be done in Spring. The borders will benefit from a clear out of dead leaves and shoots and some experts say this is the best time to lift and divide perennials whose clumps are showing signs of dying back in the middle. This isn't necessary every year and the work can be done in Spring. However, the soil is still warm in October so there's a good argument for doing it when we get a fine sunny day. They do still happen, usually about the middle of the month, so it's a joy to be out in the garden when we get one. To continue. If you decide you have a clump that needs to be tidied up, dig it out and divide it into two to begin with. If you have to put it on the lawn it might be a good idea to lay a sheet of plastic to protect the grass and make it easier to collect the bits after. To divide a clump we are told to put two forks back to back in the middle and push them apart to get the clump in halves. Not too many people have two garden forks so chop it firmly with a spade. Same result. You can then take out the middle bit – it will be obvious which of the clump has done its stuff and is finished. Now divide the two halves into viable small pieces. Any number you like as long as they have a shoot and a good number of the fine feeding roots. These can be replanted where you have spaces, one in the original spot with a bit of decent compost in the hole. It's a plan to work out how many spaces you have and cut the divisions to match but if you have too many you'll generally find someone who'll take one or two off your hands. Alternatively pot up the spares in case of failures then hand them out in Spring or if you really went for it have a stall or go to a car boot sale. If you have room plant container-grown shrubs if they are in the sale but otherwise wait until next month and buy bare-root. Roses are favourites here as the prices between container-grown and bare root are a long way apart.

The borders can be given a light forking over and the Autumn flowers will be shown off much better. If you are short of Autumn flowers now is a good time to check with nurseries and sheds to see what they have in the way of perennials. It's

quite possible they will have a good sale – I noticed one at the time of writing so that would be worth a look. The plants might look a bit tired but with proper planting and a bit of TLC you should get a short show and a better one next year. Don't bother with annuals, buy a packet of seeds. The showiest this month are Sedums, some Clematis, Michaelmas Daisies, Colchicums also known as Autumn Crocus and trees and shrubs which have wonderful colour as their leaves die and fall. Acers are ace (sorry) at this and can look as though you have a bonfire they are so bright and they have the advantage of varieties to suit every size of garden, even in pots.

Hardy fuchsias will keep going until really hit by frost. If you aren't sure about a fuchsia you have inherited, the chances are that if it has small, dainty flowers in all sorts of colours from white to deep red with purple underskirts, it's hardy. If you are unsure and it has large blowsy flowers the best thing is to dig it up and store it over winter. This is quite easy to do. Knock off the compost from the roots and lay the plant in a seed tray with a layer of just damp compost or soil. Trim the top back to about four inches. Put it in a garage or shed, frost free and keep it just moist until Spring when it should start to sprout. Then pot it up, trim the old stems back to the new ones and gradually bring it on in the greenhouse or indoors until the weather is right for planting out. I have to say some you win some you lose on this but it's worth a try. The hardy varieties should be left alone until they start to shoot in Spring then give them a feed and cut back the old shoots to the new ones. Most of these are bomb proof and well worth the investment.

Michaelmas Daisies are worth more of a mention. There are many varieties and some of the Aster novae-belgii ones are martyrs to mildew and falling over. Look for other varieties such as Aster amellus which have the daisy flower and are smaller and Aster novae-angliae which are larger and more like the traditional ones but aren't so susceptible to mildew.

The clematis varieties to look out for are Tangutica which have pretty seed-heads and the plant usually has both flowers and seed-heads at the same time. The variety Bill MacKenzie is very popular with bright yellow and purple flowers with large fluffy seed-heads. Like all clematis the Tanguticas like deep, fertile soil and shaded roots with stems into good light. They are also not as prone to wilt as the showier Summer-flowering ones. It is possible to have a clematis in flower every day of the year. It remains one of my ambitions. As far as the lawn is concerned, it might need a couple of cuts but there again this is weather-driven. The important thing is to rake off the fallen leaves as they will kill the grass. The same goes for border plants although removing leaves from the crowns of plants is a bit messier and time-consuming but is really necessary. Of course, once you have got the leaves off the lawn and borders do bag them up in bin bags, water, poke a few drainage holes in, tie the tops and leave them in a corner for a year or so and you will have wonderful leaf mould for adding to potting compost or if you have a lot add it to the borders as mulch.

As in previous years the main things to do for this month are housework outside. The greenhouse crops such as tomatoes and cucumbers should be just about finished. Any unripe tomatoes can be left on a light window sill or put into a drawer – either way they will ripen or if you have a lot of them have a go at green tomato chutney. Now the greenhouse is free of growing things you have a great opportunity to tidy it out and put away all those tools and balls of string that were lost and find them a proper home. Then clean the shelves and wash the glass inside and out. You'll get wet and bad tempered but just think how much ahead you'll be come spring. Some people say that this unpleasant job can be left until Spring. This does run the risk of being over-run by waking wildlife

which may not be a happy surprise. Others get really enthusiastic and do both. I cannot possibly recommend this but each to their own. As a bonus you could sow hardy annual seeds in an unheated greenhouse, the best known being sweet peas and then you really will have an early start.

If you have frost-tender plants they can be brought in now. Most spring bulbs can be planted now in containers or outdoors except for tulips and border hyacinths. Planting these in November reduces the chance of the virus 'tulip fire' and other diseases and they don't need such a long growing time as narcissus.

There's not a lot happening in the veg plot. Plant onion sets and garlic (this can wait until next month but you never know what the weather will be like in November). This appears to be counter-intuitive but works very well. If you have planted winter brassicas keep them watered and remove yellowing leaves. They are no good to the plant and encourage slugs and botrytis. Not attractive. The other thing now that the soil is empty is to start the winter digging or just lightly fork over raised beds and add more compost – old grow bags from the tomatoes etc. are perfect as is the exhausted stuff from containers and baskets. The main object is to improve the soil structure.

Just a couple of don'ts:

If you garden on heavy clay leave new beds/borders until Spring.

Don't be too tidy: birds and insects will be grateful for ripening seedheads. Insects will use hollow stems for shelter as well.

So if you thought October was the time to close the shed and throw away the key, there are alternatives. One of course is keep weeding.

## Update on Local Government Reorganisation Councillor Chat with Cllr Claire Bowes

As readers will be aware, the Government has now withdrawn the decision that was announced in March 2026 regarding LGR in Norfolk and the implementation of 3 unitary councils for our County.

Whilst the formal decision has been withdrawn, the Government has indicated that it intends to undertake a review before determining next steps. Breckland Council is expecting further information by mid-October and will continue to engage with MHCLG officials and monitor developments closely.

At present, there are no substantive changes to the operation of councils across Norfolk, and the status quo remains, which always was the preference of Breckland Council, although not a Government option. Further clarification from Government on the future direction of LGR in the county is awaited.

It has been confirmed by government that the District Council Elections will take place in May 2027 (but not those to new unitary councils).

The Local Government Boundary Commission completed its review and published revised Ward boundaries in June 2025 with the objective of delivering electoral equality across Breckland. However, it appears that the necessary Order to implement those arrangements has not yet been laid before Parliament. This was a decision made at the time by the Boundary Commission due to the progress of LGR.

To help ensure that the new Ward boundaries can be implemented in time for the forthcoming district elections, Breckland Council is contacting the Secretary of State requesting that the Order be laid as soon as possible. There remains sufficient time for

implementation ahead of the election period, provided the Government takes action promptly. If this does not happen then the current Wards will be used.

Across Norfolk, all councils have collectively incurred approximately £1 million of expenditure associated with the development of the Government's LGR proposals and related activity. As residents would expect, we want Breckland to recover these costs from the Government as soon as possible. Breckland's Conservative administration are contacting the Government, and our partners, to ensure that the Council and it's tax payers are not left out of pocket by the chaos in Westminster. In summary, while there remains uncertainty until Government completes its review, Breckland's focus will continue to be on:

- Seeking clarity from Government on the future of LGR in Norfolk.
- Ensuring appropriate electoral arrangements are in place for the May elections.
- Pursuing recovery of costs incurred as a result of the LGR process, instigated and now cancelled by the Labour Government.

## National Government's Changes to the Planning System

The National Scheme of Delegation will come into force on 31st October which will determine what type of applications can and can't be determined by a the District Council's Planning Committee (made up of up to 13 elected members)

Applications have been divided into 2 lists.

- **Schedule 1** applications are not able, legally, to be determined by the Planning Committee and will be decided by officers of the Council (non elected)
- **Schedule 2** applications may be determined by Committee if agreed by the Chairman of the Committee and the Senior Planning Officer. If there is disagreement between the two then the decision rests with the Officer. Furthermore there will no long be the ability for elected ward members to "call in" planning applications, to request they be heard by Committee in a public meeting.

My concern is that this could lead to negative impact on democracy and transparency in the planning system. Unfortunately it is a diktat being handed down from Government which Planning Authorities have no choice but to comply with.

Please feel free to contact me for more clarification or detail on either of the above Claire Bowes, District Councillor, Watton Ward [claire.bowes@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:claire.bowes@breckland.gov.uk) 07789796937

## Caston Art Club Exhibition

Caston Art Club will be holding its annual exhibition on Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th October between 10.00am and 4.00pm at Caston Village Hall, NR17 1DD.

There will be an extensive display of pictures in many media from pencil to oils drawn and painted by many local artists including amateurs and professionals. Most are available for sale.

There will be a raffle and refreshments. Entry is free.

## Saham WI's Festive Bazaar Fundraiser

After, what has felt like, a very long summer it is hard to believe that autumn has suddenly arrived. We have had some interesting speakers over the summer, and in August three members gave the committee the evening off and hosted a social evening with cheese and wine, quizzes and poetry readings. However, the committee are now back at work preparing for a busy few months ahead. Plans are underway for our birthday party in October, the AGM in November and our Christmas party in December.

And most importantly on Saturday 24th October Saham WI will be holding a Festive Bazaar at Wells Cole Community Centre in Bell Lane, Saham Toney, IP25 7HD, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, to raise funds for Saham WI. There will be lots of stalls selling gifts, festive items, crafts and bric-a-brac, a good opportunity for some early Christmas shopping. You can try your luck on the Tombola, Lucky Draw and the Festive Hamper Raffle, and finish the morning with a relaxing cuppa and some delicious home baked cakes and savouries. We look forward to welcoming you to our event, please come and support us.

The Committee of Saham WI would also like to take this opportunity to wish the new afternoon WI group in Saham Toney every success for the future.

## National Women's Register

Looking for a group of lively minded women? Consider joining the National Women's Register. The Dereham and Swaffham group meets fortnightly. We are a friendly, group of women of all ages and backgrounds, getting together for conversation, laughs, and fun. What we do: Lively discussions (on everything from travel to local issues), walks/ outings. A welcoming, relaxed atmosphere where you can share your views or just listen. Try us out: Come along to a free taster session!

Programme for the next 6 months

**Wednesday 14th October.** 2pm The Value of Friendship

**Thursday 29th October.** 2pm start  
Treasure Walk around Dereham  
Short walk can be done in Pairs. Tea etc at chosen Café

**Monday 9th November.** 10.30am Which custom do you want to preserve for the future, and why?

**Thursday 19th November.** 7pm meet for 7.30 PM start Telephone Quiz  
Bring nibbles etc. Drinks will be provided

**Monday 1st December.** 10.30am. With so many repeats on television, do you find enough programs that interest you?

**Tuesday 15th of December.** 12 midday  
Christmas Dinner / Party  
Rasputin Restaurant, Swaffham. Secret Santa £5 gift bought from a Charity Shop.

**Monday 4th January** 10.30am Choose a county in Britain and research

**Tuesday 19th January.** 10,30am Planning Meeting

**Wednesday 3rd February.** 10.30am Movie Day Bring something for Lunch Savoury or Sweet to share

If you fancy trying us out, send us a message or find us on the NWR website to join: office@nwr.org.uk nwr.org.uk.

## The Wayland Players Autumn Tour Of Village Halls

The Wayland Players are once again upping sticks and taking an evening of one act comedies on tour bringing an evening of light hearted entertainment to five village halls in the area.

The tour begins at the Lincoln Hall, Hingham on Thursday 24th September before moving to Little Ellingham Hall on Friday 25th September and Wells Cole Community Centre on Saturday 26th September.

The following week sees them at Ovington Village Hall on Friday 2nd October and concluding the tour at Great Cressingham Village Hall on Saturday 3rd October.

Each performance starts at 7.30 and with tickets priced at a mere £6 – cash at the door – it's an affordable evening of entertainment at the end of the week.

Whether you are a regular supporter or simply looking for a cheerful night out, the Wayland Players will be happy to greet you at one of the venues.

Jenny Mann

## Water Leaks

From Liz Whitcher Chair of the Watton & Saham Flood Action Group

The lead article in last month's WWT focused on how long it took Anglian Water to fix the leak in Frost Close, with commentary about the amount of water estimated to have been lost down the drains and other matters like the drought. The Town Council were invited along with all parish councils in Norfolk to attend a webinar about the work of Anglian Water on 3rd September. As Chair of the Watton & Saham Flood Action Group I was also able to attend.

There was a presentation packed with information that was wide-ranging and interesting including what the company is doing in relation to drought. There was also time for answers to questions that had been submitted in advance. They have promised to come to consult with the Town Council and the Flood Action Group (as with the other Norfolk parishes) but not in time for the next edition of WWT. So, I have decided to respond to the editorial with the facts I heard in the presentation and from other sources.

One of the points addressed was how long leaks were taking to fix and that water was being lost as a result. The officer who replied stated that in the past 3 weeks, i.e. before 3rd September, there was a 108% increase in the number of burst water mains which have to take priority because they supply residents with potable drinking water. He explained that due to the many heatwaves and absence of rain, the ground under the pipes moved causing these bursts (confirming what the AW spokesperson told the editor). They also have to work with County Council Highways if road closures are needed, which can also delay action. Fixing leaks is one of their priorities in the 5-year plan they have to produce for Ofwat,

the regulator, spanning from 2025-2030. In that period, they will be investing £930m in Norfolk alone, out of a spend of £11billion over their whole area which stretches from Humberside to Essex. It was a packed presentation with lots of initiatives going on to increase water supply such as building 2 new reservoirs in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, a new pipeline from the Humber (which gets more rain than East Anglia) to Essex and plans for desalination plants on the coast.

It was not easy to make notes at the same time as listening so I made the decision to look online at what I could find about leakages and the broader picture in relation to those. So, what follows is from that internet search. Some of the information is very technical but I have included it anyway.

In 2025, the recommendations of the Independent Water Commission were published. These are to improve the way in which water resources and the water environment are managed. The full details and timing of the reforms are yet to be confirmed by government. In the meantime, an organisation called Water Resources East (WRE) is tasked with developing integrated plans that bring together the water resources and wastewater worlds which is seen as both necessary and represents an appropriate way forward to tackle both issues.

In January 2026, WRE published a report entitled Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England: Progress Report. In it was a section about leakage. Some quotes from the report: Leakage rose slightly in 2024-25 when it needs to fall. Smart metering will continue to generate leakage savings from customer properties as their rollout continues. But losses from water company networks are proving to be a challenge for companies in the east that are already achieving frontier performance.

Water companies are increasing the resources focused on this challenge, both staff and new innovative technologies, but were not helped by a tough regulatory settlement on asset maintenance at Price Review 2024. Despite increasing in 2024-25, on a per home basis, Essex and Suffolk Water (65 litres per home per day) and Anglian Water (80.9 litres per home per day) remain in the top 5 leakage performers nationally. (LW – doing well not badly)

Leakage strategies remain focused on evolving technologies like ultrasonic loggers, remote sensing, AI-driven leak detection, and non-invasive pipe monitoring. These innovations could reduce the reliance on mains replacement in the future.

However, large-scale pipe replacement is still expected to be a significant factor in meeting long-term goals, especially in the 2030s and 2040s. Anglian Water has increased the size of its leakage field teams to 200 people supported by 40 analytical roles. Through a combination of hydrophone sensors in the network, satellite imagery (synthetic aperture radar) and trained leakage dogs they identified close to 20,000 leaks in their distribution network in 2024/25. In relation to costs, we can all help to reduce those for Anglian Water by only putting pee, poo and paper down the loo and no fat down the sink. Wipes do not biodegrade whatever the manufacturers say. These clog up the sewer and then stop the pumping stations from working. The company spends an average of £19m a year on jetting sewers to remove these blockages, money that could be better spent on tracing and repairing leaks.

Liz Whitcher, liz.whitcher@yahoo.co.uk

## Letter to the Editor Carbrooke Farmers' Market

For the first time, we attended the Carbrooke farmers market (first Saturday of the month). What a pleasant surprise, more than sufficient parking (grass field) and stalls undercover, even a seating area by the coffee bar.

It seemed really well thought out, with all sorts of good local products well laid out for inspection, a child play area and central classic vehicle parking. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available.

All in all a very pleasant little adventure and a must for next month.

David Wickham, Watton

**Ed: From Facebook it seems the Market is at Dawe Estates, Carbrooke, Thetford, IP25 6ST**

## The Inner Wheel

Our Inner Wheel club, like many others, takes a break in August so I thought I'd bring you up to date with what we have done with the money we have raised from the functions we have held in the course of the year.

We welcomed a speaker from the Salvation Army at our November meeting, and she received £200 for their Christmas Appeal and we gave £200 to St Martin's Housing Trust, a charity helping the homeless in Norwich, and £50 to the Purple Community Fund. In April we had a talk about Mercy Ships and donated £100 to our speaker to continue their good work. At our AGM in June we had a vote to choose where the rest of the money you have helped us raise would go. Hear for Norfolk was our President's chosen charity so £750 was sent to them and £200 each to EAAA (air ambulance), Blood Bikes, Big C and the Stroke Association.

Our next function is our Lunchtime Concert featuring Kyle who will be singing from her repertoire of popular songs. This is on Wednesday, 7th October at 11am at the Queens Hall and tickets for the show which includes a light lunch, are on sale, as usual, at Adcocks for £7.50.

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet once a month at the Methodist Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, except in January and February when we meet at 2.30pm. It is open to all ladies and we would love you to come along and find out more about us. For more information, please ring Carole on 01953 884056. Jenny Simons (Club Correspondent)

## Live and let live By Miss Mardle

Why can't we all be kind to each other, we all have a family, a father, a mother. Why assume a stranger is murderer or thief, why can't you stop to see who lies beneath.

The different clothes and different skin this person is loved by their kith and kin. Please look inside and you may find an untapped benevolence to humankind.

# Banking and Post Office Services are Vital for our Rural Communities

By Terry Jermy MP (South West Norfolk)

Earlier this month, I spoke in a Parliamentary debate about the much-needed provision of essential banking and post office services in rural areas like ours.

As a rural MP, one of my core focuses is ensuring that residents across South West Norfolk's 3 market towns and 72 villages can easily access these services in-person.

Over the last decade, we have seen many banks reduce their high-street footprint, impacting rural areas like ours, without much consideration from these companies about what the impact will be.

A point I repeatedly stress in my meetings with banks and Post Office Limited, is that rural communities cannot be unfairly impacted by decisions that are made in inner-city offices, without assessing what that removal of services will mean for the communities they are there to serve.

Unless you have lived in a rural area, you do not understand the impact of a post office or bank closing. In South West Norfolk, it could mean having to travel two villages over, which, if you don't have a car or can't drive, adds another layer of rural inequality.

Whilst it can be argued that many of these services can now be accessed online, not everyone has that option. Poor broadband speeds and unreliable connectivity can mean that large parts of rural communities still rely

on physical locations for these services. I understand that for many companies, they operate in a digital-first approach, but holding a conversation with a real person about something as intricate and important as one's own personal finances, should, I feel, be given greater importance by these organisations.

It is estimated that 25% of people aged 55 and over still use cash as their primary method of payment. In South West Norfolk, the median age is higher than the UK average, so this is a particularly important issue for us here.

ATM access is another aspect I regularly raise in my meetings with banks and Cash Access UK – the organisation that operates banking hubs. I was pleased, following my calls for them to do so, Cash Access UK added an ATM to their Downham Market banking hub earlier this year and Nationwide increased their ATM capacity across South West Norfolk.

The Government is clear on its commitment to ensuring access to these essential services, which is why it pledged to roll-out 350 banking hubs by the end of this Parliament in 2029. Already, more than 235 have been opened.

The Treasury also launched an Access to Banking Services Review in May, which has gathered evidence on the impact of changes to in-person banking services and will help inform recommendations to Government on ways to improve in-person banking services. One recommendation I called for in the debate is for the Government to require a Rural Banking Impact Assessment before any rural branch closure, with a banking hub or equivalent alternative in place before – not after – closure.

# West Norfolk Aviation Society Catch Up

Our speaker in August was club member Steve who presented a talk on Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) threats in the Civil Environment. Drawing extensively on his background in the London Ambulance service. He brought along a variety of different protective suits and a respirator to illustrate his talk.

This was a very informative evening however what ever slant you put on it you can't describe it as joyous! There are so many different ways that the various methods of killing or maiming people available to those of a certain mindset that the audience was for the most part struck dumb. Steve explained the differences between the different types threat and what the responses from the civil authorities would be, suffice to say I have no room to go into detail here without expanding into a tomb the size 'War and Peace'.

I am sure we can all remember the Salisbury poisoning with Novichok by the Russian agents and the issues caused by even just a smidgeon in the wrong place. Now imagine that on a large scale and you have a inkling of the issues at stake. As I said earlier informative but not joyous. Thank you Steve for a mind opening presentation on stuff we all try to pretend isn't real.

In September we welcomed back club member John Blakeley, a member of both our group and the Norfolk Aeronautical Group. His reminisced about his time in aviation.

John's first experience of flight was for 2/6d (12 1/2p) for a flight around the IOW in 1956. This decided his future course of action and career. Having sat his A levels, which enabled him to remain within the care system which back then brutally discharges you at age 16 into the world as an 'adult' he joined the Royal Air Force (RAF). He soloed a RAF Chipmunk aircraft totally unofficially while an engineering student (non aircrew) and was posted to various engineering appointments within the RAF from which he cajoled flights in many aircraft ranging from Hunter through Lightnings and Tornados. He was seconded to the Middle East when Saudi Arabia were acquiring the Tornado and tells of the hazardous trips on the excellent roads at night where camels slept because the tarmac was relatively warm compared to the surrounding desert. Retiring from the RAF as a senior officer in moved to Flight Refuelling Aviation again flying with them on various sorties. He told of his time on the Falkland Islands and arranging for some onions to be delivered in exchange for some accommodation in one of the further outposts. As he was unable to take them with him they were delivered by Chinook the following day, a story that entered the annals of legend in the Falklands. Thank you to John for his enlightened and enlightening talk on his aviation experiences over nearly 70 years! If you like the sound of these types of evening please feel free to join us next time on 06 Oct @ 7.15pm for a talk about helicopter operations in Oman, details on our website, non members entrance fee £5 per head includes a light buffet.



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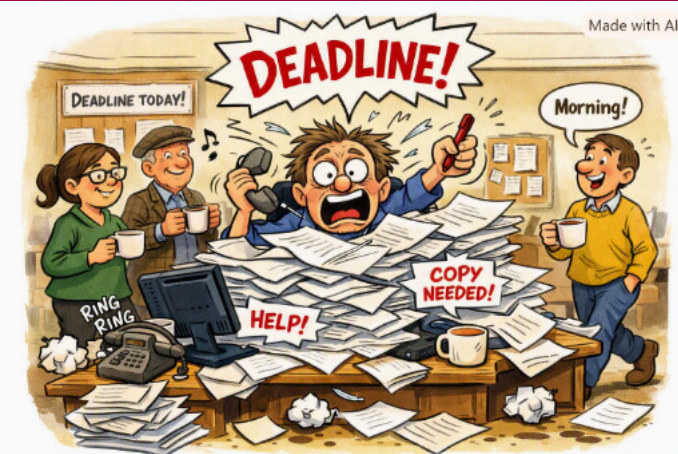
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## Using AI to Promote Your Event

Artificial Intelligence is becoming a very helpful tool in community publishing, from designing posters, to tidying up text, to generating catchy headlines – a surprisingly difficult task for the mere mortal like me!

Within the pages of the Watton & Wayland Times, I am trying to use AI to help small organisations, with limited computer skills, produce eye-catching promotional adverts for their events; I do however frown if AI is used to write a promotional article. I would far rather you tell your own story!

This is hugely important to me, because one of my reasons for publishing the paper, is to send a

unique record of life today, forward in time to the future history writers a hundred years or more from now. A part of that, is to allow them to 'hear the voices' of our community. That is why I try to never rewrite or correct the grammar of articles you submit to me. Spelling correction are made from time to time to make sure the article is understandable, but that is all.

So if you use AI to write an article please say so at the end, to ensure that the historical record is not corrupted by modern technology.

Whenever I use AI to create poster or cartoon artwork, I will include, from now on, a small "Made with AI" tag (see left!). This is a part of my commitment to open, responsible and transparent local journalism. It lets readers know how the advert was produced and ensures I stay honest about the tools I use.

Sometimes, posters are provided that look to me like they have been made

with the help of AI. That is fine by me. I would prefer you keep in place an AI credit tag, but that is up to the organisation concerned.

There are some incredible tools to help design publicity e.g. Canva, but most of them, free or paid, are driven by AI now, and you may not even realise it. However, if it improves the poster and that brings more people to your event, is that OK?

I do not, and will not, knowingly use AI generated photographs or pseudo images, except when I am illustrating AI capabilities or trying to bring history to life; but this will always be made very clear.

I will use AI in a transparent, and controlled way to support the community, not overshadow it.

My hope is that this will help to keep the paper an enjoyable and visually pleasing publication for you.

**I would appreciate hearing your views on this subject. Julian**

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### Days by Coach 2026

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Saturday 31st October Boundary Mill & Downtown Garden Centre Adult £35 Child £20

Saturday 7th November Birmingham Shopping & Food Festival Adult £40 Child £25

Saturday 21st November Bury at Christmas Adult £20 Child £10

Thurs 3rd December Fakenham Christmas Trees Adult £15 Child £10

Sunday 13th December Christmas Lunch Adult £50

Saturday 19th December Christmas Lights Tour & Chip Supper Adult £30 Child £15

### Holidays 2026

Turkey & Tinsel Bournemouth 27th – 30th November

### Shows 2026

Knitting & Stitching at Alexandra Palace 10th October Adult £50

Thursford Christmas Spectacular December 2pm Show £65

Cromer Pier Christmas Show 15th Dec. 2.30pm Show Adult £50

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**Bill Payments:** Pay your household utility bills. (Please note: All bills require a barcode for processing.)

**Gas & Electricity Top-Ups:** Use your key or card to top up your energy supply.

Face-to-face meetings with these high street banking providers are available on:

|           | AM          | PM      |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Monday    |             | HALIFAX |
| Tuesday   |             | HSBC    |
| Wednesday | HSBC UK     |         |
| Thursday  | LLOYDS BANK |         |
| Friday    | BARCLAYS    |         |



## The Sun Shines On Watton Rotary Club's Gala Day

Lovers of classic vehicles flocked to Broom Hall Hotel on the first Sunday of September. It was the day of Watton Rotary Club's Gala Day and classic cars from far and wide descended upon the Hotel's beautiful grounds to enjoy the fine weather. Our fifth annual Gala Day was a great success with an estimated 200 or more visitors and we are grateful to Broom Hall Hotel for allowing us to use their outside areas to hold the event.

The Gala Day is a family fun event, with several aspects to it, including a dog show, classic car show, fundraising auction and tombola. We were also delighted to present our annual Young Citizen Awards to six community-spirited young people.

We promoted the Rotary charity Shelterbox, at the event. This charity, supported by our club, provides help to those caught in disaster zones around the world. As a reminder to everyone of the recent disaster in Nepal, we showed how Shelterbox provides a strong tent providing shelter for a family of up to ten, together with cooking equipment, warm clothing and a water purifier. Throughout the afternoon musical

entertainment was provided by the excellent Diane and Dave, singing songs for all age groups to enjoy.

An estimated 50 classic vehicles (modern and vintage) were displayed by their proud owners. Vehicles ranged from immaculate pick-ups through classic Triumphs and Morris Minors, to stately Rolls Royces. After much deliberation our judge, Rotarian Ivan Chubbock awarded the trophy for best car to the owner of a Sunbeam which, in Ivan's words he 'couldn't find a single fault with'. The trophy for best Commercial vehicle went to the owner of an impressively painted Dodge Pick-Up truck. All trophies were sponsored by Detail and Shine Valeting.

Rotarian Paul Weatherill conducted an auction of items donated by local businesses, Rotary members and friends of Rotary. A large number of Lots included apple juice from Ashill Fruit Farm, sets of tools, tickets for events and vouchers for local business services, beautiful artwork and various household gadgets. The auction raised over £1250 towards our charitable work, for which we thank the generosity of all those who attended. The tombola alone,

organised and run by Christine Weatherill, proved to be very popular with visitors and raised some £50.

The dog show had many more entrants than last year, and our judge Roy Ivory divided them into small, medium and large categories, with a prize for the winner in each category. Su-Bridge Pet Supplies generously donated the winners' prizes.

Another highlight was the presentation by our President Keith Thomas, of six Young Citizen Awards, sponsored by Shaun and Rebecca Yeoman of Salec Travel. These awards will be the subject of a separate article in next month's edition.

At the end of a tiring, but enjoyable day, Keith Thomas said 'we are delighted with all the support we have received for this event, which is an important fundraiser for the Rotary club. We thank our sponsors, Broom Hall Hotel, Detail & Shine, Su-Bridge, Weatherill Bros. Salec Travel and Bowles & Walker Ltd, without whom the event could not have taken place. We also thank all the classic car owners and local people who came along to spend the afternoon with us.'



## Great Hockham Gardening Club

What a contrast: Dale Farm, our visit for July, and our August destination, Henstead Exotic Garden near Beccles. Both quite wonderful, each quite different. Whereas Dale Farm allowed long open vistas letting in lots of sunshine, Henstead was a veritable jungle with lots of shade and dappled light.

Owned, designed and maintained by Andrew Brogan, it was created from scratch over two decades ago. It has featured on the BBC's Gardeners' World, Love Your Garden, and Alan Titchmarsh's Sunday Brunch on ITV. Its website describes it as 'A Cornish-style garden on the East Coast of Suffolk.'

I found it quite different to your normal garden; it was a place where you could easily get lost. Particularly charming were the garden curios: artefacts that most people would tidy away or put in the skip; an old bicycle, the occasional piece of industrial machinery, odd stacks of logs, one in a dilapidated shed. One of the more recent features was a sunken garden, which in the dappled shade gave the impression that you had unexpectedly stumbled on an archaeological site. All this gave the impression of a garden that had been abandoned for some years, and then just discovered by the visitor.

But not quite. With a little thought it becomes obvious that this look requires careful tending. An authentic abandoned garden would be an impenetrable tangle of out-of-control vegetation. Here, a great deal of work and investment had taken place to remove anything that might distract from the desired effect. It costs a lot of money to look this cheap.

Andrew explained: "I moved here 24 years ago, and the entire garden was this lawn, and this lawn went over there to a bedraggled hedge, no one knew where the boundary was. There wasn't one plant in the garden at all. Nothing. And so, basically, I just carried on with the job."

He began the project twenty years ago and remarked that at the time, this type of garden was not popular. "They tried to put me in the loony bin for the first 20 years of doing this, but now everybody's at it."

He was asked why he chose exotic plants. "I found this excited me. I never had a garden. My parents were immigrants from Ireland. Never had a garden, grew up in London, no such thing as a garden. Bought a house when I was 31 and it had a garden; first time I've ever encountered a garden. And then when I read a book, or I see the Sunday magazine that said, 'You can grow a palm tree outside.' Couldn't believe it."

Asked if he was worried about the large trees falling on the house?

With what seemed to be a growing emotion he explained, "I've got a big insurance policy. But again, if you started worrying like that ... I was in a job called insurance, where you go to a meeting, and there'd be 20 people earning a decent salary, and nothing was ever achieved or accomplished. So, I thought, when I do this garden, I'm not gonna be scared of everyone's shadow, like their own insurance. Everyone's worried about every single thing. Well, forget that rubbish. Do something else for myself for a change. That's the whole premise. We don't worry about every single thing, because people are dropping dead from cancer and everything. So, why worry about, like, a



few plants? Yeah, that's good. That's the philosophy I've had from the world. Sorry." I have personal experience of this as I have worked in an office for a while; It's enough to drive you crazy if you let it.

A member wondered, "You can't just be working 9-to-5, you must have help?" "Well, I've got a little lad who helps me. He's the only employee I've got, comes one day every two weeks. He's originally from Myanmar, Burma, and he hates gardening, but he likes the £140 cash. His English isn't great. But he knows the word kill."

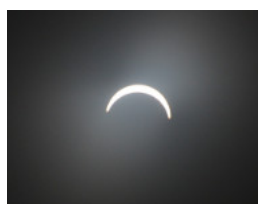
For myself this garden was so unusual; it was messing up my mind and filling up my senses. I felt that this was a wonderful garden and our visit was made all the more enjoyable by Andrew's passionate narrative. With a wonderful garden and very personal approach, this was a very inspiring visit.

And then tea and cakes, and then back home in time for the eclipse. A solar eclipse is the one of the few astronomical events that occur within a period that a human can watch in real time. The last time there was one this deep observable from the UK was in 1999. We had to go to France to see totality, something I had to see at least once in my life. Its beauty is beyond compare,

definitely worth the journey.

Whenever there is something in the sky to see there is always the high probability of the odd weather event. 1999 was a bit like that, but it cleared during the actual transit. Even in this rainless weather an isolated cloud could blank everything out. On this occasion, miraculously, this didn't happen: result! As far as solar eclipses are concerned, they are so rare that we have to be thankful for what we get. I hope you didn't miss it as the next one as deep as this, visible from the UK, will not occur for another 55 years, when it might rain. So much could have gone wrong; it didn't. Magic.

Somewhat sooner than this, and with more reliability, will be our first indoor meeting of the new season. It's a great time to join the club. Hockham Village Hall, second Wednesday of each month, talk starts at 14:00.



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# Watton Town Council Updates, News, and Events

## A word from the Mayor

It's been a very busy time at Council since the last edition. Finally the transfer to the Town Council of our three car parks has now been completed so this ensures free parking for everyone going forward.

Our Councillors have, also amongst other projects, been working hard on re-siting our weekly market which I discussed in detail in last month's issue. The new market will now be located in the car park of the Crown Hotel in the High Street from Wednesday 16th September and some of our Councillors will be there at 10.00am and would welcome anyone who would like to come and have a chat with us.

As far as civic responsibilities are concerned, I spent Bank Holiday Sunday meeting visitors, exhibitors and vendors at the Bike Festival in the High Street. Thankfully it turned out to be a glorious day with lots of sunshine. The event was very well received and everyone seemed to have a great time. Thanks to all those who contributed to make this event such a success.

Marcia told me that a Mental Health word challenge saw an amazing 57 words being discovered out of the word EMOTIONS including the word Toenail (ok, maybe a slight bit of cheating)! The trainer was Graham Williams from their Kingsley Training Academy who stepped up to be a human dartboard as an example of how silly games can be a simple distraction.

Marcia tells me that Kingsley Healthcare Group also have an amazing wellbeing service to ensure staff are supported with Mental Health if they need it. "Everyone needs emotional support" said residents "the hardest part sometimes can be asking for help".

The morning concluded with a Myth or Fact challenge which saw sayings like "asking for help means you're weak" completely dispelled.

Hopefully another visit will be arranged for October which is Mental Health Month where I hope to be accompanied by the Shanty Men from Wayland Men's Shed, who will sing for the residents.



I was honoured to receive an invitation to 48th Wing Civil Leaders Tour at RAF Lakenheath at the beginning of the month where Deputy Wing Commander Col Jurewicz welcomed us.

The visit consisted of an introduction from the Colonel followed by a tour and demonstrations from key elements on the base which included a visit to the control tower and then RAPCON which stands for Radar Approach Control, an Air Force air traffic control facility that manages aircraft in mid-air after they leave the local control tower's visual range. There then followed a demonstration from the Security Forces and Moyra the Belgian Malinois who is very adept at showing how she can bring down an attacker and then to the hangar for static displays of the aircraft and to see up close the F15's and F35's. It was a wonderful day and a pleasure to look around the vast base and meet the service personnel who help keep our Norfolk skies safe.



Earlier this week I had the pleasure of visiting the residents of Buckingham Lodge Care Home where we chatted over a cuppa discussing bad backs, Thetford, and Ireland. It's such a tonic visiting the residents. Marcia Hughes, who is their Regional Marketing Manager, had arranged training that day. The subject was "Mental Health - A Taboo Subject - Not at Buckingham Lodge Care Home".



## Watton Bike Takeover

30th August saw the return of the Watton Bike Turnover, with the high street being filled with bikes, food and stalls! We were joined by the Blood Bikers, PFK Ling, Copdock Motorcycle Group, Bimble on the Bike Tours, Wish Makers Motorcycle Association, and Norfolk Advanced Motorcyclists. The event was a fabulous success and a good day was had by all - the sun even came out!

The Wish Makers Motorcycle Association are a group of volunteers that help children and families going through hardships, tough times or been a hero to their family or community. They raised £199.75 from their community tombola on the day and the BBC came down to do a story on their Vice President and donated a further £225! So a cracking £451.75 was raised for helping families in the area! We can't wait to see the bikes return next year!



Photo credits - Ryan Hindle

## WATTON FOOD HUB CALENDAR OCTOBER 2026

| 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     | 31       |        |

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

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

7 OCTOBER - Food Hub Open 16:30-18:30

21 OCTOBER - Food Hub Open 16:30-18:30

## Town Council Updates

On 25/08/2026 the Chairman presented the Council's first Community Champions Certificate to David Cook in recognition of the voluntary litter picking he regularly undertakes along the Norwich Road.

Insurance claims have been submitted for the lost bench and bin on Watton High Street resulting from the ram raid on the cash point outside the old Post Office and for the repairs to the public toilets which will be necessary following arson.

The public toilets have been closed since the arson attack, but the ladies and disabled toilets have since been re-opened following an electrical installations check.

It was resolved to refuse the grant application submitted by the Watton Westfield School as it does not meet the criteria of the applicant being a voluntary body.

It was resolved to obtain quotes to engage a landscape architect to help develop plans for the open space land at Heritage Park.

It was resolved to donate £7500 towards the planning application for the Digital Creative Media Centre at the west end of Watton High Street. No further funding will be granted to the Wayland Partnership this financial year and it is expected that the Partnership will resume regular meetings with its partner organisations.

It was resolved to accept the quote of £6,252 for maintenance works to the Clock Tower in Watton High Street.

Local Government Reorganisation is being paused but it is believed the plans

to create a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Strategic Authority remain. This matter will remain an agenda item at each meeting until further notice.

The reports of the annual RoSPA Play Area Inspections of Lovell Gardens, Watton Sports Centre, Hares Green and Bridle Road were presented prior to the meeting together with quotes for maintenance work. It was resolved to accept the quote of £11,081.91 plus VAT to undertake the works but with any works which can be undertaken in house to be considered first.

It was resolved not to accept management of the Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) at Wayland Fields.

It was resolved to relocate the Wednesday Weekly Market to the Crown car park off Watton High Street as of 16/09/2026. It was also resolved that no charge will be made for weekly market stall pitches for the next six months. The purchase of new gazebos will be considered by the Finance Committee.

It was resolved that the organisers of the High Street Halloween trail will be approached with an offer of support for the event by opening the Clock Tower in the High Street for viewing from the outside and use as an information point.

It was resolved that the Vice-Chairman and Clerk will draft a letter of support to Green Blue Urban to support Reclaim the Rain to ensure that High Street regeneration efforts continue promptly.

It was resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk will meet to draft a response to the Breckland Local Plan to be presented to the Full Council on 22/09/2026.





### FOOD FESTIVAL & FUN FAIR WITH FIREWORKS

31ST OCTOBER 2026 - FREE ENTRY AND PARKING

GATES OPEN FROM 4PM-8PM @ WAYLAND SHOWGROUND,  
BRANDON ROAD, WATTON

FAIRGROUND RIDES AND FOOD STALLS  
FROM 4PM, FIREWORK DISPLAY AT 7PM.

DONATIONS ON THE NIGHT ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED



### WATTON MARKET IS MOVING

NEW LOCATION - THE  
CROWN CARPARK

WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER

# Epic Week Away

## Watton Army Cadets Go Full Adventure Mode!

The 1st Week of August saw 17 cadets and 3 staff members of the Watton Army Cadets getting on a coach and heading off to Swynnerton Camp, near Stoke-on-Trent, for a week of activities that would test their physical and mental strengths and allow them to forge friendships that will last.

After arriving and settling into their accommodation, it was straight into it with preparing for two days training in the field. The cadets were split into groups depending on their training levels and briefed on what was due to happen. An intense two days followed, made harder by the heat experienced there, where the cadets carried out a variety of tasks from simple shelter building and cooking to leading a whole section (8 people) through battle drills. The cadets were glad to get back to a normal bed in the camp.

Two "restful" days followed involving either visiting the RAF Museum at Cosford or a day of adventure activities including caving, rock climbing, high ropes and bridge building, which included the odd unintentional dip in the water! The disco night at this point was a huge success.

The final two days saw the cadets visit the ranges where they honed their marksmanship principles and skills using either the A2 or Air rifles. Whilst waiting their turn, the cadets passed the time by participating in Archery, Laser Clay Pidgeon shooting, Sports or Navigating their way blindfolded around a maze being directed by a colleague via radios.

The final evening was the County parade where awards, presentations and promotions were made.

The cadets returned tired but happy, with loads of new memories and heaps of washing for their parents. Detachment Commander Staff Corporal Aidan Hall said "I was extremely proud of the Watton cadets and staff at this camp. They are an amazing group of young people, always looking out for each other. The older ones helping the younger ones, who for some this was the 1st time they had spent time away from their parents. They are just a great group, always friendly, polite and respectful."

If you are aged 12 or over and are interested in joining the Army Cadets, either visit the detachment on Tuesday evenings 7-9:30pm, contact the County HQ at Email: [ea-norao1@rfca.org.uk](mailto:ea-norao1@rfca.org.uk) or Phone: 01362 694515, or register your interest at [www.armycadets.com](http://www.armycadets.com).

## Watton Detachment Annual Camp 2026



CoHs Wright, Oswick and Welsh and LCoH Mantle with friends at the disco



"SCpl Aidan Hall being his usual happy self"

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## For All Your Electricals!

We're a local, family business based in Watton and we're members of the Euronics Buying Group.

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LCoH Nichols, on leE, showcasing her Amry Style Makeup

CoHs Oswick and Trehwella waiE ng to shoot



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julianburrige@gmail.com



L/Cpl Asher receiving her promoEon



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*Kyle Returns*  
Enjoy listening to this popular singer as she performs a selection of Pop, Swing, Easy Listening and classic hits from the 1950's to the present day.  
**QUEENS HALL WATTON**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH 2026**  
11 o'clock start  
Tickets available from the 1st September 2026 from Adcocks, High Street, Watton 01973 881248 or ring the Secretary on 01760 756455  
**£7.50**  
(including a light lunch)  
All proceeds to charities supported by the Inner Wheel Club of Watton  
Charity No: 1048151

## Last Month's Codeword Result

Last month's prize was a £25 voucher to spend with The Norfolk Gift Shop - hence the answer to the puzzle was:

### SANTA WONT BE NEEDED

The winner this time was C Clay and the runner up M Simmons  
Well done to both of you!

To explain how the winners were drawn; all correct entries were recorded in a table 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, Hal, owner of The Italian Job, was given the pack, which he shuffled as he wished, and then drew one card for the Winner and one more for the Runner Up.

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

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

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 whatever page it is on!

|    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 15 | T |    | 5  | K  |    | 4  | C |    | 25 | S  |    | 11 | O  |    | 19 | B  |    | 7  | Q  |    | 15 | T  |    |    |    |   |   |
| 6  | E | 8  | V  | 6  | E  | 24 | N | 11 | O  | 12 | U  | 15 |    | 3  | P  | 2  | R  | 11 | O  | 4  | C  | 12 | U  | 2  | R  | 6 | E |
| 10 | X |    | 6  | E  |    | 14 | M |    | 17 | A  | 9  | W  | E  |    | 15 | T  |    | 17 | A  |    | 6  | E  |    |    |    |   |   |
| 15 | T | 11 | 3  | P  | 25 | 3  | P | 11 | O  | 15 |    | 4  | C  | 1  | H  | 17 | A  | 13 | 2  | R  | 21 | 24 | N  |    |    |   |   |
| 21 | I |    | 21 | I  |    | 2  | R |    | 21 | I  |    |    |    |    | 24 | N  |    | 15 | T  |    | 17 | A  |    |    |    |   |   |
| 18 | L | 6  | E  | 15 | T  | 14 | M | 6  | E  | 13 | 11 | O  |    | 18 | L  | 6  | E  | 21 | 3  | P  | 16 | Z  | 21 | 13 | G  |   |   |
| 6  | E |    | 12 | U  |    | 1  | H |    | 24 | N  |    | 21 | I  |    | 4  | C  |    |    |    |    |    | 6  | E  |    |    |   |   |
|    |   | 3  | P  | 21 | 6  | E  | 4 | C  | 6  | E  | 11 | O  | 23 | F  | 4  | C  | 17 | A  | 5  | K  | 6  | E  |    |    |    |   |   |
| 15 | T |    |    |    | 24 | N  |   | 2  | R  |    | 6  | E  |    | 18 | L  |    | 18 | L  |    | 17 | A  |    |    |    |    |   |   |
| 6  | E | 14 | M  | 19 | B  | 17 | A | 25 | S  | 25 | 26 | Y  |    | 20 | J  | 11 | O  | 13 | G  | 13 | 6  | E  | 2  | 25 | S  |   |   |
| 17 | A |    | 26 | Y  |    | 21 | I |    |    |    | 17 | A  |    | 17 | A  |    | 8  | V  |    | 12 | U  |    |    |    |    |   |   |
| 19 | B | 6  | E  | 1  | H  | 17 | A | 8  | V  | 6  | 22 | D  |    | 4  | C  | 6  | E  | 2  | R  | 15 | T  | 17 | A  | 21 | 24 | N |   |
| 17 | A |    | 17 | A  |    | 6  | E |    | 21 | I  | 18 | L  | 5  | K  |    | 22 | D  |    | 15 | T  |    | 22 | D  |    |    |   |   |
| 13 | G | 6  | E  | 24 | N  | 15 | T | 18 | L  | 6  | 2  | I  | L  | K  |    | 6  | E  | 26 | Y  | 6  | E  | 25 | 11 | 2  | 6  | E |   |
| 25 | S |    | 22 | D  |    | 26 | Y |    | 5  | K  |    | 15 | T  |    | 24 | N  |    | 2  | R  |    | 2  | R  |    |    |    |   |   |

|    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | H | 2  | R | 3  | P | 4  | C | 5  | K | 6  | E | 7  | Q | 8  | V | 9  | W | 10 | X | 11 | O | 12 | U | 13 | G |
| 14 | M | 15 | T | 16 | Z | 17 | A | 18 | L | 19 | B | 20 | J | 21 | I | 22 | D | 23 | F | 24 | N | 25 | S | 26 | Y |

# Cath does it again! A New Record For The Afternoon Cream Tea

In Cath's own words:- The weather was fantastic on Saturday August 15th just right for the annual cream tea.

The wonderful residents of Watton came up trumps yet again enabling us to raise the fantastic amount of £3500. Well done all who came and thank you once again for making this possible.

As usual the total amount will be shared equally between Watton & Wayland Memory Cafe and St Mary's Church.

Everyone seems to have had a good time and I'm hoping to see you all again next year. The date for your diary is Saturday 21st August 2027 so make sure you're free on this day.

I have to thank all my helpers for their fantastic hard work in making the day so successful. Without these wonderful volunteers this event could not take place so I want to thank each and every one of them. On that happy note I'll leave you looking forward to 2027. See you then.

**Cath Clay**

From Katie (Powell): The Watton & Wayland Memory Cafe (for those with dementia and their carers) and St Mary's Church in Watton held their annual fundraising cream tea on Saturday 15th August beginning at 2 pm until 5 pm in Vicarage Walk, Watton.



Usually this much enjoyed event is held in the front garden of Cath's home, our fundraiser extraordinaire, with overspill contained by a neighbour or two, but this year even more neighbours lent Cath their front gardens and even larger marquees appeared. The cake stall did a roaring trade, as did the various raffles, book stall, imaginative (bonkers!) games hosted by Cath's friends from Cornwall, as well as some fantastic knitted items and home-made handbags to bid for in an "auction", to name but a few of the things to while away the afternoon. Oh, and lots of lovely cream teas to eat. One person confided that he had eaten two teas and was planning on a third but that was before his wife spotted him!

The weather was exceptionally kind, not too hot,



with a little breeze helping to cool fevered brows, possibly caused by the excitement of the Raffle? Our Memory Cafe and St Mary's Church would like to thank everyone involved, whether it was appearing with marquees, helping to put them up, setting up tables and chairs and laying up umpteen cups, saucers and plates for the teas, decorating the tables with fresh flowers, donating the cream and jam or baking the scones and other deliciousness - as well as all the backroom boys and girls who quietly helped the afternoon to be a huge success. And, at the end of the afternoon, there was a little magic - a case of "Now you see it, Now you don't" as marquees were removed, tables and chairs stacked or cleared away leaving all the front gardens as immaculate as before! But none of this would have happened had Cath Clay not persuaded, cajoled, or gently suggested to our local friends, neighbours and businesses, as well as those from neighbouring districts, for help with something. Every single one of you was amazingly kind and generous and we are very grateful to have you in our community. The incredible sum of £3,500 was raised and was shared equally between the Memory Cafe and St Mary's Church.

Cath is an amazing person and is a Trustee in our charity. We have been known to call her our "pocket rocket" or a "whirling dervish" as she scampers from one thing to another to ensure all is perfect. Cath certainly excels herself when it comes to our Cream Teas event, but she doesn't stop there, working with the church and anything else that would help others. At her behest the Memory Cafe is in the process of opening a Just Giving Page for donations to Jamie Weaver who is running in next year's Marathon for us. And on the back of this, we have already applied to HMRC to allow us to Gift Aid suitable donations!

With Cath's help and support, and the support of Steve Bibby our second Trustee, as well the lovely members and volunteers from the Memory Cafe who are always on side with everything we do - and from those people within our community who so generously donate to us we should like to thank you all. Because of you, we have been able to continue for 12 years (and counting!); 2026 is proving to be quite the year for us!



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# Historic Drama Comes to Life at JEPA Tiny Town with “Lethal Lawyer” Afternoon Event

Residents of Watton and the surrounding area are set to enjoy an afternoon of immersive historical storytelling as JEPA Tiny Town partners once again with Medieval World to present Lethal Lawyer, an adults-only event promising atmosphere, intrigue, and a touch of theatrical suspense. Taking place on Tuesday 20 October 2026 at 1:30pm, the session aims to bring history off the page and directly into the hands of its audience, through the instantly recognisable and highly charismatic Michael Wabe (Town Crier Mike pictured). Medieval World, known for its engaging and character-driven presentations, continues to expand its reputation for transforming everyday spaces into windows to the past. Their latest offering, Lethal Lawyer, invites attendees to step into a world of old-world justice, shadowed figures, and courtroom drama. With its vintage styling, and richly detailed storytelling, the event blends education with entertainment, creating an afternoon that feels both immersive and refreshingly different.

JEPA Tiny Town, typically bustling with young families and imaginative play, shifts gears for these special adult-only afternoons. The venue's cosy atmosphere lends itself perfectly to intimate historical talks, allowing visitors to enjoy a slower pace while indulging in the included coffee and cake. The combination of warm refreshments and captivating narrative has proven popular, with previous themed events drawing strong interest from locals seeking something unique to do during the week. Tickets for Lethal Lawyer are priced at £12 each or 2 for £20, making it an accessible cultural experience for individuals or pairs looking to enjoy an afternoon out. Guests can book online or visit JEPA Tiny Town directly at 87 High Street, Watton, conveniently located next to Watton Junior School with parking available on site. The event forms part of a growing series of adult focused sessions hosted at the venue, offering residents a chance to explore history, mystery, and storytelling in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

As interest in alternative daytime activities continues to rise, JEPA Tiny Town's collaboration with Medieval World highlights the community's appetite for creative and engaging experiences beyond the usual offerings. With limited spaces and rising demand, early booking is encouraged. Lethal Lawyer promises an afternoon of atmosphere, curiosity, and historical intrigue — a perfect escape for adults seeking something a little out of the ordinary.



## GREETINGS WATTON! Blast me Bor!

A £25 spending spree at Greetings Watton is the prize if you win this month's Codeword! A superb range of Gifts, Cards and Balloons is there for you to choose from!

Each number in the Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In the lower 'control' grid I have given you two letters to start with. Copy each of those letters to all the matching numbered squares on the big puzzle grid. 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):

26, 11, 12, 9, 11, 24, 15, 23, 6, 6, 18, 22, 6, 23, 18, 17, 15, 6, 22, 15, 1, 6, 2, 6

Send the Codeword you think is the answer, along with your name and contact details in an email to me at [wattontimes@gmail.com](mailto:wattontimes@gmail.com) Or, if you don't do email, in an envelope marked 'Competition' to Julian, Care of Adcocks, 32 High Street, Watton. 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 a page in the paper somewhere. Entry is open to everyone, but in relation to all aspects of the competition's conduct and results, the Editor's decision shall be final.

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 10 |    | 6  |    | 14 |    | 17 | 9  | 6  |    | 15 |    | 17 |    | 6  |
| 15 | 11 | 3  | 25 | 3  | 11 | 15 |    | 4  | 1  | 17 | 13 | 2  | 21 | 24 |
| 21 |    | 21 |    | 2  |    | 21 |    |    |    | 24 |    | 15 |    | 17 |
| 18 | 6  | 15 | 14 | 6  | 13 | 11 |    | 18 | 6  | 21 | 3  | 16 | 21 | 13 |
| 6  |    | 12 |    | 1  |    | 24 |    | 21 |    | 4  |    |    |    | 6  |
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| 6  | 14 | 19 | 17 | 25 | 25 | 26 |    | 20 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 6  | 2  | 25 |
| 17 |    | 26 |    | 21 |    |    |    | 17 |    | 17 |    | 8  |    | 12 |
| 19 | 6  | 1  | 17 | 8  | 6  | 22 |    | 4  | 6  | 2  | 15 | 17 | 21 | 24 |
| 17 |    | 17 |    | 6  |    | 21 | 18 | 5  |    | 22 |    | 15 |    | 22 |
| 13 | 6  | 24 | 15 | 18 | 6  | 2  |    | 6  | 26 | 6  | 25 | 11 | 2  | 6  |
| 25 |    | 22 |    | 26 |    | 5  |    | 15 |    | 24 |    | 2  |    | 2  |

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|    |    | P  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | G  |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

St Mary’s Church, Watton

Church Road, Watton, IP25 6DQ

www.stmaryswatton.org

Weekly Wednesday Services at 10am

Worship in October

|                      |      |                    |
|----------------------|------|--------------------|
| Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 10am | Holy Communion     |
|                      | 5pm  | Choral Evensong    |
| Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> | 8am  | BCP Holy Communion |
|                      | 10am | Harvest Service    |
| Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> | 10am | Holy Communion     |
| Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> | 8am  | BCP Holy Communion |
|                      | 10am | 4th Sunday         |

Polish Catholic Community

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

St. Peter & St Paul’s Church,

3 Church Street, Carbrooke, IP25 6SW

www.carbrookechurch.co.uk

|                      |         |                 |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 10am    | Morning Worship |
| Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Holy Communion  |
| Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship |
| Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Holy Communion  |

All Saints Church, Threxton

Harvest Thanksgiving

3pm Sunday 4th October

A warm welcome to all

The Wayland Group of Parishes

Worship in October

Sunday 4th October

Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham  
10.30am United Holy Communion

Sunday 11th October

St Peter & St Paul, Griston  
10.30am United Holy Communion

Sunday 18th October

St Botolph’s, Stow Bedon  
10.30am United Holy Communion & Harvest Festival

Sunday 25th October

St Martin’s, Thompson  
10.30am United Holy Communion

Wayland Group Parish Churches

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

Swaffham and Watton Roman Catholic Community

Mass held at the Watton Methodist Church at 5.00pm on Saturdays.

Watton Methodist Church

57 High Street, Watton IP25 6AB

Are you not used to visiting a church service and wondering for a reason to make a visit? One reason: Jesus said .... “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

You are welcome to visit Purpose Church

The Watton Sports Centre, Dereham

Road, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6EZ.

Service every Sunday 10.30am

More information contact Nick

07940049933 or nicknundy@gmail.com

Watton Methodist Church

57 High Street, Watton IP25 6AB

wattonmethodist.chessck.co.uk

Minister: Rev Neil Vels

Sunday Service Times

10.30am in Church;  
6.30pm in the Large Vestry  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Wednesday Coffee Morning in The Methodist Centre

Weekly from 9:30am to 11.30am  
Alongside the Country Market

Tuesdays@2 in The Methodist Centre

Tuesday 13th October at 2pm  
Illuminated Light Festival Jars - suitable for all abilities  
Followed as usual by refreshments  
All welcome

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

Ashill Group Services In October

Sunday 4 October, St Francis (800th anniversary),

9.30 am, St Nicholas’ Ashill, Harvest Festival

10.30 am, St George’s Saham Toney, Lay-led service

10.30 am, St John the Evangelist’s, Ovington, Holy Communion

Sunday 11 October, Trinity 19

9.30 am, St Nicholas’ Ashill, Holy Communion  
10.30 am, St George’s Saham Toney, Holy Communion: Harvest Festival  
10.30 am, St John the Evangelist’s, Ovington, Morning Praise

Sunday 18 October, St Luke

9.30 am, St Nicholas’ Ashill, Lay-led Service  
9.30 am, St Peter’s Merton, Holy Communion  
10.30 am, St George’s Saham Toney, Lay-led Service  
10.30 am, St John the Evangelist’s, Ovington, All-Age Service

Sunday 25 October, Bible Sunday

9.30 am, St Nicholas’ Ashill, Holy Communion  
10.30 am, St George’s Saham Toney, Holy Communion  
10.30 am, St John the Evangelist’s, Ovington, Book of Common Prayer: Morning Prayer

There are normally lay-led services on Sundays when there is not Holy Communion: 9.30am at Ashill; 10.30am at Saham Toney; 10.30am at Ovington

Poppies at the Methodist Church

Come and add a poppy to decorate the railings outside the Methodist Church. On Saturday 31st October between 10am and 1pm we will be putting up our display and providing poppies for young and old to add to it. The church will also be open to view the windows decorated by other organisations.

All Good Gifts Around Us!

There is a distinct shift in the air when October arrives. The frantic energy of summer feels like a distant memory and, for many, the world around slows down, exhaling a long, golden breath. In our benefice this month is a beautiful bridge — a time to look back in gratitude for the abundance of the season just passed, and a time to look forward, preparing our hearts and homes for the quieter winter months ahead.

If we take a walk through our villages this week, we cannot help but notice the transformation. The trees are putting on their annual, spectacular show, dressing the lanes in vibrant hues of amber, crimson, and gold. It is the autumn season, and a season that coaxes us to slow our pace and appreciate the simple beauty of change, while also stirring up fondness for the autumn traditions of our past.

October naturally brings with it a deep sense of nostalgia, carrying our minds back to the harvest festivals of years gone by. For me, this season evokes vivid memories of Salvation Army harvest festivals held back in the 1960s and 1970s at the historic Salvation Army Farm Colony in Hadleigh, Essex. Those celebrations were a spectacular testament to community spirit and rural heritage. The vast, working landscape of the farm colony provided the perfect, authentic backdrop for giving thanks.

The highlight of those autumn gatherings was the competition for the best harvest

basket presentation. Hours of meticulous preparation went into staging them. Competitors vied to create the most visually stunning display of the land’s bounty. Shiny orchard apples, deeply polished root vegetables, and ears of corn were woven together with autumn foliage, each arrangement a proud work of art. The sense of pride in the air was palpable as the judges made their rounds, and the joy of sharing in that collective gratitude is something that stays with a person for a lifetime.

This month, the Church of England is in the midst of the season of Creationtide and Harvest. This is a dedicated time in our church calendar when we pause to thank God for the world He created and His good gifts all around us. From the smallest autumn leaf to the sweeping fields that feed our communities, Creationtide and Harvest remind us that the earth is a sacred gift filled with wonder and divine purpose.

As we celebrate these good gifts at our harvest festivals, to which you are all invited, we are called to look to the future. For true gratitude requires action. In a world now facing deep environmental challenges, Creationtide is a poignant reminder that we must not take our planet for granted. We are called to be faithful stewards of the earth, ensuring that we care for God’s creation with tenderness, respect and responsibility, preserving its beauty for generations to come.

With love and many blessings, Vanessa. x  
Reverend Vanessa is the rector for the Wayland benefice of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon, and is available for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. You can contact her on:

07984 318885 or by email at: vanessadlayfield@gmail.com

What’s On! at St Mary’s Church, Watton

Church Road, Waŕon, IP25 6DQ

www.stmaryswaŕon.org email

waŕonchurch@gmail.com

01953 881252

Saturday 3rd 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!

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

Wednesday 7th 1.30pm – 4pm (location in Watton) Bereavement Group: Contact Linda Benton on 07803 017340 or linbenton2978@gmail.com for details. 1st Wed of month.

Thursday 8th 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.

Saturday 10th 10am – 12noon Messy Church: Kids, bring your adult for a FREE morning of fun, stories, play and craft activities (aimed at primary age, but

all ages and families welcome). PLUS! Food and drinks served too!

Friday 16th 2pm – 4pm Craft Group: Enjoy refreshments & company whilst crafting. £1 donation. In the church rooms.

Tuesday 20th 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!

Thursday 22nd 10am – 3pm Open Church: St Mary’s open to all to visit, pray, explore, and discover what we offer the community. Friendly volunteers on hand to help with any enquiries.

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.

Friday 23rd 2pm – 4pm Community Cinema: Showing ‘My Mother’s Wedding’. Doors open at 1:15pm for 2pm start. £5 ticket on the door inc. hot drink & cake.

Tuesday 27th 9.30am Wellbeing Walking Group: Short, social walk around Watton making new friends. Meet at St Mary’s Church, walk followed by refreshments in church rooms.

September’s Winners of the 200 Club!

1st prize £50: Avril Bevan, No. 131

2nd prizes £25 each: Maureen Dove, No. 40, James Cole, No. 138

# The Thrilling Adventures of Freddie Frobisher

by Paul Mitch.

This is a true story about one of the most amazing characters I have ever met. I first saw him standing outside Debenhams Department store, dressed to the hilt in a black tuxedo, but more worrying he then produced a hand held water pistol type gun, claiming, he was the true James Bond and pointed out that he liked

his tea stirred, but not shaken.

Over a period of time I got to know this chap extremely well. In fact I had the great pleasure of accompanying him on many of his thrilling adventures. Over a period of time however I managed to gather together a complete dossier of his exploits. It was with this knowledge I set about the task of writing a book about him and therefore decided to self publish by way of Kindle Direct Publishing, part of the Amazon network. Then, to my great joy my book was published earlier this year and is called: The Thrilling Adventures of Freddie Frobisher, available on Kindle (£1.99) or in paperback form on Amazon.co.uk priced £8.99.



# Watton (Loch Neaton) Bowls Club

With the nights closing in, the 2026 Bowls Season is coming to an end with the Club's Premier finals – Ladies Singles; Men's Singles and the Mixed Pairs – still to be decided. This year has seen Watton (Loch Neaton) Bowls Club competing in four local Leagues – Breckland Ladies League; Dereham and District Mixed Triples League; Age Concern Mixed Triples League & the Ashill and District Mixed Triples League, as well as a number of Norfolk Bowls Association county games at team or individual basis.

Also, as part of an initiative between the Bowls Development Alliance, Active Norfolk, with support from Breckland Council, we were part of a Bowls for Health program, which saw individuals from all walks of life sign-up for a free 8 weeks course for an introduction to bowls. This has seen a number of people returning to the Club after the conclusion of the course to enjoy the aspects of friendly competition and companionship which will continue through the winter period as we move indoors for the Short Mat Bowls which is run every Tuesday from September 22nd at 2.30pm to 5.00pm at the Watton Sports Centre.

Our internal Club competitions have continued to be well supported by the members, as well as the friendlies against Bradenham, & Swaffham bowling clubs.

In August, we held the Ladies vs Men Club event which saw the Men obtaining 'bragging' rights with a convincing win.

Also in August the Club 2 Wood Pairs competition was played with



Ollie Hutchings and Andy Dawson holding off stiff opposition to secure the trophy (see photo below).

Early September saw the conclusion of the Ashby Shield, an annual competition between Watton and Bradenham Bowls Clubs over two legs – home and away. Unfortunately due to severe heat conditions in early August and in late August torrential rain, this year the competition was held at Watton over one leg. Watton were able to secure a shots win over Bradenham to retain the Shield for another year. Both clubs are looking forward to next year and hopefully better weather.

Also in early September the last of the 2026 Club Competitions

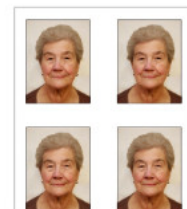
– the Anniversary Triples – saw a good turn out for this event. Five teams competed in this round robin competition, which saw Sheila Welland, Colin Hill, and Andrew Taylor-Balls emerge as winners. (see photo above)

On the social front, a very successful and enjoyable Murder Mystery event was prepared & hosted by two of our club members – Burtie and Sheila – along with contributions from members and friends of the Club as 'acting' support. As for the future, a programme of social events is planned for the Winter break starting with a Music quiz scheduled for late November.



## Bunnings of Watton

Framing and Photo Printing



Passport / ID photos  
(wheel chair access no problem, no booth)  
ready in about 5 minutes.



Guaranteed to pass  
or I retake them for free



Instant Kiosk

\* Picture Mounting and Framing

\* Wedding Photography

\* Instant Print Kiosk

\* Photo Printing

\* Canvas Prints

\* Photo Gifts

\* Batteries

\* Albums



1 Dereham Road 01953 881105

mark@markbunningphotography.co.uk





**Messy Church**  
at St Mary's

**Sat 10th Oct**  
**10am-12pm**

**CRAFTS**  
for primary age but all families welcome

**FREE!**

**FOOD & DRINK**  
**STORIES**

St. Mary's Church, Church Rd, Watton, IP25 6DQ  
01953 881252 | wattonchurch@gmail.com | stmaryswatton.org



**CLAIRVOYANT EVENING**  
with **JOHN JULIAN**  
SPIRITUALIST MEDIUM

at **CASTON VILLAGE HALL**  
NR17 1DD

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 16TH**

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM  
FOR 7.00PM START

PRE BOOKED TICKETS ONLY FROM  
[Bookings@castonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:Bookings@castonvillagehall.co.uk)

FULLY LICENSED BAR £10.00 RAFFLE



Hi! I'm Jamie Weaver and I'm running the London Marathon 2027 in aid of **The Watton & Wayland Memory Cafe**.

"Dementia and Alzheimer's are very close to home for me with both my Grandad Eric and Nanny Jean diagnosed in their later years and seeing first hand the impact it not only had on them but also my family I wanted to help people in a similar situation. This is the reason I have decided to raise money for The Watton and Wayland Memory Cafe"

The Watton & Wayland Memory Cafe provide a safe place for support, planned activities, events and laughter! Plus! Special carers' meetings included!

Scan the QR code to donate

(Reg Charity No. 1217131)



**CHARITY 60s & 70s DISCO NIGHT!**  
Supporting Our Norfolk Veterans

**VETERANS CENTRAL, WEST RAYNHAM**  
**SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER**  
**7:30PM - LATE**

**WELLS COLE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Tickets £5 Each**  
Raffle & Auction on the Night!

Tickets: Dianne Sculfer  
01953 798514  
[dmsculfer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dmsculfer@hotmail.co.uk)

Charity No. 1208763

# Sharks, Shipwreck and Survival

**Norwich Apprentice's Incredible 1907 Survival Story Brought to Life in New Book**

A forgotten tale of courage, survival and adventure has been brought vividly back to life in a new book by local historian Helen Murray. *Sharks, Shipwreck and Survival: Harold Higgs and the Sinking of the Carnarvon Castle, 1907* tells the extraordinary true story of Norwich teenager Harold Edward Higgs, who survived one of the most dramatic maritime disasters of the Edwardian era.

Just sixteen years old, Harold left his family home on Lower Clarence Road to begin his first voyage as a merchant navy apprentice aboard the sailing ship *Carnarvon Castle*. What should have been the adventure of a lifetime quickly turned into a desperate fight for survival when the vessel caught fire and sank almost 1,000 miles from land in the Indian Ocean.

Alongside 26 fellow crew members, Harold escaped into an open lifeboat, facing days of starvation, thirst, exhaustion and shark-infested waters before eventually reaching the coast of Western Australia.

Although the dramatic survival story was widely reported in 1907, it has since faded from public memory in Britain. Now, after years of painstaking research, Helen Murray has uncovered the full story, tracing not only Harold's remarkable ordeal but also the lives of every member of the *Carnarvon Castle* crew.

The project began almost by accident while Helen was researching an earlier book and discovered an old newspaper headline describing "Norwich Lad's Thrilling Adventure". Intrigued, she began investigating further, uncovering eyewitness accounts, crew records, photographs and archive material from Britain and Australia. She also contacted descendants of the



survivors, many of whom shared family stories and previously unseen photographs that help bring the remarkable events to life. "I knew immediately that this was a story worth telling," said Helen. "Harold was just an ordinary Norwich teenager who found himself facing extraordinary circumstances. His account, together with those of his shipmates, reveals incredible courage, resilience and determination. I wanted to ensure that these men and boys were not forgotten."

Richly illustrated and meticulously researched, the book explores not only the disaster itself but also life aboard one of Britain's last great sailing ships and the final years of the age of sail.

For readers with an interest in Norfolk history, maritime heritage or remarkable true-life survival stories, *Sharks, Shipwreck and Survival* offers a fascinating insight into

a forgotten chapter of the city's past and restores Harold Higgs to his rightful place among Norfolk's most remarkable historical figures.

*Sharks, Shipwreck and Survival: Harold Higgs and the Sinking of the Carnarvon Castle, 1907* (ISBN: 978 1 869831 55 4, £11.95) is available locally from The Norfolk Gift Company, 11 High Street, Watton, Thetford, IP25 6AB, and online from the Poppyland Publishing website at [poppyland.co.uk](http://poppyland.co.uk).

**Pictured** A small group photo of Harold and some of the crew. 1907. Top Row (L-R) Robert Irvine, Robert Bevan, William Hatton, Joseph Ellis Davies. Bottom Row (L-R) Albert Berry, Andrew Andersen, Harold Higgs, August Olsen, John Gray. Featured in *The Mirror*, Perth, 2 March 1907, National Library Australia, Public Domain

## Road Closed Ahead... and Common Sense Closed Behind It

### By Rattler

You must have seen 'em. I've seen 'em, popping up like dandelions after a bit of rain; ROAD CLOSED AHEAD. Except half the time, the road isn't closed ahead, or it's the wrong road, or it's closed 9 miles away, or it's closed in a direction you're not even travelling! And sometimes - the absolute classic - the road isn't closed at all because the contractors forgot to take the signs away. Again. I have had enough! According to the official rulebook, the Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 8, temporary road signs aren't supposed to be dumped randomly like leftover scrap. They must follow strict rules such as:

- Clear advance warning at the right distance for the speed of the road.
- Repeat signs at every junction where drivers might sensibly divert.

- Specific information such as ROAD CLOSED AT SHIPDHAM HIGH STREET, DIVERSION VIA NORWICH ROAD
- Include accurate distances to the closure - '200 yds' or '5 miles'.
- Be removed immediately when the road reopens.
- Be placed by trained people, not whoever drew the short straw that morning.

In other words: signs should help drivers, not wind them up. But out here in the real world? We get the "ROAD CLOSED AHEAD" lucky dip. No distance, no location, no clue.

So, why does this keep happening? Well, I asked around and I gather that too many contractors treat signage like an afterthought, because councils outsource to companies who outsource to companies who outsource to someone with a van and a stack of battered signs. Nobody checks, and nobody enforces, because Councils have developed a remarkable talent for selective blindness. The sort of blindness where they can spot a pothole budget spreadsheet from 2 miles away, but somehow miss a giant yellow sign pointing the wrong way.

And who suffers? We do. The people actually trying to get to work, school, shops, appointments; or just home without taking a scenic tour of Norfolk's back lanes.

If you see sloppy signage, don't just mutter at the steering wheel, report it using the magic

words that make councils sit up straight: "Non-compliant temporary traffic management under Chapter 8". Report via their online form: search for 'Norfolk Highways report a problem'. State the exact location and what's wrong (missing distance plate, wrong road, no repeat signs, signs left out after works). And ask for confirmation that the contractor will be instructed to follow Chapter 8 in future.

If the works are by a utility company (water, gas, broadband), the council still oversees the signage — so complain to the council first, then the company.

And if you want to go nuclear, you can also report dangerous or misleading signage to the Department for Transport.

Roadworks are annoying enough without being sent on mystery tours because someone couldn't be bothered to put up proper signs.

We deserve better. The rules exist. The contractors should follow them. And if they don't - let's make some noise.



## Hockham History Group Exhibition

Hockham History Group is holding a large historical exhibition on Saturday October 10th and Sunday October 11th in Holy Trinity Church, Great Hockham, IP24 1NZ.

It promises to be one of the largest exhibitions the parish has ever had and refreshments will be provided by the Church volunteers. Entry is free and is 10am to 4pm both days.



### HISTORY OF HOCKHAM

Exhibition weekend

October 10th & 11th  
10am-4pm

At Holy Trinity Church  
Great Hockham

**Free entry**

Food & Drink will  
be available

## SAHAM WI FESTIVE BAZAAR

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
9.30am to 12.30pm  
WELLS COLE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
SAHAM TONEY  
IP25 7HD

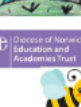
**GIFTS, FESTIVE ITEMS, CRAFTS, BRIC-A-BRAC ETC**

DO SOME EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

ENJOY A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE WITH  
DELICIOUS HOME BAKED CAKES & SAVOURIES

TOMBOLA, LUCKY DRAW & FESTIVE HAMPER RAFFLE

ENTRY FOR STALLHOLDERS IS 8.30AM  
CALL 01953 885978 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
RAISING FUNDS FOR SAHAM WI - CHARITY NO. 1201046



### St Peter & St Paul Primary Academy & Nursery

Church Street, Carbrooke IP25 6SW

From November 2026, we have nursery places available within our 2-year old provision.

If your child turns 2 during or after November 2026, they could join our Bumblebee's classroom.

Bumblebees operates from 9am-3pm Monday to Friday term time only. Wrap around provision is in place from 7:30am-6pm Monday—Thursday and 7:30am-5:15pm on Friday (subject to availability)

2-year old Working Parents Funding is accepted, and either part or fully private payments.

For more information, or to book a show round, please contact the school office on:  
**01953 881537**  
Email: office@st-peter-st-paul.norfolk.sch.uk





## Memory Corner: Watton Junior Hockey Club 2005



## The Gift of Local Choice at The Norfolk Gift Company

Looking for a gift that's thoughtful, supports independent businesses, and guarantees a smile? At The Norfolk Gift Company, we offer reusable gift cards that give your loved ones the freedom to explore and choose from hundreds of unique, handmade products. Created by our incredible community of local makers, artists, and crafters, our ever-changing collection truly has something for everyone. Whether they love hand-poured candles, bespoke jewellery, stunning home décor, original artwork, or artisan food and drink - a gift card unlocks it all.

- Ready to gift: Each card comes tucked into its own charming gift envelope.
- Flexible: Load them with any amount starting from just £10.
- Eco-friendly: Our cards can be topped up and reused again and again. They're perfect for autumn birthdays, thoughtful thank-yous, teacher gifts, getting ahead on your festive shopping, or simply letting someone pick out exactly what they want.

Pop into The Norfolk Gift Company on the High Street to pick up yours today.

Support local. Shop independent. Give the gift of choice.

## Dance Away Queens Hall, Watton IP25 6DA

Ballroom, Latin & Sequence.  
Bar & Raffle

October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th

## Watton Evening WI

The days are cooler, thank goodness but the months ahead are full of events for members to enjoy.

At the September meeting the Norfolk Fire Officer explained things to look out for and watch in the home from smoke alarms to gas detectors and ways that items should be stored safely. The Norfolk Fire Service offer a free home fire safety visit for Norfolk residents. To check if you are eligible look at [Norfolk.gov.uk/article/request](http://Norfolk.gov.uk/article/request) a visit website.

At the October meeting on Thursday October 8th starting at 7.30pm in the Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton we welcome Charles Lewis who will explain the History of Spices. Many spices are used in today's cookery and it will be interesting to hear where they came from and when.

As we come to end of our WI year we can look back at a varied selection of speakers, evenings of flower arranging, card making and other crafts as well as working together at town occasions, the Spring Fayre, Carnival and look forward to the Festive Market in November. Our book club, lunch club and craft groups continue to meet monthly and has been enjoyed.

If you would like to join us please come along to a meeting or contact Ruth Stapleton 01953 883190 for further details, you will be very welcome.

A little trip down memory lane with Watton Junior Hockey Club, pictured at their end of season fun night in April 2005.

Lots of happy smiling faces!

Watton Hockey Club has Junior training on Thursday evenings from 6.30 at Watton Sports Centre. For more details please visit <https://www.wattonhockeyclub.co.uk/contact>

## What's in a name?



The card shown above - which appears to have been delivered to most of Watton - was brought in by irritated readers who felt it was misleading to anyone considering a home at Redhill Court which, for the record, is not beside a river either.

Lynne Hammond (née Howe) emailed to suggest: "Perhaps you could run a competition asking readers to identify where in Watton the riverside view on the front is meant to be!" She added that in her 75 years of living in or visiting the town, she had never encountered such a spot, and considered the image misleading for potential buyers unfamiliar with the area.

As she put it: "Needless to say, I haven't received a reply."

I also contacted the company, not only about the image, but also about the new "Redhill Court" name board placed directly in front of, and obscuring, the original stone name panel for Redhill Park, through which the new homes are accessed.

Residents say this has already caused confusion, with ambulance crews delayed while trying to locate Redhill Park.

Regency Living have not responded to that concern either.

If you've been affected by any of the issues raised, do let me know.

**Oh, and if you do know where this scene really is (I have traced it), drop me an email. Under the same rules as Codeword I will hold a draw and award a mug and coaster to the winner!**

## Watton & Wayland Times

Deadline is 4pm on the 12th of the month preceding publication and that is the last date and time that copy will be considered for inclusion. Arrival of your copy before deadline does not guarantee inclusion.

You can contact Julian by telephone on 01953 571990 or 07864720480 or by email to: [wattontimes@gmail.com](mailto:wattontimes@gmail.com)

All views expressed in articles in the Watton & Wayland Times are those of the contributors and not necessarily the views of the Editor or Printers. While every care and effort has been taken to ensure accuracy, neither accept responsibility for errors or omissions.

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

# u3a Celebrations

What a great morning! Lady Dannatt, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk opened the celebrations by greeting past Chairmen and members of Dereham u3a and Holme Hale Hall. The Chairman, Jan Hayes-Griffin, gave a history of Swaffham & District u3a, formerly named Wissey u3a, accompanied by a slide show. Lady Dannatt cut the cake and members were treated to non-alcoholic prosecco and cupcakes specially decorated to represent the yellow and blue of the organisation.

The festivities continued with a hilarious skit about a doctor's waiting room which was written by the leader of one of the Script Reading Group and performed by them, complete with sound effects. A quiz set to test our memory followed taking us all back to 1995/96. The morning finished with several songs from 1996 performed by the Singing Group which ended with a group of members dancing the Macarena!

It shows that the Swaffham u3a is certainly living up to its reputation of having fun and laughter while learning.

The monthly meetings afford an opportunity for members to join together, have a cup of tea/coffee and socialise before being entertained by excellent speakers. Members can join one of over thirty groups on offer such as Archery, Music appreciation, both classical and rock, French, and Walking. See the website for more information.

The talk in October will be about the work of 'Nelson's Journey, the charity that supports children who are bereaved through loss of a loved one. 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: [swaffham.u3asite.uk/](http://swaffham.u3asite.uk/)



# Wayland Men's Shed

It is official, "we make a difference". Four of us went to St. Andrews Church in Norwich on Thursday 10th September to hear the results of the BBC radio Norfolk, "Make a Difference awards. There were 8 different categories with four shortlisted as finalists in each category. We were nominated in the "Community Group" category. Unfortunately, we were not chosen as the winner but taking into consideration that there had been hundreds of nominations, we did well to get a "Highly Commended" award.

I'm sure that we were recognised because we engage in numerous activities and events with a view to prevent loneliness and enhance the well-being of men, especially their mental health. It never ceases to amaze me the spirit of generosity displayed by members. I witness many examples of support and kindness, not just during sessions but at other times. Whether it is welcoming new members, giving a lift to someone, making tea for others or just engaging with others and talking about all manner of issues. All of these things make a big difference to people's lives.



## Social Report

**"Shutterists" Outing:** On Thursday 10th September several members of the group went to Oxburgh Hall. After taking pictures the group enjoyed refreshments at the Bedingfield Arms.

**Quiz Night:** 57 members attended the quiz night on 14th August. The winners and recipients of the "Smarties", were "Game 4 a Laugh", team with a score of 109. A total of £432 was raised on the night for club funds. A big thank you goes to all those that helped out on the night and those who donated raffle prizes.

**Bike Day:** Six members manned the barricades in the High Street for this event on Sunday 30th August. Members of the shed are pleased to support the Town Council for such events.

**10 Year Anniversary:** A sub-committee has been working hard on the arrangements for this special event on Saturday 3rd October. All of the different groups are each putting on a display and we have several specially invited guests, including the mayor, coming so it will be a great day.

**Shanty Group:** The group performed at the Queen's Hall on Wednesday 19th August. The hall was packed out for this event and the "Gig" was a great success raising funds for the maintenance of the Queen's Hall and our shed funds. Although we have guitar and percussion instruments, we would love to have a violinist so if you or anyone you know would like to join us, please get in touch.

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](http://www.waylandmensshed.co.uk) or contact Malcolm Trayhorn, Trustee, Chairman & Social Secretary Tel: 07729993163

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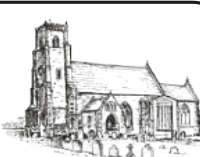
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