

Watlington Gossip

Issue No.83 Autumn 2019
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Otherwise 50p



From Summertime to Autumn

With summer gone and autumn near
The harvest safely gathered in
Now nature has a treat in store
She briefly sets us in a spin.

The leaves are falling now
Silver, gold and brown.
Silent like butterfly wings
That flutter, not a sound.

They rest like carpet
Across the forest floor
Beneath the oaks and acorns
Amongst the toadstool spore.

So startling a feast of colour
To catch the untrained eye
Red, orange, what a sight!
Against a dappled sky.

John Reynolds



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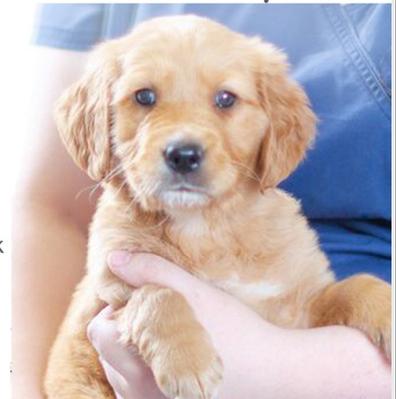


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Welcome to the Autumn 2019 edition of the Gossip

As it's a blazingly hot day as I write this, it's a good job that there isn't much space to fill! As well as our usual features, in this issue quite a few local organisations have asked us to include information on the services they offer and as often the case these days asking for volunteer helpers to come forward. As you can see below we also are looking for help!

Our theme for this issue is From Summer into Autumn.

Watlington Gossip

Additional Deputy Editor Wanted

Would you like to join our friendly Gossip Production Team? We are looking for someone interested in helping us produce the magazine, particularly to support the editing and inserting of adverts and articles.

The Gossip is produced 4 times a year, the team meeting twice for each issue. The magazine is put together collaboratively using the Dropbox File Management System.

You will need to have a PC capable of running Microsoft Publisher. We can supply the software if required and train you if needed.

Alas, the pay has not increased, still being £0! If you are interested why not contact Brenda (Contact details opposite)

The **Watlington Community Magazine** is compiled by volunteers from the village and relies upon advertisers for its continued funding. The committee does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise of any article or advertisement appearing in the pages of the Gossip, nor does it necessarily agree with any of the viewpoints expressed by our contributors in articles or other items published in these pages.

Guidance Notes for Contributors

Please keep your articles to around 500 words (1/2 page) or 1000 words (full page). This will be reduced by about 125 words if a photograph or drawing is to be included. Please send photographs and advertisements in *jpg* format. Sorry, we do not accept 'advertising features' or insert adverts.

Front Cover

The Gossip Team

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Deadline for the Next Issue

The deadline for **Issue 84** of the Gossip is

1st November for publication by 1st December 2019

All Change

Wimbledon is over, the strawberries are gone

A little freshening breeze cools down the golden sun

The shops are full of uniforms, blue and red and grey

Pencil cases, shiny shoes, a new term on the way.

Happy days out on the beach, chips, tea and ice creams

Warm and snug in bed at night, dreaming happy dreams

Walks out in the country, beneath the trees so green

Suddenly-a flash of red amongst the leaves is seen.

Holidays are over, now just memories

Of happy days and freedom, doing as you please

Sitting in the garden, in the evening air

Warmed by lamps and firepits- no cold need we fear.

The crops have yielded harvest for all of us to eat

Another season passing, another summer sweet.

The gilded days of summer pass into autumn haze

Russet, gold and woodsmoke permeate the days.

And glorious fickle autumn now holds sway

Wintry sometimes, then so hot, changing day by day.

Elaine Carpenter

Watlington Gossip

**Published by The Volunteer Committee of
Watlington Community Magazine**

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1/16th page £35; 1/8th page £55; 1/4 page £75

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Report on the Open Meeting to Discuss Antisocial Activity in the Village

There has been much concern about antisocial activity in Watlington in recent months. In response the Police called a meeting of the WATLINGTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM, held on Thursday, 13th June 2019

The officers hosting the meeting were PC Lee Anderton, Community Engagement Officer, Insp Mark Askham, Head of Neighbourhood Policing, Sgt Tom Metcalfe, Policing Operations and PC Ryan Williams, Beat Manager. The summary issues are set out in this report, compiled by the Parish Clerk and approved by the Police Team.

The Purpose of the Meeting

An open forum for residents to address their concerns regarding action being taken by Norfolk Constabulary's Watlington Safer Neighbourhood Team regarding antisocial behaviour, violence and other associated crimes taking place in Watlington and Downham Market over the past few months involving youths.

Overview

Insp Askham advised that reports of antisocial behaviour had escalated in recent weeks in Watlington and the surrounding parishes and the purpose of this meeting was to update residents on the general history of the crimes, current measures being addressed and future plans. Sgt Metcalfe reported that antisocial behaviour had been ongoing for 9 months by groups of teenagers who lived in Watlington and some that travelled from further afield. The groups tended to be small but had been known to be as big as 40 on some occasions. The antisocial behaviour included taking over public spaces and intimidating people, cycling on highways causing a danger to motorists, name calling and threats of violence, egg throwing at cars and vans, vandalism and some actual violence.

Main Questions Raised at the Meeting

What is classed as antisocial behaviour? Groups of youths hanging around together minding their own business does not constitute antisocial behaviour. However, groups of youths, no matter how many there are, who are being loud and intimidating could be classed as such. People need to be mindful that not all groups of youths are causing trouble.

Why is Watlington and Downham Market being targeted with large unwanted groups of youths? Most of the current offenders live in Watlington and attend school in Downham Market. The railway station attracts those living outside the parish; the British Transport Police is dealing with these issues in partnership with Norfolk Constabulary.

If a motorist hits a youth who is riding precariously on the highways, who is to blame? Each case would be dealt with on its own merits and people with dash cams should provide any footage to the police. PC Williams is interacting with current offenders to stop them causing a danger to motorists and themselves.

Huge groups of older youths (100-200 people aging from 20-30 years old) gather by the river when the weather is good, jump off the bridge and swim in the river, play loud music and generally cause a great deal of stress to the nearby residents. What action is being taken?

A recent meeting attended by the police, Parish Council, County Council and residents was held on site to assess the issues and establish possible solutions. PC Williams recently met with a representative from the Environment Agency who confirmed that Byelaws are in place and that the area will be continually monitored, particularly during hot spells of weather. The police will also attend and monitor the area, subject to units being available.

Is it a criminal offense to film people who are breaking the law? Providing they are in a public space it is not against the law to film them. However, people should be very mindful and not put themselves at risk by doing so.

Should people approach the youths when they are acting badly? People must not police their own community and should not get into battle with any wrongdoers. The police must be contacted to deal with any issues.

Antisocial behaviour gets worse during school holidays. Will there be an increased police presence during the summer holidays? PC Williams works 'on the ground' as a Beat Officer and will continue to ensure his visibility is shown in the village, particularly during school breaks.

Action Going forward

Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activities or intimidating behaviour by calling **101** or emailing **SNWatlinton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk**. If crimes or intimidation being carried out are felt to be severe, 999 should be dialled; the call handler will then determine how serious the acts are and divert the case(s) to the relevant officers accordingly.

Village News and Views

Path to Magdalen

The footpath (or trod) between Watlington and Magdalen has finally been finished after a long delays caused by waiting for Network Rail to give permission to allow the necessary work near the rail station. The route gives a safe way to have a walk down to the river and relief channel and for folk in Magdalen to access the station on foot. The footpath was funded by a collaborative effort between Watlington and Magdalen Parish Councils and Norfolk County Council under the Parish Partnership Scheme.



Anglian in Hot Water

Watlington in recent years has suffered from a high number of water outages, which Anglian Water seem to have been unable to address.

Following a well supported campaign on Facebook, the water company has confirmed that repeated failures of the village supply are not caused by a faulty pump, but by the power supply to the pump.

The company are now working to improve the power supply, as well as commissioning a new valve at Wormegay which will divert water to the village if the pump fails. For updates follow village Facebook Pages.

Donation Thankyou

We would like to send a really big thankyou to Jim and Ann at the shop, all their colleagues and all the kind people who put their change into the Charity box on the counter. Watlington Church received £80 on August 6th with a visit from Philip Rumball, a wonderful surprise, a bit like Christmas!

With our thanks and best wishes to all,
John Murfitt and Barbara Church, Churchwardens

WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Vacancies for Parish Councillors

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Yes?

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News from the Medical Centre

THE Big Conversation

As we head through the summer and increase our activity, each week/month we seem to be celebrating some or other social, medical, sports or landmark week. This includes Menopause Week, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Testicular Cancer Awareness Month, Mental Health Awareness Week, and a whole host of previously taboo subjects.

Each of the people with a vested interest in that particular week will advertise it and promote it with a great deal of zeal. This helps bring sometimes difficult conversations to the fore. Unfortunately when you have so many different self-interest groups all vying for your attention, many of these causes can get swallowed up by the biggest voices, which have the biggest publicity budgets.

There is increasing use of so-called celebrities to promote these causes and this celebrity currency is especially useful for the younger generation, some of whom seem fixated on the number of Likes they have and seem to have become distanced from the real world of face to face conversations.

Whilst many of the causes have their merits and need for wider exposure, it seems that the underlying principle of increasing everyone's understanding of the causes is paramount.

So how do we ensure that these conversations are aired and debated? This seems to be via both the local and national media, using newspapers, magazines, radio and TV and via social media. Sustaining the conversation is the biggest challenge and social network platforms are extremely good at widening the audience.

When issues go viral, social media can become a very powerful tool. Unfortunately, there is both a positive and negative aspect to social media and some people feel emboldened, hiding behind their touchscreen as they troll and abuse individuals whom they have never met, or spoken to.

This is causing increasing damage to many peoples mental health. Luckily the issue of Mental Health is now no longer taboo and this hidden disability is being recognised and taken as seriously as other physical disabilities. We need to be extending these conversations and trying to educate and enlighten everyone about the negative effects on Mental Health of all forms of discrimination on grounds of Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Ethnic origin, Age, etc.

The power of social media for doing good is tremendous and has allowed an explosion of information and greater understanding of others, but has the potential to cause more harm than good if left unchecked and the bullies are not exposed.

As my mother taught me – If you cannot say anything nice, don't say anything at all!

As I write this I, reflect back on when I first started as a young GP in Watlington 29 years ago and can only assume I have turned into that cynical older man who I never thought I would be. This seems to be part of the human lifecycle.

(I hope I don't get trolled for this article!)

Dr Philip Koopowitz

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From Summer into Autumn

“Autumn, the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful”

Whilst researching ideas for this article I was struck by the thought that, while summer is beautiful in that it allows us to be outside, enjoying time with friends and family, autumn is beautiful in itself by its very nature. The turn of the leaves, the colours of reds, oranges and browns shows such a dramatic change.

How many of us rush to work in the morning without actually noticing the beauty of the colours?

Ignore the dew on the spider’s web that shows the intricate patterns that might not easily be seen? The change between summer and autumn is dramatic, yet stunning.

Yet so many fear change – whatever it may be. Change is scary, we like what we are used to. We can choose to stay the same and yet sometimes change is something we cannot stop – a bit like the seasons. And sometimes those changes can turn out to be something wonderful!

The summer holidays are likely to be a distant memory by the time everyone is reading this, but they also herald the start of a new academic year. New classes, new teachers, new uniform, but who doesn’t start the new academic year with a little bit of apprehension? I can tell you teachers do as much as the children!

Yet we should be taking that change and thinking about the opportunities that may come our way. If we fear change and we don’t make that leap of faith, do we ever learn as much? I have read the story “Scaredy Squirrel” by Melanie Watt to the children – about a squirrel who is happy in his tree but doesn’t want to go anywhere else. But through a happy coincidence finds that, although he doesn’t want anything to change, the thing he fears most and is afraid to try actually turns out to be something quite amazing!

“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try”

We always tell the children to try and it doesn’t matter if what they do is wrong – we are not looking for right answers sometimes. It is more important to think about HOW they got to the answer.

We all learn from our mistakes and to keep trying until we get it right or do it better. Even Olympic athletes or inventors such as Thomas Edison keep going, trying to get better and better and not settling for “just good enough.” Edison famously said he hadn’t failed 1,000 times – he just found 1,000 ways

that didn’t work before he finally found the one that did.

As the new term starts, change can feel very scary. Getting used to new teachers, new topics, new routines. But if we start with an open mind and embrace those changes who knows where it can lead us to..... just like the changes of autumn.

Ruth McGlone
Headteacher
Watlington CP School



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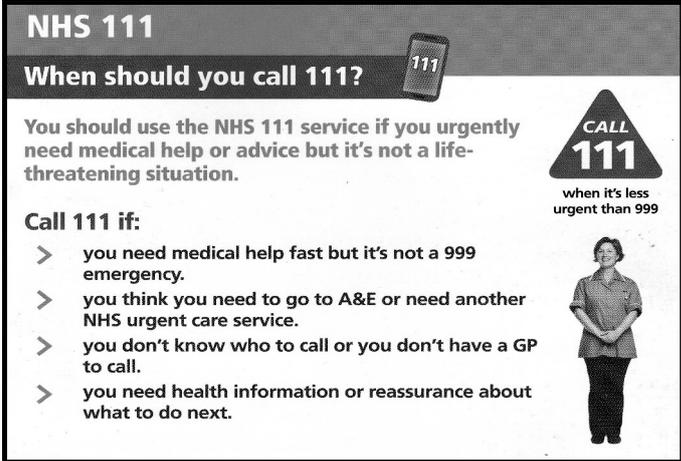
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- > you need health information or reassurance about what to do next.

CALL 111 when it's less urgent than 999





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Watlington Church News

As we move from summer into more Autumnal days the Church has traditionally given thanks for the Harvest safely brought in. In Watlington and surrounding villages we have the evidence of fields of oil seed rape, barley and wheat which have been harvested and the sugar beet season will soon be/is under way. Lammas day 1st August was celebrated when the first wheat harvested was ground and made into a loaf brought into church as thanksgiving. As a community and a church we are organising a Harvest Thanksgiving or Festival with a difference under the title of 'Care for our Earth', more of a day when we can think about where food comes from, how we can limit our use of single use plastic, help wildlife and touch and feel and watch and think and do.

So, come along to Watlington Church on the afternoon of Sunday 13th October – there will be a banner and posters and flyers to advertise nearer the time. Here are some of the things we invite you to come and do and watch and touch!

Come and watch a bird box being made, have a go, take a kit home and help the birds next year; Bring along your fallen apples and a bottle, make apple juice; Make beeswax food wrappers so we can limit our use of single use plastic which ends up in the oceans, kills wildlife or piles up in Malaysia and elsewhere; Come and make some bread and take it home; Plant some bulbs, acorns and other seeds and take them home to watch them grow; Decorate a church window with fruits from the hedgerow, hips and haws and hops and crab apples; Bring some food to put in the foodbank .

There will be other things to do but if you would like to contribute with your ideas, please make contact. Teas, Coffee, Squash and cakes, we will end with a 15 minute service.

Watlington Church has a morning service on the first Sunday of the month at 11am, notices are around the village, come and join us there will be a warm welcome. Watlington Church has adopted the Parish Giving Scheme which enables well wishers to support the church as well as the congregation. There are some explanatory packs at the back of the Church which is always open during daylight hours.

John Murfitt 01553 811086

Barbara Church 01553 810584

Watlington Churchwardens

First Sunday of the Month 9.30am at Runcton Holme with Reverend Dr. David; **Second Sunday** of the Month 11am at Watlington with Reverend Dr. David; **Third Sunday** of Month 9.30am at Wormegay with Reverend Dr. David; **Fourth Sunday** of Month 11am at Tottenhill (sometimes lay-led Morning Prayer).

Dear Reader

Have you ever wondered about what happens in our churches Sunday by Sunday? This poem landed on my desk last week. It is written by a person who has visited our churches in the West Norfolk Priory Group.

Reflections of a Wandering Worshipper

Thank you to the Wardens for everything you do,
The services kept going for people and me and you.
Faithfully to serve in each church of your own,
With local congregations, maybe a few but never alone.
If one cares to wander, each church a special place,
Where different forms of worship are there to embrace.
Each building a sacred space in which to share
Fellowship, hymns and quiet times of prayer.
Maybe the building is grand, with steps to climb,
Maybe tiny, intimate, with windows that shine.
Some have bells ringing out to welcome us in,
While in a village hall there is Peace found within.
There are those down tracks, far out in the fields,
Some behind trees, where it's quiet to just sit or kneel.
You can hear the birds singing softly outside,
And as you come outside, there may be flowers to find.
I am a worshipper that wanders around
To other churches, and have always found
A welcome within, each one a special place,
Each one filled with God's Heavenly Grace

L.S.

Next Sunday, why not come and see for yourself?

Yours prayerfully,

David, Priest-in-Charge

Church Events Dates for your Diary

Sunday 1st September 3-5pm Afternoon Jazz at the Old Rectory, Downham Road (where the Church Fete was) Bring Chair and blankets to sit on – there will be some provided.

Saturday 5th October 7pm Harvest Supper Watlington Village Hall

Sunday 13th October afternoon probably 2-4pm
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Watlington Players

We are always looking to find new members to join our society. This doesn't have to just be for performances on stage, but technical crew, musicians and backstage team members. Please get in touch if you would like more information.

www.watlingtonplayers.com

www.facebook.com/watlingtonplayers

chairman@watlingtonplayers.com

Twelfth Night

**Performance dates: 24th - 26th October, 7.30pm,
Watlington Village Hall**

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (a small booking fee also applies)

Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/watlingtonplayers

Call: 0333 666 3366 (a fee of £1.75 is applied to all telephone bookings)

In Shakespeare's funniest comedy, Twin siblings (Viola and Sebastian) are shipwrecked off the coast of Illyria with each presuming the other is drowned. Viola disguises herself as a young man (aka Cesario), to gain employment with the Duke of Illyria (Orsino), however, she soon falls in love with the charming Duke. Oblivious to Viola's true identity (or feelings), Orsino sends Cesario/Viola as his envoy to try and woo the beautiful countess Olivia on his behalf. However, the countess rebuffs the advances by Orsino, but falls in love with the young messenger (Cesario/Viola) instead.

Elsewhere in Olivia's household, her drunken Uncle (Sir Toby Belch) is living the high life off the finances of the pathetic Sir Andrew Aguecheek, who is also trying to win the affections of Olivia. Moreover, Olivia's steward, the puritan Malvolio, has hidden romantic intentions towards his mistress. However, it is not until he angers Toby; Andrew; the gentlewoman, Maria; and Olivia's fool, Feste; that a dastardly plot is created to force Malvolio to express his misguided feelings.

All of the above confusion and complication is further exasperated once Viola's twin, Sebastian arrives in Illyria, a perfect duplicate of Viola's disguise of Cesario, blissfully unaware of how his reactions to communications meant for Cesario are further complicating life in the Illyrian court.

Sleeping Beauty

Directed by Megan Abbott, Musically directed by Debbie Bennett and choreographed by Mandi Field.

Performance dates: Saturday 15th, Sunday 16th, Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd February 2020.

Readings: Tues 29th, Wed 30th October, Friday 1st November, 3rd November (auditions.)

We hope you will all come along to join in this fun show! Please spread the word and come along to the readings to find out more.

Watlington Young Players

On July 13th and 14th our young people took part in a highly successful presentation of Disney's Aladdin Jr. This production was very well received and we are immensely proud of all the young people who took part.

We were especially honoured to have the President of NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) attend the performance on the Sunday. She was very impressed by the performances and gave much encouragement to the performers.

She also toured the hall and was amazed to see how professional a production we could achieve in such a small space. She is usually invited to watch shows in large theatres.

WYPS has finished for the summer. We return on Friday 13th September. We say 'goodbye' to Philly MacFarlane and Maddie Cole who have reached the maximum age. They no doubt will continue their involvement in AmDram with the Watlington Players.

We will be welcoming new members and would ask anyone interested in joining us to contact me as we have a long waiting list. Just because a child has reached the minimum age of 7, it does not mean that we can take them. This does lead to disappointment so please sign up early (I do have a 2 year old on the list!).

Thank you to all the parents for their support during the year and to all our regular helpers, without whom, the Young Players could not continue.

Penny Cooke



Your Parish Council News

07 May 2019 Annual Parish Council Meeting

- ◆ Cllr Golding was elected Chairman and Cllr Leedell Vice-Chairman for the coming year.
- ◆ Appointments were made to Council Panels and Outside Bodies. (See full Minutes for appointments)
- ◆ Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed with no amendments required.
- ◆ The Asset Register has been updated.
- ◆ The Risk Assessment for Council Procedures had been carried out along with a review of all Council Standing Policy Statements.
- ◆ There were three casual vacancies following the recent Elections. Mrs Philippa Sillis was co-opted to one of the vacancies.
- ◆ A Dell desktop PC has been donated to the Council. The equipment, which was virtually brand new, was estimated to be valued at around £1,000. A letter of appreciation had been sent.
- ◆ The annual Play Area Inspection Report was presented. All the action recommendations within the report were low risk.
- ◆ 45 Langridge Circle has a very bright light outside it which was obscuring the vision of pedestrians and motorists alike and would be reported.
- ◆ The Village Hall Committee has donated their A3 printer to the Council and swapped the small Council office desk for a larger one. They had also provided an office chair to replace the current damaged chair.
- ◆ All allotments are occupied, with four people currently on the waiting list.
- ◆ Work on the completion of the trod to Magdalen was due to start Monday, 3rd June 2019.
- ◆ Order of Works for the John Davis Way to Paige Close trod had not yet been made. The zig zags by the School were due to be done in the summer holidays.
- ◆ Council had no objections to reserved matters relating to the private Car Park, Watlington Station, Station Road - erection of 9 dwellings, cart lodges, B1 units, bin and cycle storage and car parking spaces. Other planning applications can be seen in the full Minutes and on the Borough Council Website.
- ◆ Concern was raised about retrospective building works taking place on the Wildlife Park. It was agreed to contact Borough Cllr Bhondi about this matter.
- ◆ Following fires being started in the Pill Box, an email had been sent to the landowners, Winchester Homes and Enterprise Inns, asking them to monitor the Pill Box and consider clearing the overgrown area surrounding it. The Angel Field Millennium Green Trust was deliberately leaving the grass overgrown in that area to restrict access to the Pill Box because of the antisocial problems.

18 June 2019 Parish Council Meeting

- ◆ Around 40 people had attended the Norfolk Constabulary Community meeting in the Village Hall on 13th June. The officers, led by Insp Mark Askham (Head of Neighbourhood Policing), provided an overview and the action being taken regarding youth antisocial behaviour, violence and other associated crimes taking place in Watlington. Residents were encouraged to report any suspicious activities or intimidating behaviour to 101 or SNTWatlington@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.
- ◆ A member of public raised concern regarding speeding vehicles in Thieves Bridge Road and Downham Road, that the route was dangerous for pedestrians walking on the narrow pavement in Thieves Bridge Road and then attempting to cross Downham Road. Possible solutions put forward were that the fixed flashing 30mph sign in Thieves Bridge Road could be turned around or relocated on the other side of the road facing towards the A10, the possibility of a chicane and that a zebra crossing be sited in Downham Road for the safety of children travelling to and from the school.
- ◆ Payment of the annual insurance under the 3 Year Long Term Agreement (LTA) annual insurance with Came & Company for £1,753.51 was approved.
- ◆ Council agreed the purchase of MS Office Professional Plus 2019 at cost of £204.99 for the new desktop PC.
- ◆ A grant of £550 was made to the Parochial Church Council under S137 to help with their ongoing costs for the ensuing year.
- ◆ A grant of £1,000 was made to the Angel Field Millennium Green Trust under S137 to help with their ongoing costs for the ensuing year.
- ◆ A grant of £25 was made to Watlington Village Hall under S137 to help finance the resurfacing of the main hall.
- ◆ A grant of £20 was made under S137 to the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service to help finance a CPR and AED training programme.
- ◆ Council approved statutory requirements under the Annual Governance for the Accounts 2018/2019, the Internal Audit for the financial year 2018/2019, the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 Annual Return) for the financial year 2018/2019, the Accounting Statements (Section 2 Annual Return) for the financial year 2018/2019 and the Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights (19 June to 30 July). For more details on the Council's Accounts and Governance please refer to the full Minutes and to the Parish Council website.
- ◆ Council approved the Edward Shouldham Charity Accounts for the financial year 2018/2019.
- ◆ Information had been received from the Fenline Users Association (FLUA) regarding a Local Passenger Benefit Fund. It was agreed that a bid would be submitted for a ticket machine (£20,000-£25,000) on the Lynn platform

Your Parish Council News

would be beneficial, to remove the danger of people rushing to get through the barriers to purchase tickets.

- ◆ A list of the items requiring attention following the annual Play Area Inspection Report had been compiled. All recommendations within the report were low risk. The Chairman would take this matter forward with the Community Payback Team
- ◆ The Environment Agency had approved the placing of a dog waste bin in the car park by the Relief channel. The bin was kindly being donated by the King's Lynn Rapid Relief Team
- ◆ New software had been installed on the SAM2 speed monitors and data would be downloaded shortly.
- ◆ The Chairman reported that the village fete had been another huge success, despite a few smaller stalls and the fairground ride being unable to attend because of the wet ground conditions.
- ◆ All the allotments remain occupied.
- ◆ Overgrown footpaths in the village would be taking priority over other jobs in the coming weeks for the Community Payback Team.
- ◆ Work on the Magdalen trod was currently underway and should be finished within the next few weeks.
- ◆ Councillors were asked to consider highway schemes for the 2020/2021 Parish Partnership Scheme. Early suggestions were an additional SAM2 sign, zebra crossing on Downham Road (near the Thieves Bridge Road junction), Swivel (or relocate to the other side of the road) the 30mph flashing sign in Thieves Bridge Road 180 degrees to monitor traffic towards the A10, a footway in Mill Road and a mirror on the junction of the Village Hall car park.
- ◆ Possible parking schemes for the John Davis Way area are still being considered by Norfolk County Council.
- ◆ The Reserved Matters relating to the Planning Application for a private Car Park at the rail station had been approved.
- ◆ Borough Cllr Bhondi agreed to investigate concerns that the recent Change of Use planning application of the former quarry site to a Wildlife Park had been granted permission to erect a 2.15-metre-high perimeter stock proof fence, but instead of a fence being erected, the banks had been made higher.

The 30th July Parish Council meeting will be reported in the next issue of the Gossip.

Future Meetings of the Parish Council

3rd September 7pm Jubilee Hall Village Hall
22nd October 7pm Jubilee Hall Village Hall
26th November 7pm Committee Room Village Hall

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- ◆ *Interested in following up on any of the Council news items?*
 - ◆ Full minutes and agenda of Parish Council meetings are available at the website:
<http://watlington.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>
 - ◆ All local planning applications and decisions can be viewed at west-norfolk.gov.uk, follow the links.
 - ◆ The Parish Council Office at the Village Hall is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am to 1pm. (Please call 01553 810777 to confirm that the office is open.)
- Full contact details for the Parish Council are on page 34.**

NO Allotment Vacancies

There are **no** plots available to rent on the allotment sites at the time of going to press. However, please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to be on the waiting list.

“Autumn is a season followed immediately by looking forward to spring”
Doug Larson



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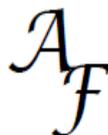
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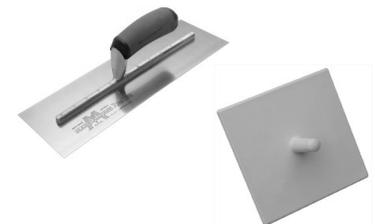
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Watlington Handbell Ringers

The Watlington Handbell Ringers are a group of ten ladies and one gentleman from Watlington and nearby villages.

The handbells are owned by St. Peter and St. Paul Church Watlington. Most of the bells were manufactured by James Shaw of Bradford who traded between 1875 and 1910. We have purchased 4 additional bells over the years.

The Watlington Ringers were formed in 2005 by Rosemary Harris. She had discovered the bells were being stored in old carrier bags in the loft of the church. The first meeting was held in the church and about 6-8 ladies met to try the bells. Most of us had never rung before nor could we read music!!

There have been many changes in the membership over the years, but the present team has been together for about 6 years. I am very pleased to now organise and lead the group.

We now have 28 bells stored in 3 purpose-built cases some of the cases were presented to us by the Parish Council.

We meet once a week for practice and have quite a few requests to 'play out'. We often visit Care Homes, Day Centres, Churches and various clubs etc. We have also played at a wedding in a church that did not have tower bells.

Our busiest time is during November and December with Christmas Carols much in demand.

Although we have a fair amount of music, we are always looking to purchase new books to try new music. Music books can range from about £8-£11 each and each player should have their own copy.

If anybody is interested in hearing or trying the bells, please contact me on 01553 810201 and I will try to arrange something for you. You don't have to be able to read music, just be able to count to 4!!!

Val Dagnall



No Computer? Pop your article or letter into the Gossip box in the Post Office or post it in the letter box outside the Parish Council Office.

Watlington Grand Village Fete held on 15th June 2019

The eighth Grand Village Fete was held on Saturday 15th June. Despite the wet weather during the week before the fete, Saturday turned out to be a bright sunny day, the first dry day for over a week. Villagers were not deterred from coming out in force to support the fete.

The official opening was by the new Vicar, Reverend Dr. David Karoon, welcoming all to the fete and that they all enjoy the day's events.

Due to the weather, Grays Fairgrounds were unable to bring their dodgems, but still had a bouncy castle, a bouncy slide and go fishing which was a hit with the younger children.

There were plenty of stalls and refreshments on offer and entertainment in the fete's arena. There were demonstrations from the Watlington Players and Fen Song, along with the ever popular Dog Show which was judged by Mill House Vets of King's Lynn.

Downham Market Advertiser did a penalty shoot out that had all comers taking their best shot, and those with more energy to spare, took part in the games in the arena and in the MUGA.

New to the fete was the Creators corner, which had children trying their hands at making badges and keyrings. As ever the Punch and Judy show was a great draw for the children and they joined in with the "behind you" chants.

The Angel won both the ladies and men's tug of war against the Sports & Social Club.

There was a wide range of refreshments available, ranging from curry to ice cream and cakes, along with tea and coffee served in the Village Hall by the Watlington WI.

The King's Lynn Sea Cadets did an excellent job as marshals for the car parking and first aid was provided by Norfolk Event Medical Services Ltd.

The day was rounded off by an evening of music and BBQ at the Angel and The Grand Prize Draw took place. There were 34 prizes in all and full details of the donors, prizes and winners will appear on the Village Website.

From the proceeds from the fete, £300 was donated each to Watlington Pre-School, Watlington Village Hall, the Millennium Green and the MUGA, along with £60 to the King's Lynn Sea Cadets and £40 to Fen Song.

The Village Fete working group can't thank enough those that supported the fete in any way from the generous donations to the grand prize draw, to the Gossip for funding the rosettes and medals, and the Village Hall Committee for the use of the hall.

A big thank you goes out to not only those that contributed their time and efforts in the lead up to the fete, but on the day itself. Without the combined effort of all those volunteers the fete could not have happened.

Watlington Fete Committee

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Reducing Money Worries for Older People in Norfolk

Dr Roy Bivon, a retired university lecturer, has been a money matters volunteer for Age UK Norfolk for over three years. Roy explains what he does and why.

“My approach is something between being a friend and a professional. I explain to the older person what they can and cannot do and what their options are. I don't make decisions for the older person but I do tell them they need to make a choice.

I might need to put them in touch with other organisations who can help. I arrange appointments with my clients myself and so I can fit it in at a time that suits me. I volunteer for two to three hours a week plus travel time.

Older people I have helped include: a couple with enormous debts who cannot really afford to heat their cottage in winter; a wonderful lady who I help deal with correspondence, writing out cheques when needed and a lady whose husband had dealt with the finances, he had died and she needed help to set up direct debits and carry out a check that she had enough money to cover expenses.”

Age UK Norfolk is looking for money matters volunteers and benefit outreach volunteers in the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk area, where we are particularly short of volunteers.

Money matters volunteers help older people who have no experience of dealing with their finances themselves, who may find dealing with financial things very difficult or who may be in debt.

Benefit outreach volunteers visit older people in their homes and help them to fill in forms for attendance allowance and the blue badge parking permit. The hours are flexible and full training and support is provided as well as expenses.

For further information contact the volunteer coordinator on 01603 785210 volunteering@ageuknorfolk.org.uk or see www.ageuknorfolk.org.uk.

Considering advertising in the Gossip?

Over 1200 copies of the Gossip are distributed in Watlington four times a year and a digital version is available on the Watlington website www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk.

For further information contact Brenda Leedell watgossipads@gmail.com or 01553 810848

Advertising rates on Page 4

SWEET DELIGHTS

By Julie Newman

I was with a friend in an old-fashioned sweet shop recently where we were delighted to see shelves full of jars containing our old favourites. This prompted lots of memories of the sweets we loved when we were children.

On my walk to primary school I never passed the sweet shop without buying something with my pocket money. Liquorice novelties, sherbet dabs, flying saucers, lemonade powder that turned our fingers bright orange or lime green, Fruit Salad and Black Jack chews (4 a penny) and packets of sweet cigarettes, were all displayed invitingly on the counter. In the playground, before the bell went, we chewed Bazooka bubble gum, seeing who could blow the biggest bubbles, all the time trying not to let them burst on our faces. (This would cause a sticky mess which was very difficult to get off.) Many a time I was told off for chewing in class. The teacher would call me out to the front and demand I hand over my sweet bounty. She would put the sweets in her desk until home time when I was allowed them back and told not to do it again. But there were times when she kept my sweets until the end of term and once or twice I swear she kept them for herself!

Posh sweets like Palm Toffee in strawberry, mint or banana flavours, pink and white nougat and chocolate bars were our weekend treats. You could buy five bars of milk chocolate for half a crown (twelve-and-a-half new pence) in fruit and nut, whole nut, caramel, mint cream or strawberry flavours. Mum and Dad's treat, bought on Fridays, was a box of Macintosh's Weekend or a box of Black Magic which I would sneakily dip into when no one was looking.

Holidays weren't complete without a stick of pink peppermint seaside rock and we always took some home for our friends. Mum and Dad would sit in deck chairs on the beach, with a tray of tea from the kiosk, while I would try to keep the sand off my ice lolly. Making sand castles one-handed was tricky, so I would give it up as a bad job before the juice ran down my bare arms. On leaving the beach the ice cream parlour beckoned. Here we sat on wicker chairs and ate Peach Melbas or scoops of Neapolitan ice cream in silver dishes, and I would gaze longingly at the tall glasses of Knickerbocker Glory which I was never allowed.

At weekends, Papa's ice cream van would stop in our road. As we didn't have a fridge, only a cold cellar with a marble slab, a family brick of pure white vanilla ice cream or raspberry ripple was stored in a polystyrene container with a piece of dry ice until needed. Dad would slice the family brick and either put it in square cornets for me and my siblings or between wafers for him and Mum.

On the walk from the bus stop to secondary school there was a little sweet shop that used to sell delicious homemade red and green lollipops 1d each and the frozen orange Jubbly or Vimto were huge and I could just about finish one by the time school started. Lunchtimes, Mr Whippy parked enticingly outside the school gates. I loved the soft ice cream cones topped with chocolate sauce and dipped in chopped nuts. On the walk home in the summer, my friends and I could never pass the sweet shop without buying a quarter of chocolate toasted coconut macaroons. The three of us would pool our money and savour the shared out sweets on our way home. In the winter we would buy penny currant buns or 'yesterday's' cakes from the baker's to eat on the bus journey.

As everything these days is now weighed in metric, my friend bought 100g of clove balls. I tried one but found the boiled sweet rather disappointing. I think most of the ingredients that made the sweets of yesteryear so addictive have now been modified. Fruit gums and fruit pastilles no longer have the same sourness that made our jaws tingle. Opal fruits are now re-labeled Starburst but do not make your mouth water. All in all I find it a lot easier to resist eating sweets nowadays. My adult taste buds prefer a nice cup of filter coffee and a piece of cake.

J.A.Newman@pobroadband.co.uk

July 2019

Watlington Wildlife Park

If you've been travelling between Watlington and Tottenham, you may have seen that the park fencing has gone up. Dodd and Co. of West Winch have worked tirelessly to create a fence of a highly technical specification which will prevent animals getting in or out and which is digitally linked to base stations and mobile phones.

The other major piece of work has been to establish the herb rich pastures and flower meadows throughout the site. We are aiming to reduce the need for any supplementary feeding of the animals in the long term as the production of feed often incurs large environmental costs, particularly the importation of soya meal from Brazil. Hence the importance of creating as much natural food for the birds and animals as possible. Although the rain in the early part of the season enabled the grasses to get a good start, the weeds have also taken hold.

It's very difficult to get rid of certain weeds and leave other plants when you have such a diverse meadow of species. However with modern farming techniques we are able to use fewer chemicals and spray only target areas if it is really necessary.

In conjunction with Hummingbird Technologies, we have been trialling the use of drones with multi-spectral cameras that are able to distinguish between various weeds and crop variants. It is possible to obtain crop data from the drone that is imported directly into the sprayer and fertiliser spreaders and thus use targeted application of agro-chemicals rather than blanket spreading. Aside from its use in the park, this technology is particularly exciting for arable farmers and could go a significant way to minimise our environmental impact while still maintaining high yields.

The majority of deer and antelope that will be in the park are highly-endangered and some are even extinct in the wild. For example, there are far fewer scimitar-horned oryx or barasingha in the wild than there are black rhinos, but as they don't have the WOW factor of a rhino, less emphasis has been placed on maintaining the genetic diversity of the species.

We are part of a global network that is trying to shine a light on some of these lesser known creatures while also participating in international breeding programmes that aim to extend the genetic diversity of future offspring.

We have also had great success with nesting of native species that have arrived in the park this summer, including oyster-catchers, common tern, little ringed plover, lapwing and kingfisher - all successfully fledging young.

Unfortunately the dry summer a few years ago caused the sand martin bank to collapse and they have been reluctant to return. To try and encourage these majestic birds back

again we are building a sand martin nesting bank of artificial nature but looking like the natural sand cliffs they like; no risk of collapse and the opportunity to study the birds and see if young born here follow migratory patterns and return to nest.

I hope that by next spring the correct habitat will have established and we will be able to introduce the animals and have something significant to show visitors. The aim remains to create a quiet, peaceful place with extraordinary wildlife for people to encounter first hand in a truly magical environment - a conservation showcase which maximises opportunities for learning, reflection, and inspiration.

We look forward to welcoming guests as we progress in the future.

Edward Pope

Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines 1919

One hundred years ago great advances were made in long distance flying across the Atlantic. An American flying boat was the first to cross east to west in May, but they stopped in the Azores to refuel and landed in Portugal before getting to London.

A British crew Arthur Whitten Brown and John Alcock made a successful but difficult crossing from Newfoundland in June taking nearly 16 hours, landing in a bog in Ireland and winning the Daily Mail prize of £10,000 for a continuous crossing in under 72 hours.

That time was probably based on the speed of an airship as the R34 did make the first crossing East to West a month later carrying 29 passengers, a cat and a stowaway, landing in New York. It took four and a half days due to head winds, only a day shorter than a fast liner. It made history with the first return journey only taking three days and three hours. Sadly airships were too dangerous due to highly inflammable hydrogen need to keep them airborne and soon gave way to fixed wing aircraft.

The world's first regular daily international air service was started between London and Paris in August. The Single fare was £21. Equivalent to £1000 today.

To finish a record-breaking year in December two Australians, Ross and Keith Smith broke the record for flying from Britain to Australia in 27 days 20 hours, winning a £10,000 prize from the Australian government for completing this in less than 30 days. £10,000 is worth about £500,000 today. These pioneers created some major air routes still in use today, just a bit cheaper and there were no problems with French Air Traffic being on strike.
Keith Leedell

Watlington WI

The WI programme for 2019 has planned many interesting speakers and activities, and we are always looking for interesting workshops to try. Regular updates can be found on the website:

www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk - Women's Institute.

Why not check us out or ring Marion on 01553 810407 for more info and come along and see what we do.



Watlington Knitters & Stitchers



Our group of ladies, happily knitting many different items. We are always glad for new friends to join us. We meet at 16 Warren Close, 2 pm to 4 pm on the 3rd Monday in the month, everyone welcome.

Come and enjoy chatter and a cuppa, while we knit and exchange ideas.

For further information contact:

Janet Jones 01553 810868

Watlington Craft Group

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday morning of each month in the Jubilee Hall (9.30am till Noon) to pursue our various crafty interests. Please feel free to come along and meet with like-minded folk, learn and share tips etc or just knit and natter, sew or stick, whatever you like.

£3 per session (for room hire)

Ring Sheila on 01553 810575 for more information.



Norfolk County Council Highways Rangers

The Highway Rangers carry out minor highway maintenance and streetscene improvements. These include:

- ◆ Trimming overgrown vegetation from a road or footway; Clearing mud and soil from the road; Hand sweeping roads or pavements; Soil and seeding verges; Cutting verge grass; Cleaning out highways ditches, gullies and offlets; Washing signs, bollards or reflector posts

Please contact the Parish Clerk to make a report.(p.34)

Watlington Sports & Social Club



Watlington Sports and Social Club is situated opposite the village hall and is a family members club with lots to offer for all age ranges.

We offer good quality drink, food and snacks at affordable prices. We are signed up to both Sky and BT TV, which enables us to show all the big games on the large screens throughout the club. The club has 2 pool tables, dart board, juke box and puts on numerous events throughout the year for adults, children and families.

The Social Club is home to Watlington Men's Football Team, 5 Youth Football Teams (ranging from U7's through to U15's), Green Bowls Teams and Crib League.

We welcome new members and the annual fees are very competitive, £10 for a single membership and £15 for couples/families. Please feel free to pop in, have a look around and a chat with our friendly bar staff.

Upcoming Events

If you would like more information on any of the events listed please pop in or give us a call. More events will be added so watch the Entertainments Board / Facebook Page / Posters in the village for updates.

Sandringham Café & Restaurant



Don't eat alone. Come and join a table of people to share food together.

"Food brings people together."

On the last Monday of the month at 11.00am there will be a table and a warm welcome at Sandringham Café & Restaurant.

Please come and join us on this **new venture**.

For any questions/queries phone 01553 763500.

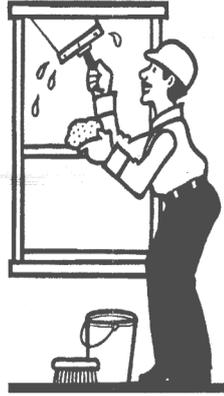
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Watlington Preschool

We have enjoyed another great year at Preschool. We have been lucky to have another full house of amazing youngsters, 31 of whom will be starting Primary school in the next few days.

We said a fond farewell to Nick at the beginning of the summer term. She had been a big part of the preschool staff team for many years and we were so sorry to see her go but a career change was calling, which she is really enjoying.

We had a lovely summer outing to Pensthorpe Nature Park. The weather was kind and a group of 90 + staff, children and parents enjoyed a day seeing all the different species of birds, animals and climbing, balancing, sliding and splashing in the fantastic adventure play area.

We have been looking after our vegetables and in the last week of term harvested, cooked and tasted potatoes, onions and beetroot that we'd grown.

The children also carefully looked after 10 baby caterpillars, watched them grow and make their cocoons and then released 10 beautiful butterflies into our garden.

We welcomed 2 Giant African Land Snails as our new pets, but at the time of going to press we haven't decided on names for them yet.

Again at the time of writing we are a few days away from one of our favourite events of the year – our traditional sports day and leavers presentation. It will be both a fun and happy day but a few eyes will be moist as we say goodbye to our leavers.



We shall also be saying goodbye and good luck to Georgia, our apprentice for the last year, who has been a fantastic asset to the

team. She will be taking up a post at Giggles n Squiggles Daycare. We would all like to say thank you Georgia for your hard work and good luck in everything you do.

And finally.....here we go again! The start of another journey for all. Our new children coming to join preschool for the first time and us getting to know them, returning children, now the "big boys and girls" and another exciting year to play, have fun and learn together.

Bye for now

From Everyone at Watlington Preschool



Despite the wet weather, 51 riders came along on Sunday to take part in the annual Bike for Brian event to raise money to support people living with Motor Neurone Disease in our area. Participants ranged from 7 to 81 years of age and this year we were excited to see two penny farthing bicycles and a pony and trap complete the course. We raised over **£1200** on the day from entry fees, sponsorship money and a raffle. We were very happy to be able to start and finish the event at The Angel where riders were able to relax and enjoy a burger after their efforts. Many thanks to Emily and Richard for the excellent barbecue!

Thank you to everyone who rode and all our supporters who came along and helped us raise funds for this very worthy cause.



SUMMER INTO AUTUMN

Fields of gold in the sunshine,
rustling in summer breeze.

Harvesters come in tandem
to combine fields with ease.

Leaves on trees they start to turn,
lovely yellows and browns.

Farmers start ploughing the fields,
turning over the ground.

The year is moving along,
in it's third semester,
Autumns come a bit to quick,
soon need our sou'westers.

Paul Taylor

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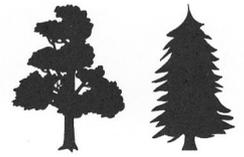
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Watlington Village Hall

Village Hall Improvements

You may have noticed various improvements to the Village Hall over the Summer holiday. The floor in the main hall will have been completely stripped back and re-varnished and the entrance hall paintwork and doors have had a complete revamp. The chairs should also have been cleaned.

There are other projects in the pipeline - specifically upgrading the toilets and replacing the front of the stage and a lot more painting to be done.

The Community Payback Workers were enlisted to do the painting in the foyer and an excellent job they have done too. This has been a good cost saving exercise for the Village Hall and we hope to be able to use them again.

The Village Hall Management Committee has been sadly depleted over the last year or two and this makes it difficult to arrange to get things done. We urgently need more people to serve on the committee to help with running this much used facility. Particularly we need people with **project management** skills to coordinate the various upgrade and maintenance projects.

To enable us to fund these projects we also require an **Events Co-ordinator** to organize fundraising and entertainment ie, quiz nights, bingo etc. Is that right up your street?

If you feel that you would like to help with the running of your Village Hall please contact **Vicky (Secretary)** on vling@hotmail.co.uk or **Emma (Chairman)** on 01553 618855.

We meet every 2 months in the Committee Room. The next meeting Monday 16 September at 7.30pm. Come along- you will be most welcome!

Watlington Village Hall - AGM

7.30 pm - 18 November 2019

Committee Room off Jubilee Hall

All Welcome

Watlington Village Hall

Volunteer Treasurer Wanted

The Village Hall is seeking a new volunteer Treasurer. If you have experience of accounts or bookkeeping (running the household budget for example) and can commit to a few hours a week why not come and join our committee in helping to run this much used community facility.

As Treasurer, you will also be a Trustee of the Village Hall, and have a say in the general management of the hall.

For further information please contact our secretary,
Vicky at vling@hotmail.co.uk

Watlington Village Hall 200 Club

What is it?

Each number costs £1 per month (£12 a year) and is entered into a draw each month, which takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall at approximately 8pm.

Each month there are several prizes - 1st Prize **£40**, followed by runner up prizes of **£15, £10** and **two of £5**.
Every 4th month the 1st prize is £100.

The profits from the draw all go to the Village Hall and will help to fund several ongoing refurbishment projects.

There are still numbers available. To snap one up please contact **Vicky** on vling@hotmail.co.uk or **Sara (Parish Clerk)** in the Parish Council Office on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** Tel: 01553 810777

£5 would enter your number in each draw until January.

	£40	£15	£10	£5	£5
May 2019	25	06	95	183	190
June 2019	137	186	44	03	115
July 2019	34	113	103	112	67

Recent winning Numbers

You have to be in it to win it!

Please Support YOUR Village Hall

Watlington Village Hall

Charity No 298454

QUIZ

Saturday 19 October 2019

At 7.30pm

Bring your family and friends

Teams of 4 to 8 people

£5 per person (under 12's £2.50)

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Prizes and a Raffle

Proceeds to Village Hall Refurbishment Fund



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That Wall

An important date for Germany only 30 years ago as the Berlin wall started to be taken down allowing East and West Germany to be reunited.

It was the peace dividend after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It wasn't just this wall that divided the country there was over 1000 kilometers of wall and multiple layers of fences protected by mines, watch towers and savage dogs. This went straight across the country cutting some villages in half or separating the people from their churches, places of work, friends and relatives.

I was able to visit the border with East Germany while in the West with the RAF. We had to be escorted by frontier service guides as the actual border was a line of posts the East German fence often being over 50 meters inside their territory.

If you strayed into this zone you could be captured or shot at. The same problem for any East Germans who thought they were in West Germany.

It was a sad sight, miles of barbed wire and the occasional town enclosed in its own wall. Whenever we came close to a watch tower we were tracked by long camera lenses. My photograph is probably on file somewhere in old Stasi, East German Secret Police, documents.

These files could have had serious repercussions when they were opened to scrutiny. I was told they were never published wholesale, but anyone could see their own record. Most did not as they wanted a fresh start rather than know which of their neighbours were spying on them.

As the wall existed for 28 years reunification took time and is still ongoing. I visited Berlin seeing some remnants of the wall preserved as a memorial to those who died trying to escape and others used for street art. Best use for an intimidating concrete wall I know.

Keith Leedell



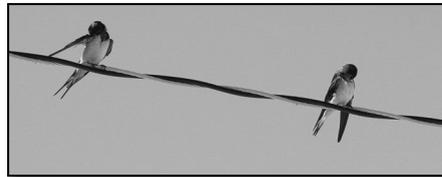
Remains of the Berlin Wall

From Summer into Autumn

If you live outside a city or town you may notice that start to the day, often in late August or early September, when the air is cool and crisp. The day may go on to be very hot, but it's an early sign that Autumn is somewhere around the corner.

A really hot summer can leave nature looking a bit careworn come the backend of August, after those lazy, dog days. The trees, yet to turn colour but a faded green nonetheless; the main body of wild flowers gone by now, seed set for next year.

The summer birds turn their attention to leaving our shores for their winter home, often long journeys to Africa. The Swifts will have left in early August and from September onward the Swallows will be gathering together, often to be seen on telephone wires, for their migration.



British swallows spend their winter in South Africa - they travel through western France, across the

Pyrenees, down eastern Spain into Morocco and across the Sahara. Some birds follow the west coast of Africa avoiding the Sahara.

It's also the time of year to listen out for the Robin singing, a melody can only be described as wistful. Hear it and you'll know what I mean.

For many the end of summer will mean a return to school or college, for others maybe the start of a new job. For people with time on their hands perhaps considering joining a local club or group or volunteering with a charity.

Me, I'm a big fan of the lead into autumn. The yellows, reds and golds of the leaves as they end their summer duty and get ready to fall. Have a look across from the village hall carpark towards the church for a view of the spectacle.

Autumn can also bring some very warm, crisp, clear days, without the overnight heat as the nights get longer. It can also be, to quote the poem, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. John Keats had it nailed!

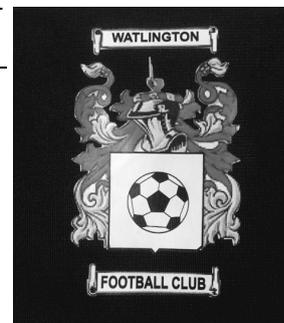
The start of Autumn also marks the end of the cereal harvest, and the height of the orchard crop season - ah, the Cox's Orange Pippin, with its very aromatic, yellow-white, fine-grained, crisp, and very juicy qualities!

Alas, there is one downside - winter is just around the corner! But leading up to that you do get Halloween, Bonfire Night and then on to some other event that occurs in late December!

CV

Watlington Football Club

Another season is nearly upon us and with a huge amount of work completed throughout the summer we have managed to start on a strong footing as we have two new sides join the club. On a more disappointing note we have lost an U13 side. The presentation day and evening were again a great success. We now have a new side for the Under 10's and an adult reserve side. Thank you to Doug Parker and Nathan McDonald respectively



Under 8's 5V5 Format: They had a very up and down season which at this level and especially as most sides you are up against have been together 2-3 seasons this is not an unusual occurrence. Through great perseverance from players and coaches they really started to come together and play some good football but mostly they were enjoying it. They entered some tournaments after the season, and these were a great success. Two parents have now passed their Level 1 FA coaching badges and have joined Tom and Jacko.

Under 12's 9V9 Format: After promotion they had another very good season and finished runners up in a final, even though the team were disappointed this is a great learning curve and will only make the team stronger in future seasons. They have gained another couple of players and once again are hoping to push on in their first season of competitive football, where tables and results are now shown.

Under 13's Yellow 11V11 Format: Another difficult year but the development of players has been great to see. The coaching staff are very positive in developing players and you can see the efforts by players and coaches is really starting to pay off. The players are all back and hopefully again they can push on to another level.

Under 16's 11V11 Format: This is the last year for this set of players at youth level, the hope is that some or all will progress into the new reserve or even X1st adult football. The squad has all returned and the players are keen on making this a season to remember and going out on a high.

Season Start

We are now able to complete the final piece of the jigsaw of the floodlights, with fingers crossed we hope to have these up and running before the nights unfortunately start to draw in. We have two new Child Welfare Officers (CWO) who have just passed all the qualifications, they plan to be in attendance at games for all age groups at some stage throughout the seasons. I would like to welcome Dan Corrielle and Lynn Martin to the club and wish them well in the roles.

Committee

The committee goes from strength to strength and I am pleased to say that all the hard work is greatly appreciated by myself as Chairman.

Fundraising

We are in the process of working on projects and hopefully will be able to update when dates are confirmed.

Donations

Special thanks to Mark Simmonds and Simon Bayliss for very kindly giving us a great deal of football training equipment – this was no longer required by Norwich FA. This will be fantastic for all our teams to use during their training this coming season, and beyond.

Sponsorship

We would like to thank our sponsors who without we would truly struggle. The Swaffham Advertiser, The Downham Market Advertiser, British Sugar, Timpson's, Rob and Marina Murfitt, Osborne And Kent. We also have new sponsors for the Under 10's Creative Resin Design Ltd, Officescape for the Adult reserves and the Watlington Gossip who have very kindly sponsored our two CWO officers for the winter months.

Sponsorship is a massive part of all grassroot football clubs and any sports clubs up and down the country. It is unfortunately the only way us smaller clubs can operate in providing for everyone. If any parents know of any companies or you are in a position to ask your company for any sort of sponsorship then please let me know, any amount for the club or individual teams would be hugely appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for their continued hard work. I would also like to wish all Players, Parents, Guardians, Grandparents and coaches a very good season and most of all enjoy your football.

Nathan McDonald.

E-Mail: nathanmcdonald36@aol.com

Watlington Wednesday Club

Watlington Wednesday Club is a social afternoon club which organises talks with a range of interesting speakers, mini outings in the better weather and games afternoons. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in Watlington Village Hall at 2pm or elsewhere as per the programme. We welcome visitors to any of our meetings if there is a subject that interests you.

I am writing this at the peak of the hot weather in July - we had to reschedule our traditional game of croquet golf at Stow Hall for August 21st because of the heat.

Outside of this blistering heat, we have had a very pleasant and interesting summer with a thoughtful talk from Reverend David about his life from Singapore to Edinburgh to Scottish Islands to Trumpington and now to rural Norfolk, from law to priest. His life journey gave us food for thought and one could have heard a pin drop during the time he was speaking. June also saw our annual Strawberry Tea which was held at Fen Road on a cooler day than we would have wished for (we are never satisfied are we?) but strawberries are a real flavour of summer, full of sunshine, sweet and succulent, we had a quiz which didn't necessarily involve walking round the garden and the house bulged with talk and laughter.

In July there was a very interesting talk from Susan Barnett about her take on the History of Sandringham House, as an ex guide at Sandringham and tour operator she was full of behind the scene stories. She gave us a tour through the rooms open to the public with stories behind some of the exhibits.

We are looking forward to a Barbecue in August, also our annual Petanque match on the Millennium Green.

As we move into autumn, we are looking forward to activities organised both by some of our members and outside speakers. Rachel Greaves, coming on November 13th is an ex -teacher of English and Drama, now a published author, she will be bringing some books for sale - grandchildren, great-grandchildren? One character is Ruffle the railway Dog.

Our Programme for next few months is

September 11th 2pm Quiz with Richard and Pat Aisthorpe

September 25th 2pm Ray Yare talking about New Zealand

October 9th 2pm AGM and Programme Planning

October 23rd 2pm Talk by/about Kings Lynn Lions

November 13th 2pm Rachel Greaves - children's author

November 27th Pre – Christmas Lunch

December 11th Christmas Party

We really do welcome all, if you would like to come but need a lift please make contact, it can be hard to walk into a room where you don't know anybody, be assured you will find a warm welcome.

*Barbara Church Vice-Chairman 01553 810584
barbarachurch@phonecoop.coop*

Careline and Lily

Our services can help you live an active and independent life in West Norfolk.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk offers a range of services helping people to get involved in their local community and to help keep them safe in their homes.



Careline Community Service provides items such as personal alarm buttons and falls detector pendants. This means that help is only the press of a button away, providing reassurance for you, your family, friends and carers. The new Buddy Button does exactly the same but has the added advantage of a built in tracking system so it can be used if you are out of the home shopping or visiting friends. We also provide key safes for people who require authorized visitors to have access to their homes such as carers and relatives.



Care & Repair helps improve housing conditions for older people, people with disabilities and those on low incomes helping them to live safely and independently in their own homes. We deal with housing adaptations, repairs and provide a handy person service reducing the risk of falls and subsequent hospital admissions. Our adaptations include level access showers, stair lifts, ramps & door widening. Funding may be available through the Disabilities Facilities Grant (DFG) dependant on financial circumstance.

Our **handyperson service** can provide equipment to help keep you safe in your home. Works include grab rails, light bulbs, bed rails, toilet frames, smoke alarms, push button stopcocks, security lighting and much more. Up to £300 grant funding per household could be available if you live in west Norfolk and have a health condition or disability.



Lily provides a comprehensive range of support in West Norfolk to combat loneliness and social isolation in adults of all ages. The project is linked to the No Lonely Day initiative and encourages our residents to develop friendships and engage in their local communities. Lily Advisors from local charities are available to offer one-to-one support to people at home or in community locations.

The Lily online directory lists organisations, services and activities that help people to live healthy, active and independent lives. It includes information relevant to adults of all ages. If you would like your event or organisation to be included in the directory, get in touch at asklily.org.uk

For more information on any of these services call 01553 616200, option 6. Or visit their websites; www.careline-cs.org.uk, www.asklily.org.uk or www.careandrepair-wn.org/

Community Noticeboard

Jim's Monthly Collection Box

The monies collected in the charity box on the counter in the Watlington Post Office Store are donated to local charities.

May 2019 £68 Watlington PreSchool

June 2019 £69 Watlington Under 5's

July 2019 £80 Watlington Parish Church Funds

Thanks to all the customers who contributed.

Thanks to Jim and Ann and to June for her assistance.

Benefits and Advice Team

Did you know that it is thought that there are many families that are not claiming what they are entitled to, including over a million low income pensioners?

Many people find the benefits system complex, scary or just don't know what questions to ask. Your local Benefits Advice Team are only one free telephone call away.

The Benefits Advice and Review Team are a small team of visiting officers from King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council. Primarily we are there to help deal with Housing and Council Tax Benefit queries.

We also offer independent advice on whether you or your family may be entitled to state benefits – whether you are sick, retired, disabled or caring for someone. Signposting people where necessary.

We are available to help people complete the following forms:

- Housing and Council Tax Benefit – means tested benefit
- Discretionary Housing Payment
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Carers Allowance

You can contact us directly via our freephone Welfare Benefits Hotline on 0800 731 2253. Telephone queries are dealt with between 8.45am - 5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am - 4.45pm on Friday's

Alternatively you can email us at any time to request a visit or ask for advice revenuesvisitingteam@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

We will answer your queries as soon as possible.

Contact the Editor at watgossipeditor@gmail.com if you would like your organisation to appear on this page.

What is it ? (2)

Watlington Community Information Point (CIP)

Located at the Parish Council Office

Watlington Village Hall 01553 810777

Opening Times: *Tues & Thurs 10am to 2.30pm*

We are constantly being told to "do it online"

But, what if you haven't got a computer?

Pop down to your CIP and do it there for free.

If you need help to use the computer please telephone in advance to make sure someone is available to help you.

Phone 01553 810777 when the office is open.

Links to the Borough Council website to access the full range services available.

Or you can bring your own device and use the free wifi.

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Watlington Gossip Grants

The Gossip has funds available for grants to local groups to help towards the purchase of specific items. (We do not contribute towards running costs.) Our grants are usually in the range £200 -£300.

All we ask is an article about your group as a follow-up. Contact any member of the Gossip Team for further information.

Mobile Library Timetable

12:10 -12:25	JOHN DAVIS WAY
12:30 -12:45	BRITTON CLOSE
12:50 -13:05	PETERSFIELD
13:10 -13:35	THE ANGEL
14:45 -15:05	WARREN CLOSE
15:10 -15:25	CHESTNUT CLOSE
15:30 -15:45	RECTORY LANE
15:50 -16:05	PLOUGH LANE - OLD QUEENS HEAD
16:10 -16:25	ORCHARD CLOSE
16:30 -16:45	DOWNHAM ROAD

Every 4 weeks

Next dates

5 September, 3 October, 31 October, 28 November

Choose items or reserve via the online catalogue for collection from a mobile library. You can return them to any branch library or mobile library in Norfolk.

Items include:

Fiction books for adults and children (book request 60p)

Non-fiction books for adults and children (subject requests are free)

Large print books (book request 60p)

DVDs (a small charge)

Audio books on CD and tape (a small charge)

We do not charge for overdue books, although a repeat loan charge may apply for hired items (eg DVDs, games, CDs, and spoken word formats) not returned on the due date. A replacement charge may apply if items are lost or stolen.

SCOUTS and GUIDES

2nd Runcton Holme & Watlington Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Contact: Bob Keens (01553 810855 / b.keens@hotmail.com)

Beavers (6-8 year olds) Mondays 6 - 7.15pm

Cubs (8 -10.5 year olds) Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm

Scouts (10.5 - 14 year olds) Tuesdays 7 - 9pm

Rainbows. For girls aged 5 to 7. **Currently closed.** A new leader is required.

Brownies. 6-7.15pm Thursdays. Contact: Brown Owl (Mandy Randle; 01366 388554 / mark.randle@tesco.net).

Guides. Runcton Holme Scout Hut 7.30-9pm Thursdays. Contact: Guide Leader (Sarah Mack; 01366 501942 / sa-rahjmack@hotmail.co.uk).

All meetings at Runcton Holme Scout Hut next to the school in Runcton Holme.



Volunteer to become a My Guide volunteer in Watlington and the surrounding area for Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

As a My Guide Volunteer, you will be matched with a blind or partially sighted person living in your local area.

You will support them to get out and about a few hours each week/ fortnight to do the things that they

want to do, which could range from walking into town, using public transport or support with free running their guide dog. You could make a real difference to someone today.

No previous experience required and nationally recognised sight guided training will be provided, along with safeguarding. You will also be supported with a dedicated role manager and be part of a wider team.

To find out more, please call 0345 143 0233 or email guidedogs@peterborough.org.uk

WATLINGTON YARD SALE

Sunday 15th September, 9am-1pm

Have a clear out for Christmas
£5 to have your place on the map

Maps, Raffle and Refreshments (including Bacon roll and tea/coffee for £1.50) available at Watlington Preschool, 22 Rectory Lane

Spaces available at the preschool, £5 a pitch, bring your own table

To book your place on the map please either contact Tracey on 07443584951, or tj.b13@hotmail.co.uk or message Sarah on

<https://www.facebook.com/events/450869882419184/>
final date for booking a space on the map is 9am Friday 13th Sept.



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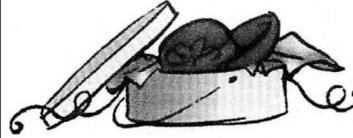
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carolacrockett@yahoo.co.uk

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Millennium Green Trust

The wildflowers across the green this year have been a delight to see and walk through with insect life thriving over the dry and sunny period of recent memory. The very hot weather did make work on the green somewhat uncomfortable and challenging to get the balance between a flower meadow and village green right.

Part of the balance is getting the organic grass meadow cut and hopefully yielding a hay crop which helps clear the ground as well as balance the books.

Litter was picked, ragwort pulled and everything was prepared as best as could be managed. The cut was completed and then a rogue piece of wood left by an inconsiderate person managed to break the machinery. This delay was further put back by the weather break with heavy rain coming at just the wrong time.

Sadly there is little hope that the hay may be saved and if ruined more work follows in moving the decaying grass to the edge of the green... so we have our fingers crossed.

Greens have been cherished by villagers for hundreds of years and with around one hundred varieties of wild flowers ours is increasingly attractive, for us and all manner of insects and small wildlife.

We hope you all continue to enjoy and respect the green and if you'd like to lend a hand to help keep this asset in good shape don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mike Carter

To get in touch with the Millennium Green Trust contact Keith on 01553 810848 or kbgj@dell4277.plus.com.

WATLINGTON BADMINTON CLUB Affiliated to Badminton England

Wednesday evenings in the Village Hall

New season starts Wednesday 11th September

for Juniors 5pm/6pm

*

Wednesday 4th September

for Seniors 7pm onwards

New players and would-be players welcome

John Church 01553 810584

or johnchurch@phonecoop.coop for more info

Long Green Indoor Bowls Group

Please join us for some fun and exercise playing Long Green Indoor Bowls on Sunday afternoons 2:30 – 4:30 at Lynnsport. NEW BOWLERS WELCOME, we have all the equipment.

Any questions please call Valerie or Brian 01553 764897.

Seasonal drift

Summer, full of promise for balmy days ahead

Alas, often broken as it rains instead

Summer, with the fruit so bright and sweet

That all too soon is soon spoiled and unfit to eat

Summer- when we all behave like fools

Hedonists each one of us, breaking all the rules.

But summer it must end as the sun moves on

To other shores and peoples, our yearly turn is done.

Autumn then arrives with its changing ways

Starry chilly nights, and summerlike days

That leave us so confused and dazzled

What to wear? And hair all frazzled.

Autumn-oh the beauty of its stand against the dark

Leaves crunching underfoot, walking in the park.

Autumn when the hardier fruits are taken from the tree

Tart with time's long growing- taste of maturity.

The errors of our summers help make our autumns wise

Temperate and thankful, not wasting time in sighs

The seasons change, and each offers joys in plenty

Autumn is so special- but it's lovely being twenty!

Elaine Carpenter



A black and white poster for a bingo night. At the top, there are several bingo balls with numbers 3, 5, 7, and 9. Below the balls are two bingo cards. The word 'BINGO' is written in large, bold, outlined letters in the center. Below this, the text reads: 'Saturday 23rd November', 'Watlington Village Hall', 'Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm', '£5 for 10 rounds of bingo', '30 prizes to be won', and 'Raffle • Refreshments available'. At the bottom, it says 'Fundraiser for Watlington Preschool, Charity number 1133641'.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Parish Council - Village Hall Office 01553 810777

Clerk: Mrs Sara Porter; The Old School House, High Street, Stoke Ferry, King's Lynn, PE33 9SF 01366 502165 / 07941 105 697 watlingtonparish@hotmail.co.uk

Mr J Bellamy 07771 755233 jabbazxr@gmail.com
Antony Culy 07885 990624 antony_culy@hotmail.com
Mrs J Golding 01553 811362 jean@goldings.biz (Chairman)
Miss S Sheldon 07824 353555 sarahholmes8019@hotmail.com
Mrs B Leedell 01553 810848 kgbj@dell4277.plus.com
Mr T Palmer 07919 033943 timpalmer73@aol.com
Mr A Prior 01553 810863 ellrprior@gmail.com
Mrs P Sillis 01553 409933 philbdavies@hotmail.com

(3 vacancies)

Borough Council: 01553 616200

Borough Councillor: Jim Bhondi 07817 604397

County Council: 0344 800 8020

County Councillor: Brian Long 01945 430169

Elizabeth Truss MP: 01842 766155

elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk

Medical Centre: 01553 810253

Emergency (out of hours) 111

Pharmacy 01553 811045

Health Visitor: 01366 389249

Patients Group: 01553 810201 (Val Dagnall)

Hospital: 01553 613613

Community School: 01553 810468

Preschool: 01553 811035

Under 5s: Contact through Facebook

Village Hall Bookings: 0300 3110234

Watlington Players Box Office: 0845 052 9645

Sports & Social Club: 01553 810171

Churchwarden: John Murfitt 01553 811086

Churchwarden: Barbara Church 01553 810584 or *barbarachurch@phonecoop.coop*

Angel Pub & Restaurant 01553 811588

Post Office Stores: 01553 810263

Rodwell's Fish & Chips: 07943 844133

Watlington Garage: 01553 811748

Police: Non-emergency 101

Gas Emergency: 0800 111 999

Electricity Emergency: 105

Public Road Water Leak: Anglian Water 0800 771 881

Street Light Faults: 0344 800 8008

For links to local websites use our website

www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk

Coming Events (At the Village Hall unless stated)

September 2019

01 - Afternoon Jazz 3-5pm Old Rectory, Downham Rd

03 - Parish Council 7pm

10 - WI: Look at the Lighter Side of Life with Judith

15 - Preschool *Yard Sale* 9am - 1pm

27 - Rainbow Café: *Supporting Macmillan KL* 9am to Noon

October 2019

05 - Harvest Supper 7pm

08 - WI: 3 Remarkable WI Women - Hazel Gillingham

13 - *Care For Our Earth* (Time tba) at the Church

19 - Village Hall Quiz 7.30pm

22 - Parish Council 7pm

24,25,26 - Watlington Players *Twelfth Night* 7.30pm

25 - Rainbow Café 9am to Noon

25 - Preschool Bingo 7pm

November 2019

01 - Gossip 84 Deadline

12 - WI: Annual Meeting with Quiz

16 - Preschool *Christmas Fayre* 10am - Noon

18 - Village Hall AGM 7.30pm

22 - Rainbow Café: *Countdown to Christmas* 9am to Noon

26 - Parish Council 7pm

Church Services on Page 11

Wednesday Club Events Page 29

Email events to watgossipeditor@gmail.com

Regular Club Bookings at the Village Hall

Badminton: Weekly Wednesday Evening 01553 810584

Short Mat Bowls: Weekly Monday Evening &

Friday Afternoon 01553 813400

Under5s: Weekly Wednesday Morning Via Facebook

Wednesday Club: Fortnightly Wednesday Afternoon

01553 810584

WI: Monthly 2nd Tuesday Evening 01553 810407

Watlington Players: Weekly Friday Evenings

Watlington Young Players: Weekly Friday Evening

01553 810732

The local Facebook Directory



We have drawn together a list of local Facebook community sites known to us. Not on the list? Contact us through our Facebook page!

watlington community: issues, news and events

watlington village people - issues and events

watlington gossip; watlington wi

watlington sports & social club

the angel Watlington

watlington grand village fete

The Gossip Photo Gallery



The Fete Beginningand ... End



The Hay Cut on the Millennium Green



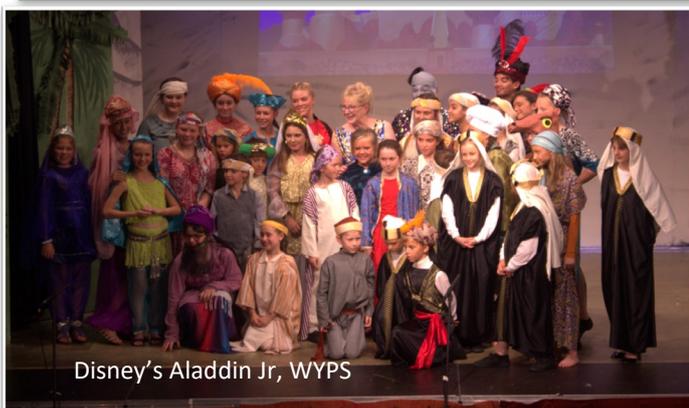
Dan Corielle and Lynne Martin, WYFC



Preschool End of Year 2019 Photo



Bike for Brian 2019



Disney's Aladdin Jr, WYPS



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