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Issue 28 November 2026
Watton & Wayland Times
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Growing More Than Vegetables!

Young people and volunteers are growing skills, confidence and community spirit in Watton



Wayland Partnership and Beside Youth C.I.C. have started a new multigenerational group focussed on members of the community teaching gardening and cooking skills to young people in Watton. We have been very lucky to have gained a team of eight volunteers who give up their time to help out.

So far, we have been working hard to build our vegetable garden at Watton Community Centre. One of our brilliant young people, Jack Locke is a carpentry student and has given up his time to build all our planters.

The young people are at the heart of the project and help make all the decisions about what we grow and what the garden looks like. We have planted a range of different vegetables, that the young people have enjoyed watching grow. We have also been cooking

with all the different foods we have grown, such as pasta sauces and salads.

On Saturday 26th October we hosted a community meal. The young people arrived early to cook up a feast before we were joined by their families and members of the community that have supported the group. It was lovely to see everyone come together and for the

young people to be able to show off the garden they have built and the skills they have learned.

Our aims of the project are to pull different generations together, reduce social isolation, improve mental wellbeing and give young people the chance to learn new skills.

We hope that the group continues to have new members, both volunteers and young people. If you are interested in joining us, please email elliebrown@besideyouth.co.uk

The £35 Prize in the CODEWORD this month will buy you a beautiful Floral Show for Christmas from Flora and More
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New Afternoon WI in Saham Toney

Saham Belles WI held its inaugural meeting at The Wells Cole community centre on September 16th, the same day that The UK Women's Institute celebrated its 111th birthday. Saham Belles WI was set up as an afternoon group to encourage women to come along to make friends, learn new skills and above all have fun. This WI group will meet every third Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm, at The Wells Cole community centre.

At our first meeting we got to know about the WI and also about our members in an informal meet and greet, and yes there was tea and cake!

We voted for the local charity we will be raising money for in the coming year and we voted for The Daisy Project. We held a raffle and had a bring and buy table. We started our alphabet game - which involves members bringing an interesting/quirky object for the months letter.

Our future meetings will involve inviting speakers to share skills and stories with us. Our October speaker will lead a session on English country dancing, (oh Mr Darcy!)

If you would like to find out more about Saham Belles WI please email dmpres.sahambelles@gmail.com

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Watton Relief In Need Charity

The Trustees will be meeting to consider applications from residents of Watton for financial support this Christmas.

The Charity Is an amalgamation of charities set up years ago to support those in need in the town of Watton. The Trustees have a duty to distribute the income of the Charity" to relieve residents of Watton who are In conditions of need, hardship or distress".

The Charity may also make grants of money, or pay for items, services or facilities to help reduce the need. In certain circumstances the Charity may offer similar support to organisations serving the residents of Watton. The trustees are keen to consider applications from any age group, providing they are residents in the town of Watton.

It is important to note that residents in the parish of Carbrooke, living in the housing developments In Norwich Road are not eligible under the terms of the Charities legally binding 'Scheme of Arrangement'.

No preference is given to any section of the community. Applicants will be required to give full personal financial details and provide any other information, before a decision can be made by the Trustees.

All information given is treated In the strictest confidence. Online application form can be obtained at :- wattonreliefinneed.co.uk

Paper application forms are also available from Wayland Hall, Middle Street Watton. Completed forms can be returned in a sealed envelope to Wayland Hall.

Popcorn, Paddington and Plenty of Steps for 3rd Watton Brownies



Earlier this Year 3rd Watton Brownies went on a trip to Norwich by bus. The day started with walking to Vue Cinema from the bus station to see Toy Story 5. The Brownies soon made themselves comfortable in the reclining seats with their drink and popcorn! After seeing the film we headed to McDonalds for lunch. On a very hot day both the cinema and McDonalds had air-conditioning which gave us a welcome break from the heat. After lunch we walked to Norwich Cathedral to see Paddington and then down to Pull's Ferry, which seemed a lot further than was remembered. We found out that Pull's Ferry is the Headquarters for Norwich Division of Girlguiding but was formerly the ferry house and watergate on the River Wensum. We then had to head back to the bus station passing by Elm Hill.

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Watton Evening WI



Hello. This year is galloping past and I think we are all trying to keep up. Every month I think where did that time go? Well, we have had a busy time of it with Lunch Club at the Italian Job cafe which was very tasty, and some excellent service by Kiri Hilton pictured with our ladies.

Our members who were there were also in agreement that the floral displays in the town have been wonderful especially with the difficult weather this year, and we want to congratulate the Town Council on a job well done.

Our Group meeting together with Saham Toney WI at the end of September was very interesting as our speaker was Paige Pope from the Dogs Trust and we got to pet her companion, a dark brown Golden Doodle dog called Bruce. Who I might add was very well behaved.

Our October meeting was very enlightening and interesting with a talk from our speaker Mr Charles Lewis who was telling us about the History of Spices. It was amazing to hear how they had spread all over the world by various trade routes.

Our November meeting will be our annual meeting so we will not have a speaker as general business will be conducted.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Methodist centre in Watton High Street. For any further information please contact Ruth Stapleton on 01953 883190, you will be very welcome.



Norfolk Wildlife Trust Breckland Local Group

On November 11th we have "Wild at Weeting" with James Symonds.

Known to many of you, James was previously the summer warden at Weeting where he did and continues to do many surveys on the flora and fauna of the Heath. His encyclopaedic knowledge and huge enthusiasm always makes for a very interesting and informative talk. Come and see for yourself.

Venue Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton. IP256AB. Starts at 7.30pm. Refreshments and raffle. Cost £4 non members £3 members. Cash please

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Hare and Seek

The Answer, the Winner & the Next Clue

Last month's clue read:

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?

Looking down now, and seeing where Harry was hiding the explanation to the clue should be obvious!

Harry found a picture of himself in an old Form (a place where Hares spend the day hiding from predators) that was taken with his old mates. Being a good sport, I included his picture when he was a member of the Watton Junior Hockey Club taken way back in 2005.



down memory lane with Watton Junior Hockey Club,

The winner drawn last month was: P Jolly
Well done to you! A £10 voucher to spend at Watton Bakery prize is your prize! 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.

How to Play Hare & Seek

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.

A clue for you

Sharpen your eyes . . .

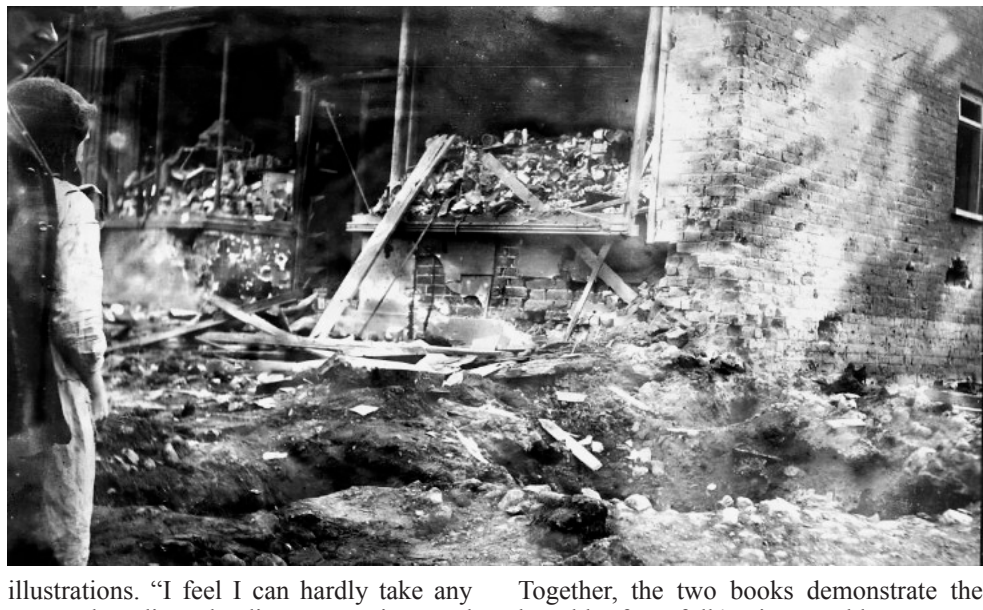
Given his somewhat masculine name, Harry is a little out of place this month. And while he isn't usually one to hide in the shadows, it was a very hot summer. Even worse he didn't even have a sandwich in his satchel to refresh himself. It's his own fault! Even so, if you do find him, please look after him, and let me know where he is hiding.

In Your Garden With Lotta Potts

I have stolen the following quote from one of my books: the renowned gardener Christopher Lloyd remarked "The great thing about the garden in November is that no one expects anything of it". Thank you Mr.T. It's very comforting don't you think?
To November's dates then:
5th Guy Fawkes' Night – to celebrate the failure of a plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Not sure about 'celebrate' to be honest. These days it's more ethical to attend an organised bonfire night. Less noise for the neighbours and probably more checking for wildlife that thought sheltering in a pile of wood was a good idea. If you do have a domestic fire, please check for endangered hedgehogs or other animals.
11th Armistice Day/Remembrance Day - to commemorate those who gave their lives in conflict, particularly in the two world wars. Poppies grew on Flanders Field and have been used as a symbol of remembrance since 1918
11th Martinmas - celebrating St Martin whose compassion towards beggars and the destitute is remembered on the same day as the fallen
30th St Andrew's Day - patron saint of Scotland whose commemorative flower is the Scottish thistle.
Advent Sunday falls towards the end of the month, heralding the build up to Christmas.
So here we are again in November. This should be the end of the summer-flowering plants and crops should be pretty much harvested with the ploughing and scattering last month. Except this October has been seriously weird for weather. Early to mid-month was warm to hot so everything became confused. Plants that should have stopped flowering took a deep breath and started over, even some spring-flowering ones joining in for a second go so goodness knows what we are in for this month. We should have had a few hard frosts in October. At the time of writing it's been rather warm which in some ways is a pity as frosts tend to kill off pests. Frost always enhances the colours of the leaves and bark of trees such as contorted hazel which is lovely when the leaves have fallen but a bit drab in full leaf. This is a bit of a conundrum as its 'undressed' state is worth showing off but puts it in a position centre-stage when in leaf. Luckily it grows well in a large pot. Job done.
Some of the acers and cherry trees are grown for colourful bark and if you have a bit of space are worth seeking out. The deciduous trees and shrubs are putting on a fantastic show with multi-coloured leaves and berries. Even if you only have a small area to spare there should be a bush or small tree that will suit. For instance the Amelanchier is brilliant. It has lovely leaf colour in autumn, yellow and/or red depending on the variety and then in spring the most beautiful white or pink flowers followed by the leaves which start off bronze-tinged. Then there are the fruits in summer which are red and beloved of blackbirds. Although allegedly edible I don't think you will lose to the birds' gain! It will take fairly hard pruning to keep it within bounds but as it eventually gets to about 15×15 feet and is a slow grower it's not difficult. You might think it a bit pricey but you get a tree for all seasons. It isn't even fussy about growing conditions – any decent soil apart from chalk and it will stand all sorts of weather including strong wind.
Another tree for autumn/winter is the Prunus x subhirtella 'Autumnalis', the autumn-flowering cherry. Flowers before leaves on a dainty tree that doesn't seem to get out of control like some of its spring-flowering cousins. The flowers on this variety are white but there is a pink version and a double pink version and even a weeping pink version. The original has the most prolific display of autumn/winter blossom but there's a choice. I don't apologise if the references to Amelanchier and autumn-flowering cherry seem familiar – I sing their praises every year and this year saw one or two in flower on trees that are nowhere near their full height and width yet so are very slow-growing. It's interesting to note that most plants that are at their best at this time of year are unfussy about their growing conditions in terms of soil, position etc. I suppose it's because they are the ones very determined to survive regardless of alkaline, acid, sun (maybe not), shade but most will benefit from good drainage and a bit of kindness regarding the soil if you have to garden on what is basically rubbish.
This is the start of the bare-root planting season for shrubs and trees, particularly roses and hedges. Make sure to stake new trees with a substantial short stake with the top pointing into the prevailing wind, usually west. The old-fashioned way was to use a vertical stake but a few years ago it was discovered that it was best to concentrate on the lower part of the trunk and allow the top to sway about a bit to make it stronger. The shorter stake secured to the lower part of the trunk protects the roots. It's a still more recent suggestion to use mycorrhizal fungus such as Rootgrow to encourage the roots to develop stronger and quicker than just planting in soil. I have no idea if this works but if Monty Don uses it I think that's a good recommendation. I guess the only way to prove it one way or the other is to plant two woody specimens, one with and one without then dig them up in a year or so. No, I have no intention of doing this either. Anyway it's cheaper and easier to plant bare-root rather than containerised, particularly if you have a limited space to put the plant.
Other plantings are tulip and hyacinth bulbs and garlic and hardy broad beans like Aquadulce. If you have any parsnips or carrots left in the ground by the middle of the month it might be a good idea to lift and store them, checking other stored crops for rot and pests. Let parsnips get a good frost first as they are sweeter for it. Potatoes are prone to hosting slugs however careful you are at harvest time. Eventually the little critters will creep out from one damaged spud to find another, fresher one to start on.
If you do winter digging now is a good time to start. It's good exercise and freshly dug earth smells great even at this time of year. This is also the time to manure or lime as necessary but not both at once. On sandy soils like ours in Breckland it's not really necessary to dig too deep, a turn over with a fork does the job just as well. If you have clay and it's wet keep off it. If you have any compost now's the time to spread it on whatever soil you have. Spent grow-bag or summer containers' compost is fine as it will improve the soil structure and the worms need something to do over the winter months.
We are likely to get more strong winds. I think we had more than enough in September and October but November is guaranteed to produce more so it's a good idea to check fence posts and panels and replace any showing signs of rot. This will prevent your having to replace the structures and all the plants they destroyed on the way down. Sheds, gates and greenhouses should have sturdy latches or locks so they don't get battered either and take in anything that might get blown around or away. Tree branches and unrestrained climbers can also do damage in a gale so tie them back or if they look like they might do real damage, cut them off.
The lawn might need the odd cut this month but otherwise keep off it to let it recover from the summer heat and wear. It is still possible to lay turf for a new lawn and it will more than likely get enough wet from rain. Just keep the leaves off the grass and any border plants that will rot if the leaves are left.
One of the nicest things to do is go round the nurseries and sheds and see what's in flower. It might be quite surprising and if you can't plant your purchases immediately create one or two fancy winter containers. Skimmias look good and are easily available so they look really pretty underplanted with hardy cyclamen and any bulbs you might find or have left overlooked around the place. There are lots of ideas to be had. However, whatever you plant in borders or containers you will find the little blighters so keep weeding.

Two Local History books shortlisted for East Anglian Book Awards, 2026

Two local history books from Poppyland Publishing have been shortlisted for the East Anglian Book Awards in the History and Tradition category.
The Black Dark Days of War: The Great War Diary of Honor Elwes (ISBN 978-1-869831-48-6) is a remarkable Norfolk diary chronicling the First World War from the perspective of Honor Elwes (1889–1959), who was brought up at Congham in west Norfolk. Although a muscular disorder prevented Honor from following her younger sister Win into nursing or ambulance work in France, she played an active role in the war effort at home.
Living with her widowed mother, Honor became involved in women's war work alongside friends and neighbours in Congham, Hillington and Westacre. They organised bandage-rolling sessions and helped care for wounded Allied soldiers billeted at local country houses.
Beginning with the outbreak of war on 5 August 1914, Honor's diary provides a fascinating daily account of how the conflict was experienced and understood in Norfolk. She recorded the latest news from newspapers, local rumours and hearsay, reports of casualties and the fate of local men serving overseas. Her sister Win's letters from France, where she drove a motor ambulance and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery, add another personal front-line perspective.
The diary also follows the progress of the wider conflict, from France and the Dardanelles to Poland, the Balkans and Africa, while recording the changing political and social situation at home. Alongside the tragedy are occasional glimpses of wartime humour, including the story of a cow wandering between the trenches and being milked by a Bavarian soldier.
The two-volume work was transcribed by Honor's great-niece, Juliet Webster, who says the shortlisting would have meant a great deal to her.
"Honor would be absolutely delighted that her great work has been shortlisted for the East Anglian Book Awards," says Juliet. "She had always dreamed of being a writer and this achievement would have pleased her hugely."
Juliet also pays tribute to Poppyland Publishing, which enhanced the original diary with notes, photographs and illustrations. "I feel I can hardly take any personal credit as the diary was written and assembled by Honor over 100 years ago," she says. "Poppyland Publishing did a tremendous amount of work on these volumes adding the notes and sourcing pictures to enhance the diary so they should also receive an accolade."



The second Poppyland book shortlisted in the same category is The Archaeology of Norfolk's First World War Airfields (ISBN: 978-1869831-60-8), by Norfolk archaeologist and historian Gary Rossin which was reviewed in the July 2026 edition of Watton and Wayland Times.
Together, the two books demonstrate the breadth of Norfolk's First World War story, from the experiences of families and communities at home to the aviation technology and infrastructure being developed across the county.
Both are available locally from The Norfolk Gift Company, 11 High Street, Watton, Thetford, IP25 6AB (the former at the discounted price of £29.95), and online from the Poppyland Publishing website at poppyland.co.uk.
Pictured: E Dereham Bomb Hole Sept 1915 Honor and her brother Godfrey drove over to see damage

Calling Former Air Cadets! Watton Air Cadets Prepare for 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Were you a cadet with 864 (Watton) Squadron? Have you served with the Squadron as a Cadet Forces Adult Volunteer or a Civilian Committee Member?

864 Squadron will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2027, having supported the local community for the last 50 years. Since 1977, we have provided exciting opportunities and activities to the young people of Watton. Throughout our history, cadets have been able to enjoy a wide range of experiences, such as flying, gliding, shooting, camping, adventurous training and much more! This is a milestone that we are greatly looking forward to, and we want to be able to share this special occasion with our former members and their families as well as our community.

If you are interested in hearing more about what we will be up to in 2027, we are putting together a mailing list for former cadets, adult volunteers and civilian committee members. If you would like to be added to the mailing list and receive updates next year, including details about events taking place during our anniversary year, please complete our online form:

wwtimes.co.uk/ATC



Right: Cadets from 2005 display their sports certificates. Two cadets Corporal Daniel Cooper and Cadet Jo Yates (back row left) both received Corps Representative Blues. The first in 10 years for 864 Squadron.

The Historian and the Abbey

The ruins of Bury St Edmunds Abbey were shrouded in fog, the kind that seems alive, curling around the remaining arches and creeping into the gaps between moss-covered stones. Emma, a local historian with a fascination for the occult, had stayed late to explore the Abbey's cloisters and the shrine of Saint Edmund. By the time she stepped into the grounds, night had fully descended, and a cold, damp wind whispered through the skeletal walls. Shadows stretched unnaturally across the ruins, making every archway look like a doorway to another realm. Even before she realised it, Emma felt the oppressive weight of centuries pressing upon her, and a shiver ran down her spine.

She shone her torch along the path to the shrine, cutting a narrow cone of light through the mist. The Abbey was silent - or so it seemed. Then came the whispering - faint at first, almost imperceptible, curling around the ruined columns and winding through the cloisters. Emma froze, straining to locate its source, but the ruins were empty. The whispering intensified, layering itself into overlapping voices speaking Latin, English and words she couldn't understand - some seeming to scream at her directly, demanding attention.

As Emma approached the shrine, a sudden chill made her knees buckle. In the silver light of the moon, she glimpsed a figure - a man in flowing robes, tall and imposing, face obscured in shadow. Her heart thumped as recognition hit her - Saint Edmund, but not as the serene, martyred king depicted in books. This apparition radiated fury and anguish. The air around it was icy, freezing her breath as frost formed along the edges of the shrine stones.

She tried to step back, but an invisible force pressed against her shoulders, holding her in place. Her torch flickered violently, and the figure of the saint seemed to loom larger, almost alive. She could see the faint glow of his eyes through the darkness, and with it came a sense of accusation - an unspoken warning about those who dared trespass.

Then came the chanting. Low, guttural and discordant, the voices seemed to vibrate within her chest. From the shadows of the cloisters, shapes began to move - shadowy monks appearing from nowhere, gliding silently along the stone pathways. Their habits were tattered, faces blank and expressionless. They moved in unison, forming rows and then dispersing, as though the Abbey itself were replaying rituals from a long-forgotten past.

Emma tried to flee, but the walls seemed to shift, the corridors stretching unnaturally. Lantern-like glimmers appeared in the fog - phantom pilgrims, slowly making their way along paths that no longer existed. Their eyes were hollow, their mouths silent, but their focus was on her. When she blinked, they were gone - yet the sense of being surrounded persisted, suffocating and real.

From above came the tolling of bells, though the Abbey's tower was long ruined. The sound resonated through the ruins, vibrating unnaturally, almost painfully, through Emma's skull. Heavy footsteps accompanied it - ascending the crumbling stairway of the tower, then descending again, deliberate and unrelenting. She spun, shining her torch into the darkness, but the stairway was empty. Then the footsteps were behind her, circling, chasing her as though unseen entities were stalking her every move.

A cold gust blew through the corridor, carrying a smell of smoke and iron. It was unmistakably the scent of blood - long dried into history but somehow alive again in the ruins. Emma's mind raced. She had read about the Viking raids, the violent deaths, the sudden disappearances in the Abbey - but seeing the echoes played out before her eyes, hearing them in the wind and stones, was different. Terrifying.

Emma stumbled into the cloister gardens, trying to regain her composure. The fog clung to the ground, curling around her legs like spectral fingers. There, shadows moved independently of her torchlight. Figures crouched among the ruins, vanishing when she approached. Cold spots appeared suddenly, making her shiver uncontrollably.

She pressed herself against a column, trying to see. Out of the mist emerged children, translucent, running and laughing, though the sound was eerie, distorted. The laughter morphed into high-pitched cries, echoing unnaturally against the ruins. Tiny hands seemed to reach from the mist, brushing against her arms. Emma stumbled back, nearly falling, as a whisper hissed in her ear - "Stay… with us…"

The weight of centuries pressed down, a suffocating presence of grief and loss. Every stone seemed imbued with memory - prayers, sorrow, violence - all replaying in loops that she could feel in her chest.

From the far side of the courtyard, she saw a line of figures emerging from the fog - a procession of monks, priests and pilgrims, their forms flickering like candle flames. They glided in silence, hands clasped in prayer or holding spectral lanterns. Their presence was overwhelming, the air growing thick, almost solid. Emma felt her legs freezing in place as the procession passed, the ground beneath her seeming to vibrate with each step they took.

One figure, taller than the rest, turned toward her. It was Saint Edmund again, or perhaps another ghostly manifestation of the Abbey's tormented past. He raised a hand in warning - or accusation - and the cold in the air deepened to a biting frost. The voices in her ears escalated to a chorus - chanting, accusing, warning her to leave while she could.

Emma's terror escalated as the shadows reenacted moments of violent history. She saw spectral Vikings attacking monks, spectral blood spreading across the cloister stones, and ghostly figures writhing in agony. Screams filled the air, echoing from walls that had long crumbled. One apparition knelt clutching its chest as if impaled, then rose with hollow eyes and a scream that cut through Emma's mind.

The Abbey, it seemed, was replaying its trauma endlessly. Saints, monks, pilgrims, invaders - they all existed simultaneously in the ruins, bound to cycles of devotion, violence and despair. Emma realised the Abbey itself was a living nightmare, a vessel holding the memories of centuries, refusing to let them go.

From the corner of her vision, a new figure emerged - the Grey Lady, a mournful presence with a flowing gown and bowed head. Unlike the angry or chaotic figures around her, she exuded sorrow, her form swaying gently as though carried on the wind. Emma felt the emotional weight of her presence - a centuries-old grief that pressed against her heart, a quiet, profound despair.

The Grey Lady moved toward her, slower than the other apparitions, deliberate in her steps. Emma felt compelled to kneel, almost as if the weight of her own fear needed acknowledgment. She dared not look directly at the figure's face, yet she could feel the sorrow piercing through her, mingling with her own terror. When the Grey Lady passed, the shadows seemed to momentarily part, and the chanting subsided into a low, mournful murmur.

Emma attempted to flee, heading toward the outer gate, but the ruins had transformed. Corridors twisted impossibly, shadows gathering in every archway. Figures emerged from walls, from the fog, from nowhere at all. The Abbey was alive with presence. Figures pressed against her, brushing her skin with cold, unseen hands. Whispers escalated into a cacophony of voices - prayers, accusations, cries, laughter - and warnings.

The children's laughter turned into wails. The monks' chants became urgent and threatening. Saint Edmund appeared again, larger, more terrifying, towering over her. Emma felt paralysed, unable to move, as the Grey Lady hovered near, her sorrow like a physical weight. The fog thickened, swallowing the torchlight, and Emma realised with dread that she was trapped in a nightmarish world where past and present collided.

Finally, in a desperate surge of will, Emma scrambled into the open, the mist thinning just enough to see the moonlight ahead. The shadowed figures recoiled, and the chanting faded into the wind. She ran across the ruins, every step echoing through the empty night, until she burst into the street. Only then did the oppressive weight lift, though a lingering chill remained in her chest.

Even in her home hours later, Emma felt the Abbey's presence. Cold touches brushed against her skin in empty rooms. Whispered voices echoed faintly in her mind. And sometimes, when the wind howled outside her window, she swore she could hear the distant, discordant tolling of a bell that no longer existed.

Bury St Edmunds Abbey is not just a ruin - it is a portal to the past, where centuries of devotion, violence and loss replay endlessly. The ghosts of monks, pilgrims, children and martyrs are not passive observers - they are active participants, bound to the ruins by memory and unfinished business. To step into the Abbey after dark is to step into history itself, but history that is alive, aware - and terrifying.

Those who enter may leave physically unscathed, but few leave unchanged. The Abbey does not forget, and it does not forgive. The ghosts remain, their whispers riding on the wind, their presence felt in the bones of the ruins. For anyone daring enough to explore the Abbey at night, the lesson is clear - some histories haunt with a persistence that no living witness can withstand.

You have been warned!

Mike Wabe MAHGTC, Watton Town Crier

The Story of a Long-Remembered Grave

In 1942, Sylvia and Ted Lambert of Ovington suffered the loss of their stillborn baby boy, who was buried in Ovington churchyard. Although the circumstances surrounding burial were never formally recorded in the family's possession, his grave was carefully tended by his parents for more than fifty years.

Sylvia and Ted continued to care for the grave until their deaths in 1995. Following their passing, responsibility for the grave was taken on by their children, who continued to maintain it and preserve the memory of their brother.

In 2025, more than eighty years after his burial, the family decided that a permanent headstone should be erected to mark the grave. The stonemason advised that a burial record would be required before a headstone could be installed. Although the family was able to obtain a stillbirth certificate confirming that the baby had been registered, extensive searches failed to locate any record of his burial.



The absence of a burial record led the family to believe that, during the 1940s, stillborn infants may not always have been recorded in the same way as other burials. With no official burial document available, the family sought assistance from their parish priest, the Reverend Patrick Morrow.

Reverend Morrow was sympathetic to the family's circumstances and worked diligently to assist them in obtaining the necessary permission. Although he did not have the authority to grant permission himself, he continued to support the family throughout the process. Eventually, permission was granted by the Archdeacon of Lynn for a memorial headstone to be erected.

The headstone was installed in September 2025, and the following month, in October, Reverend Morrow conducted a blessing at the graveside.

After more than eighty years, the grave now bears a permanent memorial, ensuring that the life of a baby boy who was born sleeping on 3 June 1942 will continue to be remembered.

The memorial stands not only as a tribute to the child, but also as a lasting record of the love and devotion of his parents, Sylvia and Ted Lambert, and of the family who continued to remember and care for him across the generations.

Sheila Johnson (nee Lambert) Barry Lambert. (Tracey Johnson)

PRAYER of dedication of the Headstone.

God of all light and hope and mercy, as we bring before you anew our grief at the loss of this boy to whom you have given a name, already and always intimately known and cherished by you. We thank you for the consolations you have given us in our lives. We thank you for this place of rest, and this new headstone, for those who have worked on it for those who have assisted us in any way. We dedicate this headstone in honour of this boy to whom you have given a name, already and always intimately known and cherished by you, and in his blessed memory. May all, who come here and pause here and pray here, gain a renewed sense of your care and love, the care and love which shines through the family of this boy to whom you have given a name, already and always intimately known and cherished by you.

The Wayland Partnership Development Trust Needs Your Help!

Based in Watton, we were the first ever community partnership in England to be granted charity status in 1999. We successfully worked in partnership with local parishes, voluntary and public service organisations and commercial businesses in a way that is not replicated elsewhere. Our whole ethos and practises are partner, resident and community driven.

Over the last 27 years this hardworking charity has existed to promote the economic, educational, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the Wayland area.

Despite its past successes, the Trust is not resting on its laurels but pushing forward with even greater ambition and is currently working hard to develop the Wayland House site into a Digital and Creative Media Centre.

The Wayland Partnership Development Trust is managed, administrated and operated entirely by volunteers and we are now looking to enhance the team. We are looking for energetic, forward thinking and motivated individuals who are prepared to give something back to the community, to join the team.

So, if you are a committed member of the local community and have a little spare time - or want an added challenge in your life, you could be part of the team. You will have experience of working in local, county and national organisations, have management and leadership qualities, with expertise in managing projects, supplier management, public relations or in fundraising for a charity.

To take your first step towards a meaningful and fulfilling project: Contact David Dent via chair@waylandchamber.co.uk
or Elaine Banks via
ellebanks@hotmail.com

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Watton & District Trefoil Guild

Did you know that Watton & District has a Trefoil Guild? We meet monthly to enjoy a variety of activities, but mainly to socialise and enjoy ourselves. Over the last few months we have welcomed Paul Weatherill who gave us a presentation on Shelter Boxes (Trefoil charity for 2026) and his fund raising by sailing a Shelter Box made into a Shelter Boat on the River Bure Yarmouth to Norwich, a section of the River Severn for his second journey and lastly part of the River Thames; taken part in the Watton Hare Trail (the daughter of one of our members was among the artists who made the Hares); reminded ourselves of how to play Badminton; spent an afternoon Geocaching; joined other Norfolk Guilds on a day in Bury St Edmunds and another day out at Great Yarmouth; met Rufus the PAT dog, among other things. In November we look forward to a craft afternoon, followed in December by a Seasonal Meal, while in 2027 our programme to include a Quiz, visit to the cinema or museum, presentation/visit to the EAAA base in Norwich, trip to the Sainsbury centre, joining with other Trefoil Guilds, maybe try an Escape Room etc. Next year we look forward to celebrating 30 years of our Guild in May and would love to welcome new members. You do not need to have been involved with Guiding or Scouting to belong to Trefoil, for more details contact maggs.trefoil@gmail.com

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Days by Coach 2026

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

Thursford Christmas Spectacular SOLD OUT

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

2027 BROCHURE OUT NOW!

Please Call for Further Information or to Make a Booking

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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		
Wednesday	HSBC UK	
Thursday	LLOYDS BANK	
Friday	BARCLAYS	



Watton Rotary Club Salutes Young Heroes



Every year Watton Rotary Club seek nominations from local organisations for our Young Citizen Awards. We know there are many exceptional role models who are going out of their way to make a positive difference to our world, and our aim each year is to locate some of them.

We then want to recognise the difference they are making to their community by showcasing their outstanding citizenship, and rewarding them with a trophy and a certificate. Our Young Citizen Awards this year were presented at a special ceremony during our annual Gala Day at Broom Hall Hotel in early September.

There were 6 award winners this year, and one of them was actually nominated twice !

Poppy Allen was nominated by Ellie Brown, former Team Lead for Watton Youth Group. Poppy has had a difficult time over recent years but has worked incredibly hard to ensure this doesn't affect her future. She is a young carer for two family members, and also volunteers at Watton Youth Group, where she is very popular with the young children as she teaches them one or more of her many skills. Poppy has a dream of becoming a lawyer and takes every opportunity that comes her way to improve herself, from D of E Gold Award to an internship at a law firm. She deserves recognition for all her work to better herself, whilst at the same time supporting those around her and in the Community.

Evelyn Walsh was nominated by Aidan Hall, Officer Commanding Watton Detachment of Norfolk Army Cadets. In her 3 years in the Detachment she holds the rank of Corporal of Horse. She has recently completed her 4 Star First Aid at Work qualification, and has started teaching First Aid to the younger members. She is due to attend a Senior Cadet Teaching Course in October. She was crowned the Squadron best shot in an air rifle shooting competition and has shown an enthusiasm for walking and navigation, demonstrated at this year's Cateran Yomp in the Cairngorm Mountains where she walked 36 miles in 24 hours. In her spare time Evelyn volunteers with the Rainbows and also works part time at Dorrington House Residential Home.

Emily Poole was nominated by Alex Stapleton, Officer Commanding Watton Air Training Cadets. She has only been in the group for 2 years, but has already achieved a nationally recognised qualification in First Aid, as well as internal qualifications in radio operation, space studies, leadership and shooting. She has also represented Norfolk and Suffolk Wing at Cross Country on several occasions. Earlier this year Emily earned her silver Road Marching badge after walking 80km over two days, all the more impressive as she did it with an injured ankle, which would have caused many to quit. She can always be relied upon to support the activities of the Squadron and shows remarkable resilience, maturity and professionalism for a young person of her age.

Lily-Jai Radford, at 9 years old our youngest Award recipient this year, was nominated twice. Her mother wrote to tell us that for the past 4 years Lily has been a carer to her younger brother, who has learning difficulties. Lily connects with her brother on a different level from the adults who care for him. She can calm him down in a crisis, supports him, and teaches him everyday skills to allow him to be independent where possible. She also supports her brother on her Dad's side who has autism and limited speech. Lily has made many sacrifices to care for her brothers.

A second nomination for Lily came from her Brownie leader, Rebecca Yeoman who said Lily was an outstanding Brownie and their 'little badge queen'. She has completed 20 badges in her own time and has only been a brownie for 19 months. Lily has achieved her Brownie Bronze Award and is well on the way to Silver and Gold. She supports the younger Brownies and is an amazing friend to all the other girls.

Rosy Lang was nominated by Russell Dee, Vice Principal of Wayland Academy for the award this year. She was nominated for her kindness, compassion and organisational skills in connection with one particular project. Rosy led a whole school initiative to ensure elderly residents at a local care home received personalised hampers at Christmas. She was the driving force behind the programme and was among a group of pupils who delivered the hampers. Having encouraged the residents to share their interests and passions, hampers were prepared, tailored to those interests. The hampers included letters, food items and gifts. Mr Dee describes Rosy as THE role model student for the younger years to aspire to.

Jasmin Marison was nominated by Jayne Eastwood, leader of 1st Watton Guides. Jasmin has found the last 2 years challenging, having received a SEND diagnosis in Year 6. Despite her own problems, Jasmin always helps the younger Guides. She has been a wonderful Patrol Second and last month moved up to be a Patrol leader. She attends all fundraising events and supports any activities the Guides attend to do with the Community. She also supports her Mum who works long hours 7 days a week as a Carer in the Community.

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

The photo was taken by Alex Stapleton and shows (from left) Rotary President Keith Thomas, Poppy Allen, Evelyn Walsh, Rosy Lang, Jasmin Marison, Lily-Jai Radford and Emily Poole.

1st Watton Rainbows have been out and about in October!



Sunday 4th October saw 11 of the Rainbows visit Hautbois Activity Centre where they carried out various activities to gain a Rainbow Challenge Badge. Starting with soft archery, they then had a go at zip wiring, then after lunch they did fire lighting, a night trail and a scavenger hunt before being reunited with their families, exhausted and much dirtier than when they arrived!

The following Sunday, some of the girls attended St Mary's Harvest Festival where they sang some harvest songs and did some crafts, to say Thank You for all we have.

Finally for the month, a visit to Watton library to find out about how a library works, and to be set some challenges to work towards the Book Lover Badge.

When one incident becomes two separate stories . . .

(Ed: this came to me as a letter but I think, having heard all the circumstances, that it is worth including as an article it in its own right.)

Most parents waving their child through the school gates trust that, if something serious happens during the day, the adults and organisations responsible for their child will be given the complete picture.

My son Joey was five when an incident took place at his previous mainstream school. I was told about his behaviour and received paperwork saying that he had been suspended.

Months later, after obtaining his school records, I found an internal account stating that two adults had physically taken or moved Joey to another room and that he had resisted while being moved.

I am not claiming that the intervention was necessarily inappropriate or unlawful. Schools can face incredibly difficult situations, and staff must sometimes make quick decisions to keep children safe.

What concerns me is what happens to the information afterwards. When restrictive intervention is used, parents should be told. When a child is suspended or permanently excluded, the local authority receives information about that exclusion. However, the local authority may not also be told that a physical or restrictive intervention formed part of the same incident.

One event can therefore become two separate stories: the parents know about the intervention, while the local authority knows about the exclusion. The organisation responsible for oversight may never be given the complete picture.

For Joey, that incident was only one part of a much longer and more difficult educational journey. Like many children with additional needs, he needed understanding, consistency and the right environment. Our family spent many months attending meetings, completing paperwork, seeking assessments and trying to explain what support he needed.

Eventually, Joey was attending school on a part-time timetable. While other families were making ordinary plans for the next school year, we were navigating the Education, Health and Care Plan and tribunal processes, trying to secure a suitable specialist placement.

It took time, persistence and an enormous amount of emotional energy. Joey has now started at a specialist school with an environment better able to understand his needs, communicate with us and help him feel secure.

We are incredibly grateful that he has reached this point, but I often think about other families who are still searching, waiting and fighting for the right support.

That is why accurate reporting matters. A suspension should not be viewed in isolation from everything that happened before it. If restrictive intervention formed part of the same incident, the local authority should know.

Without that information, it is much harder to identify patterns, ask whether a child's needs are being met or recognise when a school and family require additional help.

This particularly matters for very young children and children with special educational needs or disabilities. They may be frightened, overwhelmed or unable to explain clearly what happened. They rely on the adults and systems around them to ensure their experiences are properly recorded and understood.

Linked reporting could help local authorities identify concerns earlier and provide better support for children, families and schools. Reporting an intervention would not mean presuming that somebody had acted wrongly. It would simply ensure that both parts of the same event were visible.

That is why I created UK Parliament Petition 779849. It asks the Government to require schools in England to report details of restrictive interventions, including physical interventions, to the local authority whenever the same incident results in a suspension or permanent exclusion.

I do not have a campaign organisation behind me. I am simply Joey's mum, trying to turn a difficult chapter in his life into something that might help another child and family.

Joey is now beginning a happier chapter. My hope is that his experience can help create greater transparency, earlier understanding and better support for the children who come after him. If readers agree that local authorities should see the whole picture - not two disconnected halves of the same incident - I would be very grateful if they would read and consider signing the petition:

https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/779849

K, Norfolk (Full name and address supplied but redacted to protect Joey's privacy.)

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Watton Town Council Updates, News, and Events

A word from the Mayor

I'm often asked by residents what Watton Town Council is responsible for in our community so I thought I'd give a brief overview of our responsibilities. Our Council is the most local tier of government for the civil parish and manages specific local amenities, public spaces and community services.

The play areas in Bridle Road, Lovell Gardens, Watton Sports Centre and Hare's Green are all managed and maintained by the Town Council which includes ensuring that they are regularly independently inspected by professionals and meet the relevant safety standards.

Our open spaces currently include Jubilee Garden, Memorial Garden, Shire Horse Way and Church Walk however we hope that very soon the transfer of pockets of open spaces will be transferred from Breckland District Council to the Town Council very soon.

The Town Council also manages Wayland Hall, the public toilets behind Myhills and the Youth & Community Centre in Harvey Street which is the home of the Food Hub and hosts many of our local groups and charities for their meetings and functions.

The Town Council also has responsibility for managing the cemetery and the allotments in Church Road and Thetford Road.

Turning to the High Street, we look after the bus shelters in the High Street, street furniture (seats, notice boards, litter and dog waste bins), the Clock Tower, boundary signs, and town signs, hanging baskets, planters, and the trees and surrounds along the High Street.

As a lot of you will be aware, the Council also run the weekly market and various events throughout the year including the children's fun days in school holidays, the Spring Fair, Festive Market including the Christmas tree and lights, Fireworks Night and close the High Street on the August Bank Holiday for the Bike Fest and marshal that event.

Our Town Councillors, as well as assisting with various events also sit on market, biodiversity, finance and HR committees as well as attending meetings with charities in the community and other events. Whilst meeting in Chambers twice a month they consider and decide on local community issues, award grants to local community organisations and compile responses to local authority and planning consultations.

Broader local services—such as major highways, pothole repairs, street lighting, social care, and education—are handled by Norfolk County Council while housing, major planning decisions, and waste collection are managed by Breckland District Council.

I hope the information provided helps you understand the remit of the Town Council and its elected officers but if you would like further information or advice on any matter please do come along to the Wednesday Market where at least one of our Councillors will be available to assist you in the Town Council gazebo at the entrance to the market.

Turning to my civic responsibilities since the last edition, I have attended two Battle of Britain Services which commemorated the 86th Anniversary. Both services were very moving as we remembered those in RAF Fighter Command, the ground crew, factory workers, and civilian support networks who defended the United Kingdom.

I have also been helping with the re-siting of the market which opened on 16th September and has been a great success. We have received lots of interest from new vendors so we hope that our market will continue to grow and provide us all with a vibrant and very necessary amenity for our town. The market has also provided our Councillors with the means to be more visible and contactable with our residents by manning a surgery at the market where residents can raise concerns or ask for advice face to face.

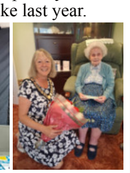
I attended a civic reception on 23rd September hosted by Cllr Nigel Wilkin, Chair of Breckland Council which provided a valuable opportunity to meet representatives from the Council, their Officers and the Mayors from our neighbouring towns.

On Sunday 27th September Mark and I had the pleasure of meeting Alice, a resident of Watton for 77 years who was celebrating her 100th birthday. We had a good, long chat about how Watton has changed over the years since she moved to Watton from Carbrooke 77 years ago and from London prior to that. She shared so many interesting memories of her life in the town and it was incredible to learn how much the town has changed over the years. I would really like to say a huge thank you to Alice's daughter and granddaughter for their kind hospitality and to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Alice for sharing her valuable memories of our local history and also showing us her very special birthday card from the King and Queen. She and her lovely family really did make mine and my husband's day.

On Saturday 3rd October I attended the 10th anniversary of the Wayland Men's Shed at the Sports Centre. The event was really very well attended by members, their families and invited guest and a great time was had by all of us. Following speeches from Malcolm and John who put so much work, effort and enthusiasm into the shed, we looked at the many displays of the work produced by the groups within it and listened to the wonderful Shanty Men who provided the entertainment.

Now that we have reached October it falls on the Council to get ready for their part in the Halloween Trail which is organised by Paul Adcock and Mark Bunning for the children of our town. This year, for our part, we will be decorating the Clock Tower and following on from that we have the Fireworks event so hopefully we will have a fabulous turnout like last year.





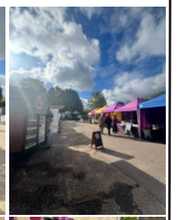
Watton Market

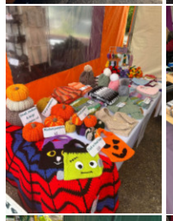
Watton Town Council have worked hard over the last month to revive the weekly charter market, the relocation to the Crown car park has been successful and now the market is boasting 13 regular weekly traders and 2 monthly traders. Each week the Town Councillors will have a stall - so pop over and have a chat!

- Gerry's Curry Sauces - great quality curry sauces and spices
- Heather's Emporium - a fantastic selection of handmade jewellery, scarves and accessories
- Maison's Munchies - traditional pick and mix
- Doodle Donuts - handmade vegan donuts
- Magpie Diamond and Pearl Art - bespoke jewelled frames, ornaments, and pictures
- Rosie and Max Crafts - a variety of handmade crochet, knitted, and fabric items
- The Kraken Bakes - gluten and dairy free bakes
- Just Herbal Teas - an assortment of teas, plus tea accessories and gifts
- Have a Go Crafts - Yarn and accessories, plus crochet starter boxes
- Plantation Farm - a selection of fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and plants
- The Cheese and Pie Man - selection of fine cheeses and pies
- Brookakery - homemade cakes, bakes, goodies, and hot drinks
- Olive House London - serving a fantastic selection of olives, sweet and savoury nuts, Turkish delights and baklava
- Fern and Friends - gorgeous plants and home goods (ONLY ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)
- Norfolk Sharpening Services - onsite sharpening of tools (ONLY ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

Come down to the Crown car park on a Wednesday morning between 8:30am and 1pm to see what goodies are on offer each week!

















WATTON FOOD HUB CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 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	19	20	21	22	23
18	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

TUESDAYS - Food Hub Open 12:30-14:30
THURSDAYS - Food Hub Open 09:30-12:00
4 NOVEMBER - Food Hub Open 16:30-18:30
18 NOVEMBER - Food Hub Open 16:30-18:30

Town Council Updates

Breckland Council have been approached regarding a possible Deed of Variation for the car parks. This could be costly and it is suggested research is also undertaken into the cost of obtaining a Traffic Regulation Order for Middle Street each Wednesday as a back up location for the market.

It was re-iterated that the Town Council wishes to progress with the transfer of ownership of open space land from Breckland Council to Watton Town Council. Plans have now been received of the open space areas that are being offered and final site visits will be made prior to accepting the areas on the plans.

It was resolved that following the information in the County Councillor's report that plans for local government re-organisation has been withdrawn this will no longer be a re-occurring standing item on the Council agendas.

Following the arson of the public toilets, the insurance assessor has visited the site and has requested the specialist cleaners return to complete soot removal from the glass roof panels before repairs can go ahead.

The building surveyor from Kings and Dunne used to complete the original report on the Clock Tower has contacted the Town Council after seeing an article in the EDP. He has now contacted the appointed builders to add some weight to the repeated request for the work to be undertaken asap.

The income from the Wednesday Market during the time it was located at the Queen's Hall car park has been clarified and it was resolved that £220 will be donated to the Queen's Hall rather than the £80 that was previously agreed.

It was resolved to relocate the bench currently placed at the Charlotte Harvey Community Centre to replace the one damaged during the ram-raid of the cash point outside the Old Post Office. A replacement bench will be purchased for the Community Centre. It is estimated the cost of a bench and the works to fit the bench and bin into the High Street will be in the region of £1700. It was noted that there is currently grant funding offered by Norfolk County Council which could provide additional seating for the bush shelter areas - this will be investigated.

It was resolved that, if grant funding to pay for a Halloween Selfie board is not successful, the Town Council will fund the purchase to support the town's Halloween Trail.

Some discussion took place as to how the Town Council can manage long stay parking in the town's car parks. A fair use policy will be put together and the cost of installing removable height restrictions at the entrances to the car parks will be investigated.

It was resolved to ask the Office to issue a poll giving councillors the choice of possible projects which the Pride in Breckland funding could be spent on. This matter will be an agenda item again for the next meeting of the Full Council when a decision must be made.

Prior to the public consultation being undertaken by Reclaim the Rain, a site visit was held on 02.10.26 to help finalise the design for the Reclaim the Rain features which are to be located in Watton High Street. The project is suggesting tree pits and rain gardens at various locations along the High Street including a water collection tank to be placed on land belonging to the Wayland Partnership. The aim of the project is to help eliminate surface water flooding and to harvest rain water for re-use. The plans currently include quite major works at the west end of the High Street which may include removal of some or all of the trees and planters outside Lings and down to the entrance of Harvey Street. The plans will be presented to the Town Council once they are available.

Watton Remembers

Saturday 7th November

12 noon *- Commemoration of Commonwealth War Graves, Watton Cemetery*

Sunday 8th November

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

Wednesday 11th November

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

Everyone is welcome

All faiths or none & all Nationalities



Watton Fireworks 2026

The annual Food Festival, Fun Fair and Fireworks returned Saturday 31st October, and as with everything in life, the cost of this event rises year on year. For those that have attended before, you'll know that at the end of the event we always have the blue donation buckets out, donations help us continue the event each year! Unfortunately, last year, our donations were down by half - this was mostly accredited to the fact that a lot of people don't carry cash these days. So, this year, we have also introduced digital donations - if anyone would like to make a digital donation please scan the QR code below - all donations are massively appreciated and help us continue to put on this event free for the public! The volunteers carrying the blue donation buckets on the night will also have digital donation QR codes!

Also, a big thank you to our local business sponsor, Cranswick, for their continued support with this event, their sponsorship means we can continue providing the pyromusical Firework display!





RSPB Lakenheath Fen

Although Lakenheath Fen is home to thousands of species of birds, mammals, insects, plants and fungi, certain species are particularly popular. I thought this month it would be good to focus on perhaps the most popular of all- the Kingfisher. There are other 'big names' here like Hobbies and Cuckoo that come and go with the seasons, but Kingfishers offer year-round appeal, and there's always a chance you could see one on a walk around the reserve.

Many people who see one for the first time are surprised by how small they are- they weigh just 40g, on average- half that of a starling and each wing is only 8cm long. However, they carry a hefty bill, and the size of it is a sign of how important it is to them- they fish regularly and must eat every day to survive. Their diet is mainly small fish such as minnows, sticklebacks and fry of larger species like Roach or Rudd. They will also eat large insects like diving beetles, mayflies and dragonfly larvae, especially when they are breeding and need to find extra food.

A hunting Kingfisher will use a favoured perch to fish from, or they may hover- and then they need to return to a perch afterwards with their catch to eat it and if it is larger, to subdue it. A small fish will be swallowed immediately, but a larger one will be knocked on the head on the perch and turned around to be swallowed head-first- so the backwards-pointing scales go down the right way!

Kingfishers are generally quiet birds, but whilst on the move- perhaps flying along a river or arriving at a regularly visited pond- they often issue a high-pitched piping call which is unlike any other bird. It's very useful to familiarise yourself with it if you are keen to see more Kingfishers when you are out and about, as the call so often announces their arrival!

At RSPB Lakenheath Fen, Kingfishers can be seen in all months of the year but April to November is generally best. Because we are inland, with small pools which sometimes freeze over in winter, any Kingfishers that are here in late autumn may have to leave to set up territory in a frost-free place. Flowing rivers or sheltered coastal spots are popular if they need to move. In April and May, like other birds their minds turn to thoughts of breeding and they return inland to wet places like Lakenheath Fen to raise their young. Mere Hide and New Fen Viewpoint are popular places to see them with their young families in spring and summer, when their parents will support them for just a few days after fledging whilst they learn to hunt for themselves. At the time of writing, in October, we have watched a male this



afternoon at the Visitor Centre pool catch three fish in quick succession, after some really impressive hovering and diving. He seems to appreciate the newly cut reeds and perches we have provided for him, as well as the rising water level!

Picture of a kingfisher with a fish above is by Nick Levene

If you'd like to see Kingfishers at Lakenheath Fen, do try to come down soon- after the first hard frosts they will be less reliably seen until the following spring. Who knows- maybe there'll even be one on the pond at the Visitor Centre when you arrive!

With best wishes,

Heidi Jones (Visitor Experience Officer, RSPB Lakenheath Fen).





West Norfolk Aviation Society

This weeks we welcomed back Keith Thomas who entertained us about his time in the Sultan Of Omans Airforce (SOAF) as a helicopter pilot. Keith described what it was like operating in the desert heat. He was seconded from the RAF and this was the only tour which was unaccompanied, meaning that his wife and children remained in the UK. Notwithstanding this his wife was able to visit regularly and during his service with the SOAF he spent 6 months on duty followed by one month on leave in the UK, all travel provided. He also explained how he earned extra money whilst on secondment, that everything was tax free, decent accommodation provide, in fact all he had to pay for was food in the mess.

Interestingly Oman is a lot less strict re alcohol and meat consumption than many other Middle East states and women are accepted though not as equals, and are able to drive etc. Also of note was Ramadan where the locals do not eat or drink during daylight hours, meaning they compensate for it during the evening and night. This meant that by midday the local Omani aircrew were stood down due to fatigue in the interests of safety, aviation does not tolerate mistakes….

The actual helicopter operations were interesting but in Keith's words their is 'an awful lot of nothing' in the desert most notable was a flypast of a stadium by SOAF on a state occasion, with the aircraft crossing the stadium bang on time only to find all the locals outside as they had been unable to open the stadium due to loss of keys! They were asked and indeed did repeat the exercise once everybody had been let in.



Next month we have our chairman Chris who will be giving a talk on an armourer's lot with visual aids. Anyone who has seen one before knows this will be very entertaining. All welcome on Tuesday 03 Nov @ 7.15pm. Further details on our website, non members entrance fee £2 per head includes a light buffet.

Mark Burch, WNAS Scribe
westnorfolkaviationsociety.com

The Inner Wheel

Our September talk was entitled Elephant Experiences which opened up various intriguing options as far as I was concerned. In fact, it turned out to be a fascinating tale of Carla Dell's life as an elephant keeper at Whipsnade. She told us she had always known she wanted to work with animals from being very young but to get a job looking after elephants was not quite what she had envisaged. It turned out to be a wonderful life and she found she had a real rapport with them, treating them with kindness and understanding, although she did have two near-death experiences! We learned a great deal about them during her talk. Did you realise their huge trunk can push over a tree or pick up a peanut? A baby weighs 19 stone at birth, can stand in 20 minutes, walk in an hour and be ready for a march in 24 hours! An adult can weigh 6 tons, be 13 feet tall and will eat 150kg of plants in a day. Unfortunately, this animal is hunted illegally for its tusks and its skin and numbers have reduced drastically despite the worldwide ban on the sale of ivory. Hopefully, this practice can be stamped out before it's too late, but Africa is a very large area to police despite strenuous efforts to catch the poachers.

We have held another of our popular lunchtime concerts since my last article. The morning didn't get off to the best of starts as when we went to collect the rolls there was no record of our order so alternatives had to be found at very short notice! This accomplished, and the filling of said rolls began, when one of our members was taken ill and an ambulance had to be called. Thankfully, she was fit enough to be taken home by the medics and is recovering at home. The concert went very well despite the inauspicious start to the morning and the audience were entertained by Kyle making a welcome return to sing a medley of popular songs. She encouraged people to get up and dance and at one point there were over 20 dancers on the floor! Status Quo singing Rocking all over World really hit the spot with nearly everyone singing or dancing and a good time was had by all. Our thanks to Tesco who gave us the shortbread we all enjoyed after the rolls.

Our next lunchtime concert will be at the Queens Hall on 9th December where you will be entertained by Chiming Bells, a local choir, and the ladies of Inner Wheel will have a selection of Christmas stories and poems. Your lunch will be Christmas themed - turkey rolls and mince pies (alternative rolls will be available). Tickets will be on sale in Adcocks and from our members, in November. We are very grateful to Adcocks who sell our tickets for us for every function we put on.

On Wednesday 25th November we will have a coffee morning at the Methodist Centre where we will be promoting Orange the World. This is a worldwide organisation aiming to stop violence against women. Do join us for a cup of coffee and cake with an orange theme!

We will also have a stall at the Festive market on 29th November, selling our Pretty Parcels for £1 as usual. All ages will be catered for so here's hoping for a mild, dry day and maybe we'll see you there.

Jenny Simons (Club Correspondent)

The Westminster View

From Terry Jermy

Having lived in South West Norfolk my entire life and through my years-long experience as a town, district and county councillor, I was clear about the challenges facing our farmers and growers when I became MP.

This is why, when building my constituency team, I sought to have a farming and environment specialist caseworker to provide in-depth, targeted support to our local farming community.



Supporting South West Norfolk farmers, growers and the environment is crucial to me and was a key motivation in me becoming the Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Farming and joining the EFRA Select Committee, which scrutinises the work of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Since becoming MP, I have met with more than 100 South West Norfolk farmers and have banded together with the local farming community to successfully campaign against the proposed changes to Agricultural Property Relief, stop the Methwold Megafarm proposal, secure millions in drought relief and heating oil support, and pushed for rural policy ideas to be embedded within each Government department.

Rurality is both a factor and a cause, and isolating rural policy to DEFRA, risks limiting the vital joined-up working necessary between Departments and limits the transparency of the needs that policies are crucial in addressing.

I feedback every policy idea or suggestion that South West Norfolk farmers and growers share with me to help inform future Government policy, such as calling for the Department of Health and Social Care to better support farming mental health, to looking at ways that agricultural technical skills can be embedded through the Department for Education curriculum.

It's also key to note the economic value that local farmers, growers and producers bring to our high streets, and how important it is for us to support their hard work whenever possible. Buying locally supports our farmers, growers, producers, shopkeepers, local business owners, and high streets – all of which are a crucial part of our rural villages and towns – and also ensures that most of the money spent stays in our communities.

In October I will be holding (or depending on when this column is published, I may have already held it!) The Future of Farming: Bringing Together Farmers, Policymakers and Rural Support Organisations - a farming and support information event for farmers and agricultural businesses in South West Norfolk.

Farming remains at the heart of our local economy and rural communities, yet many farmers continue to face significant challenges, including financial pressures, climate and environmental issues, workforce shortages, and concerns around mental health and wellbeing.

Joining the conference will be representatives from Government agencies, farming charities, mental health and wellbeing services, rural support networks, environmental and conservation organisations, agricultural business advisers and skills, training and apprenticeship providers.

By bringing together a wide range of expertise under one roof, I hope to create a valuable one-stop event where farmers can access practical advice, discover available support, and make connections that will benefit their businesses and wellbeing.

Swaffham & District u3a

Nelson's Journey - Bringing Back Smiles

On October 1st we listened to a heart-felt presentation by someone who has experienced the healing space that Nelson's Journey gives to bereaved children.

Since 1997, Nelson's Journey has been supporting children and young people in Norfolk with their bereavement needs, helping them to understand and cope with their feelings. It is not only the death of a parent but any loved one, such as a grandparent or close friend that could mean a child needs support. The charity also supports professionals in the county who work with children, such as teachers and health workers, to help raise awareness of issues affecting bereaved children.

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at Waitrose?

On 5th November Lee Weller from Swaffham Waitrose will be talking to us about how they keep their show on the road, giving us an insight into the goings-on behind the shop front at Waitrose.

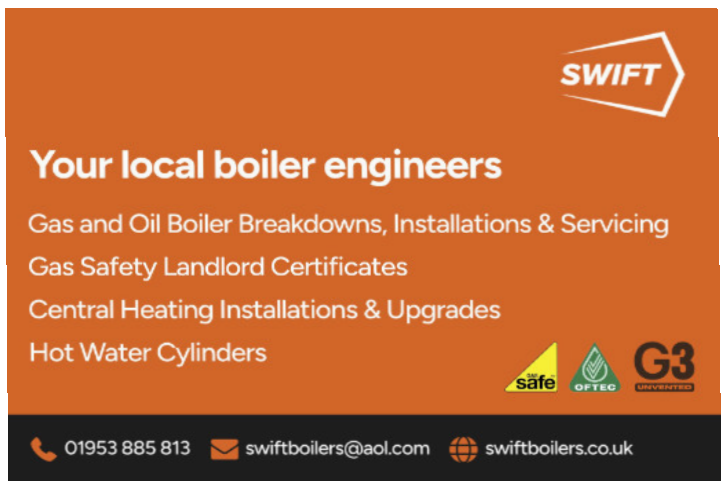
Ever wondered how they never seem to run out of essentials (like Almond Croissants for example!), anticipate BBQ weather, stock up for Christmas and keep their staff forever cheerful and helpful? As card carrying members, many of us would like to know how they manage the logistics as well as the front of house we see.

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.

Anyone is welcome to join the u3a. The only criterion to join is that you are no longer in full-time employment and have the time to take part in the activities on offer. We meet at Holme Hale Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Doors open at 9.45am for socialising and the meeting starts promptly at 10.30am finishing by 12 noon. Further details on all the activities covered by Swaffham & District u3a are available on our website: https://swaffham.u3asite.uk/







Last Month's Codeword Result

Last month's prize was a £25 voucher to spend with Greetings Watton where you can buy all sorts of card and balloons - hence the answer to the puzzle was:

YOU WONT FEEL DEFLATED THERE

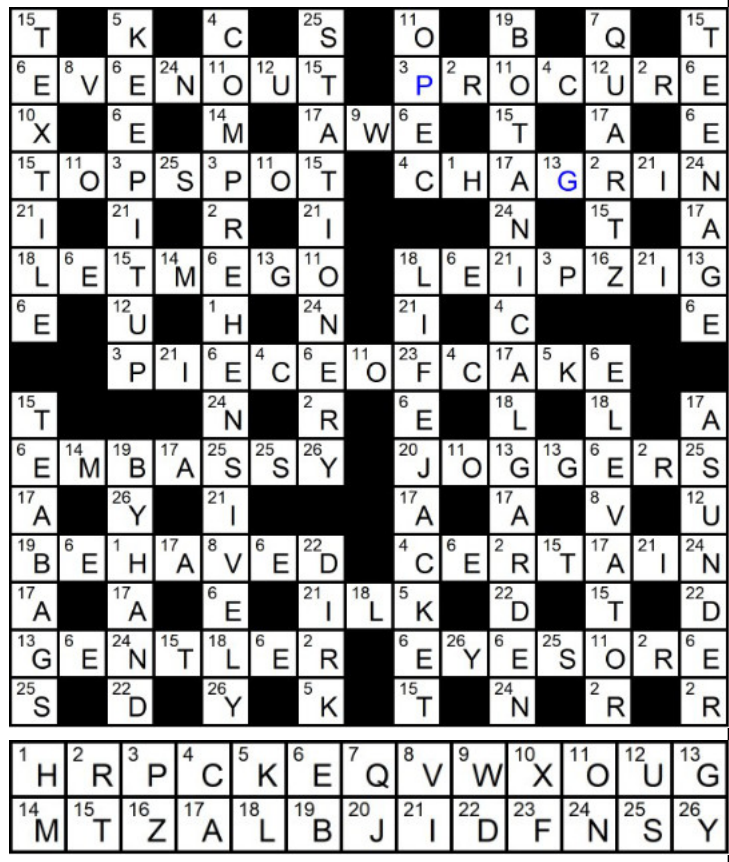
The winner this time was M Matthews and the runner up G Smith who as a previous winner of a Mug & Coaster asked for this one to be recycled back into the prize pool.

Yes, I did rather mess things up last month! I reused the previous months puzzle. But after an Editor's Inquiry, only 6 people noticed, so I decided that it didn't affect the validity or fairness of the game.

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, Dan from Greetings Watton 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 is 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.



Great Hockham Gardening Club

October and we are still saving grey water, but it's a losing battle. This, with the amount of rainwater we store, comes nowhere near achieving the soil moisture content that steady rain provides. We have rainwater storage of about 3000 litres. We think this is quite good, but during the summer it didn't last long. Then in September we had some rain, enough to refill the tanks and we thought we'll be OK until next year. Then the rain stopped and in no time at all our usage has reduced them to half full. And there is a hosepipe ban.

I have a little idea that might help. Where we are able to locate rainwater storage tanks does not necessarily coincide with the down-pipes from our largest roof areas. To divert water from the larger roofs I install those downpipe diverters, not next to a water butt, but high up near the gutter. I then run an ordinary hosepipe to a manifold near the water tank. OK, in a thunder storm the small pipe won't cope, but in normal rain they make a big difference. Where possible I interconnect the tanks via the same manifold. If a well-supplied tank gets full it doesn't go to waste, but self-levels to the other tanks: one full all full. Is all this the result of climate change, or a brief interlude before we get back to hearing the almost forgotten cry, 'Rain stopped play'? I see dry places where there used to be water year-round. We used to buy matching fog and spot lamps for our cars - when did I last see a proper fog? But some think climate change is a hoax. What are we to make of it?

Thomas Young (1773-1829) was the last man to know everything. Not a statement you come across every day; what sense does it make? But in the early nineteenth century, just after the Enlightenment, it was just feasible that the amount of 'information' that was then known might still be within the mental capacity of just one person. From about that time information on many subjects, entirely new subjects, was amassing at a faster and faster rate. It was becoming impossible for one person to know everything.

R. Buckminster Fuller (1895–1983) was an influential American architect, engineer, inventor and futurist, best known for creating the geodesic dome. In his 1981 book 'Critical Path', he suggested that the total sum of human knowledge has shifted from linear growth to a rapid, exponential acceleration, a concept that became known as the Buckminster Fuller's Knowledge Doubling Curve. Using this rule of thumb estimation, others have suggested that around the year 1750 knowledge was doubling every 250 years. At the time of Thomas Young, the doubling took 100 years; in 1945 – 25 years; 1982 - 13 months. Now with AI some suggest it will soon shorten to 12 hours. It's a lot for one man to remember.

A lot of new knowledge is discovered because someone happens to notice that something in nature seems at odds with common knowledge, not quite right, different to that which, up to that point, everybody took for granted. Charles Darwin (1809-1882) said that he made a habit of writing down at once any fact or thought that ran against his own conclusions, because he had found that such things slipped from memory far more easily than favourable ones. With that in mind the person might give it further thought and look for information that might clarify any contradiction. Others become interested and test the idea by experimentation and its ability to make predictions – and then test those predictions. "Measure what is measurable, and make measurable what is not so." Galileo Galilei (1564-1642). Under this scrutiny a lot of ideas go to the wall, but sometimes important discoveries are made, discoveries that may reveal other things that are not quite right and more is discovered about nature. "All observation must be for or against some view if it is to be of any service." Issac Newton (1643-1727).

To arrive at a reliable conclusion may require the gathering of much information by many people over a significant period of time. "If you don't measure, you don't know." Lord Kelvin (1824-1907). Now, with the severe consequences that climate change would inflict on us it has concentrated minds and a great deal of information has been gathered and analysed. So much so that the reality of climate change has become rationally unavoidable. Unless, that is, the conclusion doesn't suit someone's agenda.

A good way to pour scorn on an idea that you don't like is to say that, 'not all scientists agree'. This is quite reasonable as indeed some surveys suggest that the general public routinely estimates that the scientific consensus on climate change is around 65%. But surveys of climate scientists themselves suggest that between 97% and 99% of them agree that climate change is happening and is primarily caused by human activity, although conclusions may differ as to the rate it is happening. This significant majority tell us that the consequences of climate change are terrible. Perhaps all these experts from all over the world have got together and are intent on fooling us; wouldn't it be great if we could just ignore the experts and say all is well. There some fortunate souls are able to do this. They feel more comfortable holding views contrary to those supported by the mass of evidence. "The first principle is that you must not fool yourself, and you are the easiest person to fool." Richard Feynman (1918-1988).

Personally, I think that based on the evidence, I will be stuck carting grey water until I finally assume ambient temperature.

Lest we have an inundation of biblical proportions, our next two meetings will be inside Great Hockham Village Hall. The first on Wednesday 11 November, 14:00 – Julia Stafford-Allen, Country Organiser for the National Garden Scheme. Then on Saturday 28 November, 10:00 for a wreath making workshop. Wreaths – a long-standing tradition popularised by Johann Hinrich Wichern (1808–1881).





Salvias for the 21st Century Garden

Ashill, Holme Hale & District Garden Club

Our September meeting welcomed a new speaker to the garden club in Mark Mason from Sudbury. Mark gave a very entertaining, slide free, presentation of the value of salvias in our 21st century gardens. Mark has been involved in horticulture for many decades and his deep knowledge of salvias shone through to the packed audience.

Mark started his presentation discussing where salvias originated (many from Mexico and South America) and how they became a garden staple over the last 30 years. For a long time most people had thought that salvias were the rather gaudy, small, red plants commonly used in bedding schemes. However, a chance find in Mexico in the 1990's of the 'Hot-lips' variety of salvia, saw the birth and proliferation of modern salvia varieties that populate many of today's gardens. A gentleman called Robin Middleton was responsible for the popularity of the modern salvias seen in UK gardens of today and although now deceased his website can still be visited and is very informative on which species work well in UK gardens (http://www.robinssalvias.com/index.html).

Mark showed how to plant and care for salvias and how to propagate them to produce new plants for the following year. While not all salvia are hardy many are and will continue flowering well into autumn, giving months of colour and structure in your garden. Salvias have few pests and grow very well in pots and tubs. They tolerate most types of compost and can be kept in shape by a light trim in Autumn and more major cutting back in Spring, so you get flowers through summer and autumn. Mark talked about the many different varieties and their level of hardiness. After a lively Q&A there was a lot of interest in the plants Mark had brought for sale.

Upcoming Garden Club Events

Our October meeting (22nd) will be a presentation on 'Topiary-How to Grow and Care for' by Paul Everdeen, recent winner of the National Henchman UK award for best topiary garden. Out November meeting (26th) is on 'Joseph Banks, Kew & the Plant hunters' by Andrew Sankey.

All meetings are held at Holme Hale Pavilion and start at 2.30pm. New members from anywhere in the district are always welcome, so come along and improve your gardening knowledge, while enjoying a welcoming environment with like minded colleagues.

Website: ashillgardeningclub.wordpress.com

Email:ashillholmehalegardenclub@gmail.com





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

Regular Events

Bingo every Monday, doors open at 19.00, eyes down at 20.00
CLM Fitness Dance Class Tuesdays 3rd, 10th & 17th. 18.45 -19.45
Carpet Bowls every Wednesday. 13.30-16.00
Line Dancing every Wednesday. 18.00-21.00
Pilates every Thursday, 18:15 - 19:30

Other events
Car Boot Sale Sunday 1st. 10am to 2pm
Ballroom Dancing Saturday 7th November, 7.30pm to 10.30pm
Ju Jitsu Friday 6th and 27th, 6pm - 8pm
Diabetes Cafe Friday13th, 9/30am - 12.30
Irish Country Music Fri.13th, 7.30pm - late
Medium Friday 20th 7pm
Christmas Fayre Saturday 21st 9am - 3pm
Blood Donors Tuesday 24th
Trading Card Show Saturday 28th, 9am - 5pm

For further information check out the Queens Hall website at queenshall-watton.co.uk

Dance Away Queens Hall, Watton IP25 6DA

Ballroom, Latin & Sequence.
Bar & Raffle
November 7th, December 5th

What's On!

At St Mary's Church, Watton. Church Road, Watton, IP25 6DQ www.stmaryswatton.org wattonchurch@gmail.com 01953 881252

Tuesday 3rd 5pm – 6pm Prayer & Praise: Sing your favourite worship songs & pray with & for the community.1st Tuesday of month.

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

Friday 6th 2pm – 4pm Craft Group: Enjoy refreshments & company whilst crafting. £1 donation. In the church rooms.

Saturday 3rd 10am – 12noon Saturday Chat: Join us on the 1st Saturday of month for our coffee morning. Come with friends or alone and make new ones!

Tuesday 10th & 24th 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.

Thursday 12th 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 13th 2pm – 4pm Community Cinema: Showing 'The Tuner'. Doors open at 1:15pm for 2pm start. £5 ticket on the door inc. hot drink & cake

Saturday 14th 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!

Tuesday 17th 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 26th 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.

Saturday 28th 10am – 1pm Christmas Craft Fayre: Come and start your Christmas shopping here at the Church. Lots of lovely, homemade wares to gift to your friends and family this festive season. PLUS treat yourself to a cake and hot drink whilst you take a pitstop!

4pm Music, Medicine and Ministry – an illustrated talk by Christina Mason: Come and be enthralled by the life of our very own Rev Christina Mason. Free to attend but donations very welcome. Refreshments available.

October's Winners of the 200 Club!
1st prize £50: Sybil Grant (for Kevin), No. 135
2nd prizes £25 each: Mervyn Wilcox (for Tilly), No. 112, Rosemary Millard, No. 20

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- Ingrown Toe Nails
- Fungal Nail Treatment
- Corns & Callus Removal
- Athlete's Foot treatment
- Verruca Treatment
- Advise on The Diabetic Foot

Foot massage given at the end of all treatments

ANDREW GREENLAND (MCFHP, MAFHP)
Qualified Foot Health Professional
Tel: (01953) 884386
Mob: 07743 116447
Registered member of the British Association of Foot Health Professionals

MORE FLORA AND MORE!!

Blast me Bor! Just in time for Christmas ~ the prize is £35 to spend at

Flora and More

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):

22, 15, 26, 5, 4, 6, 16, 12, 6, 14, 14, 9, 4
3, 7, 9, 14, 14, 6, 11

Send the Codeword you think is the answer, along with your name and contact details in an email to me at 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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6	16	13	9	16	20	6	4	7	19	■	4	24	4	7
■	■	10	■	■	■	■	22	■	■	■	■	4	■	■
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St Mary's Church, Watton

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

Sun 1st	10am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	All Souls Service
Sat 7th	**12 Noon**	**Commemoration of Commonwealth War Graves**
Sun 8th	**10am**	**Remembrance Sunday Service**
	2.30pm	**Parade at Memorial Car Park up to St Mary's Church for..**
	3.00pm	**Town Remembrance Service. (time approx.)**
Wed 11th	**10.45am**	**Armistice Day Service at Chaston Place, High St.**
Sun 15th	10am	Holy Communion
Sun 22nd	8am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am	4th Sunday
Sun 29th	10am	Café Church

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 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 8th	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday Service (HC)
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Darkness to Light

Advent Service (inc. mulled wine & mince pies)

The Wayland Group of Parishes

Worship in November

Sunday 1st November
St Margaret's, Breckles
10.30am All Souls Day & Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November
Holy Cross, Caston
10.45am United Service of Remembrance starting at the War Memorial

Sunday 8th November
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham
10.45am Service of Remembrance with the Bishop's Chaplin

Wednesday 11th November
10.45am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial Caston Green
10.45am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

Sunday 15th November
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham
10.30am United Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd November
St Peter & St Paul, Griston
10.30am United Holy Communion

Sunday 29th November
St Botolph's, Stow Bedon
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

All Saints Church, Threxton

Service of Remembrance

Sunday 8th November. 10.30a.m.
Everyone Welcome

The Ashill Group

The Churches and Parishes of Ashill, Merton, Ovington, and Saham Toney, in the Diocese of Norwich, Church of England.

Services in November

Sunday 1, All Saints,
9.30 am, St Nicholas' Ashill, Lay-led service
10.30 am, St George's Saham Toney, Lay-led service
10.30 am, St John the Evangelist's, Ovington, Holy Communion
(All with a chance to remember deceased loved ones, as All Souls.)

Sunday 8, Remembrance Sunday,
9.30 am, St Nicholas' Ashill, Remembrance Service
10.30 am, St George's Saham Toney, Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance
10.30 am, St John the Evangelist's, Ovington, Remembrance Service

Sunday 15, 2nd Sunday before Advent.
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 22, Festival of Christ the King,
9.30 am, St Nicholas' Ashill, Holy Communion
10.30 am, St George's Saham Toney, Lay-led service
10.30 am, St John the Evangelist's, Ovington, Book of Common Prayer: Morning Prayer

Sunday 29 November, Advent Sunday (Year of Mark begins),
9.30 St Nicholas' Ashill, Lay-led Service
10.30 am, St George's Saham Toney, Lay-led service
10.30 am, St John the Evangelist's, Ovington, Holy Communion

Advance Notice:
Sunday 6 December, The Feast of St Nicholas (Patronal Festival),
9.30 am, St Nicholas' Ashill. President and Preacher: the Bishop of Lynn.
(This is a Group Service: there is no other service in the parishes on this day.)

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

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
Coffee morning every Thursday 10.00am
More information contact Nick 07940049933 or nicknundy@gmail.com
Filipino Christian meeting in a Watton home every Friday 7pm. Contact Denver for more details 07587092950: ver2usmagnvs@gmail.com

The Methodist Thought . . .

I have a friend who says he'd rather be in a boat fishing and thinking about God than sitting in church thinking about going fishing!
I think he has a point.
All of us need to find a space that is sacred. For some of us that may be outdoors fishing, surrounded by nature and space to be quiet; for others it may be deeply engrossed in a physical or mental activity such as running or studying; for others still it may be some form of organised religion, be it Christianity or otherwise.
Some of us may feel we do not have sacred space: the realities of life, work, children, health concerns and fears consume every waking moment, until we collapse, exhausted in bed.
Life is tough and there seem to be many more pressing concerns than making time for ourselves, time for silence, time for God.
Christian author Morton Kelsey suggests that if we don't deal with the spiritual, the spiritual will deal with us, and we see it in high rates of depression, anger, and unhealthy coping mechanisms.
At its best organised religion provides a space to be quiet. From the bold assertion that there is to be a day of rest each week (almost unbelievable in a world which is switched on 24/7) to the invitation to attend formalised services which should, in themselves, be places of quiet, sacred connection, to the invitation to be still and know God even in the most demanding moments.
Many people may not experience religion as a sacred, or even safe space, and there are many alternatives.
As suggested above, time spent in nature, reading a book that feeds the soul, listening to - or playing - music. Anything that connects us to that which is larger than ourselves.
Soon we will start thinking about Christmas - the stores are already decorated and as soon as Halloween is past the Christmas advertising will start in earnest.
If we can resist the notion that our unhappiness will be resolved with more material things we will discover another sacred space, an opportunity to connect with the presence of God who is born in a stable, who, the story teaches us, is present in the messiness of our lives.
This is the gift of the sacred space. Knowing that regardless of who, where, or what we are, there is a place of connection. I encourage you to find it.
Rev Neil Vels, Watton Methodist Church
neil.vels@methodist.org.uk

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
2nd, 4th & 5th 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 10th November at 2pm
Re-use & recycle Christmas Cards - 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**

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

Shorter Days and Warmer Welcomes

Have you noticed how quickly the blankets and hot water bottles have made a comeback? As the last stubborn leaves drop, winter is knocking on the door. I must confess, I have a newfound appreciation for the humble hot water bottle. Until last week, the rectory boiler had been broken for three months! Clutching a hot water bottle became my daily survival strategy, so I'm exceptionally grateful for central heating!
While afternoons seem shorter, this transitional month gives us a wonderful excuse to slow down, put the kettle on, and look out for one another.
We cross the threshold into November by grounding ourselves in a dedicated season of remembrance. We begin by marking All Saints' Day, celebrating the heroes of our faith, quickly followed by the quiet comfort of All Souls' Day. This is a tender time where we light candles and hold the memories of our own missed loved ones close. For Christians, this season reflects our core belief that love is stronger than death, and that those we love are safely held in God's eternal care. It offers us the comforting hope that darkness never has the final word.
With those memories tucked away, many people kick off the first week with the spectacular colour for Bonfire Night. Gathering together on a crisp evening wrapped in oversized scarves, watching fireworks light up the Norfolk sky with a mug of hot cocoa, reminds us of the joy of community against the autumn chill.
That thread of community carries us directly into our national acts of commemoration for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Our villages will come together at our local memorials and inside our historic churches to stand side-by-side in quiet reflection. Wearing our poppies is a powerful way to say "thank you" to the generations who sacrificed so much for our peace. This reflects the heart of the Christian faith, which calls us to be peacemakers.
As we tuck our gardens up for bed, the natural world reminds us that winter isn't dead time—it's resting time. It is the perfect season for community. Whether it's sharing a laugh at a village coffee morning, swapping soup recipes, or checking in on a neighbour to make sure their heating is coping (boiler dramas permitting!), we have a unique way of keeping each other warm in our villages.
So, whether you are bracing the chill, catching up with friends, or enjoying the peace, I hope this month brings you warmth and comfort.
Warmest blessings, Vanessa
Reverend Vanessa Layfield is the rector for the Wayland parishes of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon. You can contact her on 07984 318885 or by email at vanessadlayfield@gmail.com

Wayland Men's Shed

We held our 10-year anniversary in the main sports hall at the sports centre on Saturday 3rd October. The event was attended by 149 people including the Mayor, councillor Sarah Humphries (pictured right) plus others from Watton Town Council including Sue Dent and Lorren Woodgett (pictured with the Mayor) . From Breckland, Keith Gilbert. David Dent from the chamber of commerce and the Wayland Partnership. David Cossey, the vicar of St. Mary's and his family, Amanda Copson, who has been running meditation sessions for us, Jonny Wood, the co-ordinator for Men's Shed Norfolk. Jean Williams and Suzanne Rhind from the Happy Project, who were instrumental in getting funds back in 2016 to get things started. We were also pleased to welcome 5 widows of members who have sadly passed away. After a welcome speech from the chairman and the treasurer there were displays from all of the sub-groups that have formed in addition to the regular social sessions on Monday and Wednesday mornings. There was a rolling PowerPoint presentation showing pictures and facts of many activities, outings and events that have taken place since 2016. A list of these was also displayed showing all 250 since 2016.

The Wood working team put on a good show of the work they do with pictures and some projects. A hedgehog box and an Owl box being the stand-out exhibits. The Shutterists group laid on a splendid display of the photographs taken during outings. The chuffers model railway group displayed a small example of their work and their passion for this recently formed sub-group. The shanty group not only had a display of pictures from their formation to date with performances at various venues and locations. They also gave us a live performance of three of their shanties from their large repertoire of sea shanties. The music appreciation group also was represented with a display of pictures and list of music played at sessions.

The members had secretly clubbed together and presented the chairman and treasurer with an engraved cut glass tumbler and their wives with a special tin of biscuits. A big thank you must go to all those involved in the organisation and running of the 10-year Anniversary event.

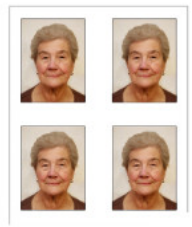
That is all for this edition but I hope to report further in the next one.

If you want any further information on Wayland Men's Shed please visit our Website www.waylandmensshed.co.uk or contact :

Malcolm Trayhorn, Trustee, Chairman & Social Secretary Tel: 07729993163



Bunnings of Watton
Framing and Photo Printing



Passport / ID photos
(wheel chair access no problem, no booth)
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or I retake them for free



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* Batteries
* Albums



1 Dereham Road 01953 881105
mark@markbunningphotography.co.uk

A HOWLING GOOD HALLOWEEN

By Miss Mardle

We're at it again, me mongrel and me,
about to go trick or treat.
As I go outside as Frankensteins's bride
I see witches up and down the street.

We like dressing up, me mongrel and me,
he's a werewolf, looks a bit like a racoon.
I dyed his fur black, brushed it all back
tied a balloon to his tail for the moon.

We've joined the throng, me mongrel and me,
pumpkin buckets full to the top
I've got chocolate and sweets
mongrel's got treats
and a big bag of Winalot.

We've had enough of Halloween, me mongrel and me,
we're both feeling a tad sick,
our feet are sore from going door to door
- empty that pumpkin bucket quick!



1st Saham Toney Brownies

In Girlguiding programme, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers work towards 6 Themes by completing Unit Meeting Activities, Skills Builders and Interest Badges. After completing two Themes they are awarded a Bronze award and with four themes they get their Silver Award. If they complete all six themes and then do a bit extra they can complete their Gold award! This requires quite a lot of dedication with a good attendance of meetings. It can take two to three years to get the Gold Award!

This term 1st Saham Brownies are working towards their 'Know Myself' Skills Builder. The Skills Builder is made up of two sections. This theme is the last one that two of the Brownies need to complete before they start on their Gold Award. These two Brownies chose to do Network stage 3 which is all about team building, learning about themselves and others, what skills they have and how to develop their skills.

Some of the things they have done is describing a picture from a book to the other person who had to draw the picture being described, then comparing it to the original. They have learnt what bullying is and how they might help someone who is being bullied. In the latest activity they had challenges to complete to gain tokens to become the winning team.

Our other group of Brownies have been working on Reflect Stage 2. They have been Thinking about their local community, what places there are and then going on a bus journey (without actually going on a bus!) to visit the places. They have also been exploring feeling and emotions. At our latest meeting they have been planning a celebration of a tradition or event.

Both groups have two more activities to do before they will hopefully receive their Skills Builder Badge for this Theme.

We are looking forward to a cinema trip, bonfire night with jacket potatoes, hotdogs and sparklers. Making Christmas crafts, doing a Christmas good turn and more Unit Meeting Activities as well as taking part in the Remembrance Service.











The Breckland Birder

A summary of migrant birds seen in September 2026

September is a pivotal month for bird migration, this is the month when the majority of our summer visitors depart, it is also the month when we see our first autumn arrivals along with evidence of vismig (Visible Migration), and it when we see the first arrivals and passage of winter Thrushes, the numbers of which come October is nothing short of spectacular, and these movements can be witnessed right here over Watton and our Breckland area in general.

September sees me being aware of what is flying overhead, either local movements, or evidence of migration with departing summer visitors, also, with our hedgerows now bearing fruit, watching for evidence of resting and feeding migrants is always exciting. On the 1st of September the presence of a male Blackcap in the garden was a sure sign that bird passage is underway. On the 6th September my wife Pam and myself visited Hever Castle in Kent, the childhood home of Ann Boleyn. I must admit to having learnt a lot from Pam as she is a passionate lover of history. This was an interesting visit from a birding perspective with the first bird both seen and heard being a juvenile Tawny Owl in the car park area. Later, within the castle grounds, the most abundant species was Coot which was seen on most bodies of water including the castle moat. On the large lake at Hever four Great Crested Grebes (including a pair with a single juvenile) were seen and in the beautiful mature woodland at least two Chiffchaffs were heard.



The Coot

On the 9th September and back on home territory, I visited Houghton-on-the-Hill, one of me favourite sites to visit in autumn as many migrants use the area for resting and feeding on their passage. This was a good visit with 10+ Blackcaps, 10+ Chiffchaffs, one Lesser Whitethroat, and Whitethroats, in hedgerows and stand alone Hawthorns and Elder, all four of these species were seen eating elderberries, one of the soft fruits consumed by Warblers in order to build energy for their long passage south.



A female Blackcap

On the morning of 10 September I visited the sewage treatment works at Bodney Camp. The combination of rough grassland where you can expect to find invertebrates, and the wealth of Elder, lends itself as an invite to passage Warblers. On this visit I found at least 3 Blackcaps and 3 Chiffchaffs within Elder where berries were being consumed. Resident species on this visit included 3 Stonechats and a Grey Wagtail. Later in the morning from m garden in Watton I checked the sky for migrants and saw what appeared to be two tiny specks, checking through binoculars these were Cormorants and given their great height I suspect they were heading for The Wash.

Early morning on the 11 September I visited private land immediately west of Watton, a site which has a very long hedgerow bursting with various fruits at this time of year, a great location for finding migrant Warbler. Walking the full length of east facing side of the hedgerow I located at least two Blackcaps (one in Buckthorn), Chiffchaff, and Whitethroats, one of which was a juvenile bird. All three of these species will use the hedgerow for safety and good feeding.

On 14 September I returned to the sewage treatment works at Bodney where I located at least 3 Chiffchaffs in Elder, also present to add colour was two Grey Wagtails, 3 Stonechats, 15+ Swallows, and two Ravens flying north.

The morning of 20 September was a special morning for me because I witnessed vismig (Visible Migration) locally at Little Cressingham. I have been passionate about birds since the mid 1960's and I never tire of the miracle of bird migration. Anyway, on this visit to the Watton Brook valley on the Great Cressingham Road at Little Cressingham, I began my walk alongside Watton Brook when I saw a single Hobby directly overhead, these incredible Falcons are amazing birds to watch, especially when hunting, as they are incredibly fast and can turn at breathtaking speed and accuracy, it was at this same time I was aware of many Swallows passing by. Three Mistle Thrushes were seen on open grassland and at least 5 Stonechats were seen on fencing alongside the brook. A small patch of grassland had been disturbed by trampling cattle, this had attracted a Grey Wagtail to feed. My final part of this visit was given over to a static watch of the Watton Brook Valley where Swallows were on the move (Visible Migration). For 20 minutes or so I watched a steady and constant westerly passage of Swallows and a few House Martins along the valley, I also checked the distant east through binoculars and I could see further Swallows approaching and eventually passing by heading west, these birds would have continued west following different river courses to The Wash, they would then follow the course of other rivers heading south before leaving Britain for Africa. A magical behaviour to witness.

Late morning on 27 September I had an hour long visit to Thompson Water where at least 150 Mallard were seen along with 5 Shoveler, Gadwall, and a single Pintail. A single Chiffchaff was present, also, two Hobbies (one juvenile) were hunting insects, again, this Falcon demonstrated incredible turn of speed and agility as they chased and caught insects which were then eaten on the wing.

I returned to Thompson Water on the morning of 28 September where at least 6 Chiffchaffs were moving through treetops in search for food. Also seen was a single Hobby and 3 Grey Herons. The reedbed held a squealing Water Rail and a single Little Grebe was on the water.

Wayland Shantymen at the Queens Hall

Following a very successful event last year, the Wayland ShantyMen arrived once again at the Queens Hall, Watton for a very entertaining concert on Wednesday 19th August.

Encouraged by the Shantymen, close to 100 people joined in with well-known choruses to sea shanties, and boating related popular songs. With some new shanties and may old favourites including a rousing rendition of 'What shall we do with a Drunken Sailor' filling the hall with music and laughter. At the end the trustees and our band of helpers served a light lunch of sandwiches, with tea and coffee, and cakes to finish, and let the concert-goers make the rest of the event a social catch-up with friends old and new.



I would like to thank the trustees and friends for the many items donated, both for the food and raffle, I'm particularly thinking of the delicious cakes, very moorish! Other donations formed a really good raffle table.

The trustees would like to thanks Adcocks, Watton for their invaluable help as our box-office, and Tesco Stores for their donation to the catering, much appreciated.

The event raised funds for the maintenance of the Queens Hall, and the Wayland Shanty Men a donation to their favoured charity. A very enjoyable and successful event.

Graham Vellam, Vice-Chairman, Queens Hall Trustees

Museum 4 Watton

Wednesday-Saturday 10am-4pm 01953 797060

Here at Museum4Watton we have a small library of rare and unique books and documents with a Wayland/Watton connection spanning over 350 years of local history. The literature covers various themes from RAF Watton and Radar Station to church tomes and books on the natural world along with the Court Baron Roll books.

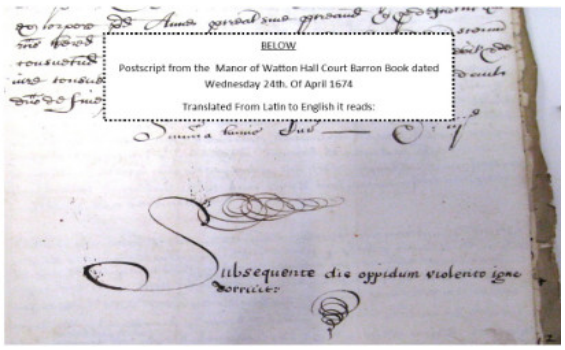
The Court Baron Record Books 1670-1924

The museum is fortunate in having, on long term loan the court baron records pertaining to Watton Hall. These handwritten records cover information on tenancy arrangements and local events from 1670-1924. Of particular interest are references to Watton's historic clock and its builder, Christopher Hey, and a record of the "Great Watton" inferno of 1674 that destroyed much of Watton's high street. For such a devastating event the Great Fire of Watton surprisingly merited little mention in the Court record books.

The first book is written in Latin but the others are in English. The books have been transcribed making it easier for people to read. At the opening of court proceedings the names of tenants are listed. Many of the surnames listed in the book are still names of families found in Watton and the wider Wayland community today, maybe one of your ancestors is mentioned, you are very welcome to take a look.

Watton St Mary's Church Bible 1854

The bible is dated 1854 and is a large, heavy-duty bible designed to rest on a church lectern. Built oversized, the bible's large bold print made it easier for the clergy and lay readers to read scripture aloud to their congregation. It's bound in heavy duty leather to help it withstand daily use. In 1871 a complaint from the then vicar, reads "This bible is very inaccurately printed"!



The Book of Common Prayer

In 1662 on the restoration of the monarchy under Charles II an Act of Uniformity was passed which mandated the exclusive use of the revised Book of Common Prayer for all public prayers, sacraments, and religious services in the Church of England. Our edition of the Book of Common Prayer, which has kindly been loaned to us from the estate of Keith and Bridget Carter, was printed by Thomas Hodgkin in 1706. and includes the Daily Offices, liturgies for Holy Communion and the Sacraments, the Psalms of David and the table of Kindred and Affinity, (who you can and cannot marry). Several people have inscribed their name in the book including Rev. William Wilkinson, Job Routen and in 1744 Rev. John Si(y)mons. Someone has also included the members of the then Prince of Wales family. Unfortunately Frederick, Prince of Wales was to die before assenting to the throne, his son however did, becoming George lll.

We would like to thank the family of the late Keith and Bridget Carter for the loan of this precious family heirloom.

RAF Watton and the Radar Station.

The establishment of RAF Watton in 1937 helped to transform Watton from a small rural market town and was to fundamentally shape the town's infrastructure and modern layout. After the war a Radar station was established in the town, which created jobs, driving the local economy. To reflect this we have a number of resources documenting the RAF stations development over the years until its closure in 1992. These include:

Peter Long's, In Support of so Many. A Story of a Peacetime RAF Station RAF Watton 1945-1992 documents the history of the base after the war and the arrival of the radar. Some of the people interviewed by Mr Long are still with us today, including a long standing volunteer of the museum who thoroughly recommends this comprehensive history of RAF Watton and its Radar station after hostilities ended in 1945.

For the more technically minded we have "F.G.R.I 2A SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS DISPLAY"

Fixed Ground Radar Installation 5957A

These training manuals consist of highly technical drawings and are master copies for the installation of the radar station. They explain the system's operational flow, connections, and system behaviour. The training manuals are metal clad for protection.

The Land of the Babes in The Wood.

The Land of the Babes in the Wood by Rev C Kent, M.A was published in 1910 by Jarrolds of Norwich and contains interesting facts on Breckland. Charles Kent was an Anglican clergyman who served as the Rector of Merton, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He had a great love for Breckland in particular the villages of Merton and Thompson but also the wider Wayland community and was fondly remembered by those who knew him long after his death. The Rev Kent was influenced by his mid 19th century predecessor the Rev George Crabbe, himself an active local historian and archivist. The book explores the natural history, social and cultural history and folklore of Breckland and includes photographs.

We also have Bob Nunn's histories of Loch Neaton and Queen's Hall.

These are but a few of the many books and legal documents we have available for people to study at the museum. Unfortunately we are unable to loan any of our books out. This may be because some are on loan to us and remain the property of their owners or are just too unique or rare to allow unfettered public access. We are happy for you to study them at the museum and are currently working to digitise a lot of our books so they are more easily accessible to the public. Should you wish to view any please ring or call in at the museum, contact details above. We will be happy to accommodate you as best we can.

Upcoming Events

Museum4Watton will be open for the Watton High Street Witches Trail from 10am-1pm Saturday 31st October. There will be treats available for children brave enough to enter...and the adults too!

Festive Market Sunday 29th November

We will have free festive home-made refreshments and hot drinks on offer that day. The museum will be open for you to look around as well.



Festive Magic Comes to Saham Toney!

Christmas cheer is coming to Saham Toney as Wells Cole Community Centre prepares to host its Winter Wonderland & Christmas Market on Saturday 21st November, from 11am to 6pm.

Visitors can enjoy a wonderful selection of festive craft stalls, delicious food, seasonal drinks and plenty of Christmas atmosphere.

This year brings some exciting additions, including live music, a choir and a live auction at 6pm, with all money raised from the auction going directly to our local First Responders, helping towards the purchase of much-needed lifesaving equipment.

Organised by the dedicated Wells Cole events team, the day promises to bring together families, friends and visitors from across the Wayland area for a celebration of festive fun and community spirit.

Come along, shop local, enjoy the festivities and help support a cause that could one day save a life!

Wells Cole Community Centre, Saham Toney, IP25 7HD.





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**

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.

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Wednesday Night Delight!



How do you spend your Wednesday evenings? Watching the same old thing on the telly? Well how about spending one Wednesday evening a month with the Watton Society?

The Wat Soc meets on the third Wednesday of each month - except August - at the Methodist Centre in Watton High Street, starting at 7:45 pm. We make our programme as varied as possible and also try to have a couple of outings during the summer months. Cost is just £3 for Members but everyone is welcome, non-members paying just £4.

For our November meeting on 18th Mr Colin Benton will be coming to tell us about his 'Life in Uniform'. Previously in the Fleet Air Arm, Colin joined the Metropolitan Police, first as a duty foot officer, then in the Mounted Branch and finally involved in Royal Protection. Are there some interesting secrets to be revealed regarding our Royal Family or are his lips permanently sealed?

Why not ditch the telly for the evening and join us at the Methodist Centre to find out!





Richmond Park Golf Club Ladies Section

Having had the odd shower recently instead of the drought conditions we have endured this season the rough has been growing nicely to receive our wayward golf balls. The following ladies however managed to keep to the fairway when playing these competitions. The Curtis Cup was won by Anne Bell (above left), a more social Hidden Holes competition by Hilda Whitmarsh and the Secretary's Salver by Julie Ellis (above right).

World Class Hockey Success for Watton Duo





Watton residents and Dereham Hockey Club members return victorious from the Hockey Masters World Cup in Belgium.

Tammy and Simon Dye returned from the largest Hockey tournament in the world with 129 teams competing in different age categories from across the Globe, at Braachaat near to Antwerp.

Tammy (pictured above left) was playing in her second World Cup for England Over 55s, coming back with a Bronze medal with a 4-2 win against the Netherlands in the bronze medal match. They only lost one game in the whole tournament and that was against Australia who went on to win the Gold Medal.

Simon was also involved as an Umpire Official, having already umpired at the European Masters tournament in Nottingham in 2025.

The Masters World Cup provided another opportunity to reconnect with Officiating colleagues from around the world, while also meeting many new faces within the global Hockey Community.

(Picture above right L to R: Simon(Eng) Rob(Aus) Gertjan (Neth) and Paddy (New Zealand)

Simon was proud to represent the Town of Watton and Dereham HC Internationally, and is grateful for the opportunities that Hockey continues to provide.

Closing ceremony (Hollywood style) on YouTube at: https://short.do/1DuJ_5

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Web: www.norfolkstonemasons.co.uk
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