



Edition 90 Summer 2021

# THE GOSSIP



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Please note that due to the changing Covid-19 regulations some information in the magazine may not currently apply.

Please check with the appropriate organisation for up to date information on events or opening times.

**Welcome** to the Summer 2021 Issue of the Gossip.

Our theme for this edition is 'That Perfect Summer Day'. Of course everybody will have a story of what turned out to be their perfect such day, but I suspect that very few of those are ones where a glorious spell of weather wasn't involved!

Looking back, the memory can certainly become selective as I recall from my childhood that every school summer holiday was filled with sun and white fluffy clouds!

With the country gradually getting back to pre-Covid life, the annual Grand Fete returns on the 24 July. Let's see a good turnout on the day, thanks to all the hard work put in by the Fete Committee and other local groups, along with the fete sponsors. Your Guide to what's on at the Fete is on pages 18 and 19.

Once again thank you to all our contributors, advertisers and distributors, who deliver 1200 plus copies around the village.

We at the Gossip hope you all have a wonderful summer, whatever you do and perhaps one of the days will turn out to be that perfect summer day!



**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 in these pages.

*Front Cover The Gossip Team.*

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**Deadline for the Next Issue**

The deadline for **Issue 91** of the Gossip is

**1st August** for publication by 1st September 2021

## Special Times

We walked along the beach, hand in hand  
Four bare feet leaving echoes in the sand  
We settled by a dune, unpacked our things  
And all around us the birds spread their wing  
Swooping near, in search of a small treat  
Which, of course, we gave them when it was time to eat.  
We swam in the sea, chilly but bold  
The sun far above us turned the day to gold  
Then out for a sunbathe and a mug of tea  
For you - it's always coffee for me!  
We ate our supplies and bathed in the sun  
Two middle aged people having quiet fun  
We drove to a pub, fish and chips for a treat  
Smelling salty, but clean, and fit to eat  
In this lovely place, at a table for two  
Enjoying the pleasure of just me and you.  
Then home to our garden and the cat  
Who really does wait on the mat -  
A sundowner or two for you and me  
After our perfect day by the sea.

*Elaine Carpenter*

## Watlington Gossip

Published by The Volunteer Committee of  
Watlington Community Magazine

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### Our Shop and Post Office

Jim, his wife and family, and the whole team that greets us in the shop and the Post Office have worked very hard for the last year to keep the whole village supplied not just with basic goods, but with emergency sweet rations, with biscuits feeding a guilty addiction, with booze or fags (feeding an even guiltier addiction!), with the sourcing of hard to find flour and yeast in the time of baking madness, with the politeness from June in the PO section as queues built up of people sending back items ordered online in a fit of midnight retail surfing, and with newspapers that Jim retrieved at the crack of dawn, many a time from a broken down delivery van miles from the village, even before John Fendley had got off his bicycle and been the first one through the door!

All the above and much more has been done with good will and a smile behind the masks, and kind words for each customer.

We are lucky that we can still boast a local shop with a functioning Post Office!

The team has been the village's local heroes.

*Leo Kay*

### Thanks from the Young Players

A very grateful thanks to the Watlington Gossip team for the generous donation of £300 towards the cost of an extra microphone for our production of Alice in Wonderland.

Although we do our best to teach our young people to project their voices, they do need a little extra help. It takes a while to raise the funding for building up a stock of the technical requirements for performances and this is a great boost to us.

With all good wishes,

*Penny and all involved with Watlington Young Players*

### Hello all you Wildlife Lovers out There

We know that you are keen to keep as much of the wildlife areas in the village, as they are for current and future enjoyment. However, these areas don't manage themselves and there are ways that you can help.

Volunteer to help maintain the Millennium Green (contact Keith on 01553 810848) or to plant trees and shrubs elsewhere in the village contact the Parish Council.

For links to local websites use our website

[www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk)

### Thank You from the Church

The Parish Church of Watlington was delighted to receive the March proceeds from the Charity Box from Watlington Stores. We received £63.10 and would like to thank everyone who puts their loose change into the box and especially Jim and Ann and all the staff who work in the shop and provide such an essential service to our local community and beyond.

*Barbara Church*

*on behalf of St. Peter and St. Paul Watlington*

Please pass on our thanks to the Gossip Team for their very kind donation to Watlington Church for roof repairs. As you know we have had a grant from English Heritage but unfortunately all of the tiles have deteriorated and need replacement. We have still got a great deal of money to find but your donation of £250 will certainly help.

*Val Dagnall*



### Swan Youth Project

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### Advertising Rates for one year (4 issues)

1/16<sup>th</sup> page £35; 1/8<sup>th</sup> page £55; 1/4 page £80  
1215 copies distributed each quarter

## Turning “Why” into “Why Not?”

Like many of us, I have enjoyed being able to meet friends again in my garden, and recently I was visited by a friend and her 7 year old grandson. I hadn't got any of his favourite Kit-Kats and said I would drive round to the village shop. When he said that we could walk, I immediately asked “Why?” to which he simply replied “Why not?” And so we did, twenty five minute round trip, and enjoyed chatting about the things we saw on the way and said “hello” to people we wouldn't otherwise have seen, as well as benefitting from the exercise and fresh air, and saving a bit of petrol.

That simple challenge to my habit set me thinking, what other things could be achieved by turning “Why” into “Why not?” Sort out that kitchen cupboard? Why not. Do half an hour of weeding? Why not. Write a letter to a friend? Why not. Then my mind wandered to other things. Turn down the thermostat a degree or two? Why not. Try and buy things with a bit less packaging? Why not. The possibilities are endless.

I can't change the world, but I've realised that even at my age I can improve my own little bit of it and feel more positive in the process. In these difficult times that feels good. Thank you, young man, for the gift of “Why not?”

*Mrs R Calder*

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**YARD SALE**

Suggested parking at the village hall for a nice walk around the village yard sale

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## Upward and Onward for The Magpie Centre

With the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions, things have been getting back to normal for participants, staff and ponies at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

After many months of lockdown, riders were able to return early in May, and the smiling faces said it all.

Carriage driving resumed on May 12, and Aynsley Calvert, aged 36, who has autism and has been riding and carriage driving at the Magpie Centre for more than 20 years, said: 'It was brilliant. I rode Ava out on a hack, and then I took Tonto out for a drive. I can't tell you how happy I am.'

Second pilot session of Equine Assisted Learning Therapy, in association with MIND, which is designed to help people with mental health issues, took place successfully in May, and the final session of this course is scheduled for June.

As restrictions regarding care homes are lifted, Magpie Centre volunteers will be visiting care homes to encourage residents and their carers to participate in Tea With a Pony mornings, in which care home residents, plus their carers, can enjoy tea, cakes and a chat, plus meet and greet some of our lovely ponies.

Also, participants will soon be able to visit the newly-constructed Sensory Garden, which is wheelchair-friendly, and provides scents, sounds and textures for participants to enjoy.

## The Perfect Summer Day

A day like no other birds fly up high, on butterfly wings so much depends.

All of nature relies on the smallest of creatures to bring the magic of summer to the world.

The seeds of summer began in the depths of the darkest winter, where creatures lay dormant.

The seeds received their instruction as spring heralded the signal for all to begin their work.

Summer blooms from the nothingness, and life once more surrounds us, as nature uplifts us.

The sound of the bee and the beat of a damsel fly wing all play their part in helping to make that perfect.

*Robert Stead*

No internet access? Pop your article or letter into the Gossip box in the Post Office or in the letterbox outside the Parish Council Office at the Village Hall.



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## Watlington Medical Centre News

How lovely to have the bright mornings and longer evenings after the winter months. This winter has felt especially long for many of us and the sun rising brightly each day brings a sense of contentment and optimism.

With the increasing number of people being vaccinated against Covid 19 we can start to enjoy precious time with family and friends again.

Of course, the safest way is to meet outside and (if the weather is kind) enjoy the sunshine. Not to bring a cloud to the skies, but I have to reiterate that it is important to do this safely as skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the UK and rates continue to rise.

At least 100,000 new cases are now diagnosed each year, and the disease kills over 2,500 people each year in the UK - that's seven people every day. Experiencing severe sunburn, particularly in childhood, increases the risk of developing skin cancer in later life, so it's very important to protect yourself and your family from the sun.

### Some Sun safety tips

- Spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm.
- Make sure you never burn.
- Cover up with suitable clothing and sunglasses.
- Take extra care with babies and children. Keep babies under six months out of direct sunlight. Their skin burns much faster than adults' and even in the shade can be burned by reflected UV rays. Use clothing, hats and shade to prevent exposure to UV radiation. Do not leave babies or small children in a car for shade as they can rapidly become dangerously overheated!  
If exposure to sunlight is unavoidable, use only small amounts of sunscreen on unprotected areas. Always use a sunscreen which has been specially formulated for babies with a high SPF 25 or greater and UVA 4 or 5 star. If your child's skin has an adverse reaction to the sunscreen, stop using immediately
- Use at least factor 30 sunscreen.

Above all, enjoy the summer months in a safe and happy way and I look forward to the smells of BBQs and hearing laughter from all the gardens. Happy Summer everyone!

*Amanda Moss*



### Medical Centre Opening Hours

Monday	08.30 - 13.00	14.00 - 18.30
Tuesdays	08.30 - Noon	Closed
Wednesday	08.30 - 13.00	14.00 - 18.30
Thursday	08.30 - 13.00	14.00 - 18.30
Friday	08.30 - 13.00	14.00 - 18.30
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Monday - Friday 8.45am – 6.30pm  
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### Watlington Gossip Grants

Does your activity group want to purchase an item but can't quite afford it? Then the Gossip may be able to help. We have funds available and usually are able to give out grants in the range £200 - £300. And no form filling, honest!

There are a couple things though:

- ◆ We don't contribute towards running costs.
- ◆ We ask you to submit an article about your group for publication. We can help with this if you want.

Contact any member of the Gossip Team for information.

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### “Growing and Learning Together”

#### The Perfect Summer’s Day

I am sure most of us have an idea what our perfect summer’s day might look like. Hot sunshine, friends, maybe a picnic – a long summers day with nothing to do and nowhere to go perhaps?

As we seem to get nearer to summer and the roadmap to opening up continues, some of those things even seem possible. Including the spending time with friends and being able to go the pub – albeit outside with blankets at the moment!

The summer term in school is usually spent taking the children on school trips, watching the children play together outside on the field and having fun learning outside. At the moment we are still unable to do some of these things but we look forward to making the best of the outside where we can.

This year we are celebrating the schools 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 1981 the new school was opened on its present site. With everything that has gone on over the last year we thought it would be better to wait until the summer to celebrate this milestone when we hoped things would be better.



Big plans are underway in June for our birthday celebrations with a party and hopefully a picnic lunch for all the children.

Let’s hope the weather holds out for a perfect summer day.

I am sure many of you will remember the new school opening in 1981 and some of you will have even attended. We have the photos to prove it!

The past 18 months have been difficult for everyone but I am sure that you will join with me in wishing the school a Happy Birthday and hope that it will still be here in another 40 years serving and educating the children in the village for many years to come.

Watlington can be proud of their children, we have always had excellent reports of their fantastic behaviour when they have been on school trips and they have been so resilient throughout the last 18 turbulent months. I am sure that this will continue into the future. In the meantime, we will celebrate this landmark event and enjoy the day!

*Ruth McGlone*  
Headteacher

### Perfect Summer Day

By the time this is published in the magazine, we will have hopefully had lot of “perfect summer days”.

At preschool a perfect summer day means dry and warm weather so we can all play outside . It means sitting together on the grass or on mats and enjoying our snacks and lunch outside. Having water play activities and the sand pit open, needing a pit stop for a drink as we’ve run around and got hot and thirsty. Smiles, laughter, chasing bubbles and making daisy chains. All quite simple things really, but as the last year has shown us, the simplest things are the most important and treasured.

Since the last issue we have continued into our final term of the year with a full quota of busy, energetic little people who are enjoying playing and learning together. We have definitely witnessed a change in the children’s interests and the way they play and we believe that is in part due to the huge changes during the last year of their life.

We’ve been enjoying lots of gardening this term, planting potatoes, carrots, salad leaves and flowers too. The children just love digging and transporting things around in wheel barrows and building obstacle courses with the crates, planks and tyres in our loose parts area.

One of the children’s most favourite activities this whole year round has been building and constructing using lots of different types of bricks, blocks and stacking toys.

We’ve been improving our fitness and physical development as we’ve been able to resume our outdoor PE sessions with Aaron from ICS coaching twice a week and had visits from our friend Katherine telling great stories and doing fun music and movement sessions in the garden.

We have all been taking part in the Village Virtual Marathon again, helping to raise funds for preschool, school and the Church roof and as a result of amazing support and fundraising we are hoping to have some fantastic new outdoor equipment at preschool very soon !!! We are so excited about it!!

Its not been a perfect year, I think we would all agree on that, but we still have so many things to be grateful for. Our older children are getting ready for their move into reception class and we are looking forward to the remainder of our summer term.

Wishing you all many “perfect summer days!”

*From the Blue Team*

*(Photos on page 35)*



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# Barry Lawrence

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Many of you will have noticed the removal of pantiles from the chancel roof of the church. These had badly weathered and degraded, in fact there was a hole with a temporary repair on the north side. The work necessitated liaison with 'the Bat People' as there is a maternity roost of both soprano pipistrelle and natterer bats in the church in the spring and summer so a licence was required to do the work. Although we received a grant to part fund the work, we have been grateful to receive some donations. There is still time to help us, all donations will be gratefully accepted.

Those who visit the churchyard will have also noticed that we now have access paths cut through the longer grass. Visitors will be able to see the gravestones of those who lived in Watlington many years ago. The longer grass will encourage the growth and spread of wildflowers and increase insect life which will again encourage the incidence of birds, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles.

Church services have continued during the lockdown since last November abiding by the covid regulations in place. On Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> Reverend Dr. David was instituted as Rector of our Benefice, the West Norfolk Priory Group, which comprises twelve churches Fincham, Marham, Nordelph, Runcton Holme, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Stow Bardolph, Stow Bridge, Tottenhill, Watlington, Wimbotsham and Wormegay. An enormous area, just look a map!

Some of you will have met Nigel and Heidi Moat. Nigel is assistant curate to the Benefice but happens to live in Watlington and can assist with some services and is in training as a fulltime priest.

Two members of our congregation are now licensed to lead services and were licensed for four years at a Zoom service in February. They are Pauline Martin and Barbara Church (licensed as ALMs Associate Lay Ministers). Val Dagnall, another church member is helping with funeral administration and support. Those who are online can find out a lot more about the West Norfolk Priory Group Benefice WNPB ([westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk](http://westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk))

Watlington Church has always engaged in fundraising activities in the Village which were curtailed in 2020.

However we do have a date for a **Grand Church Fete on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2pm** at the Old Rectory, Downham Road, Watlington by kindness of Drew and Maria Purves. Please put the date in your diaries come along and give us your support and we hope it will be a GRAND DAY OUT.

Our village of Watlington is prayed for every day.

*John Murfitt and Barbara Church*  
Churchwardens

## The Rector's Letter

My dear reader,

As I write this, the weather is beginning to improve, Lockdown is easing and many of us and our neighbours have been vaccinated. We are thankful for these mercies, and I hope that you will be able to enjoy a pleasant summer with family and friends.

But life is full of surprises, and the question remains "Will things ever be the same again as in pre-Covid times?"

A research paper released in Jan 2021 had these findings:

- (1) *Disruption will accelerate* – the global impact of this pandemic will accelerate pre-existing transitions;
- (2) *Politics will become more turbulent* – fundamental questions about competence, nationalism, multilateralism, and democracy have resurfaced;
- (3) *Pandemic habits will persist* – we will see more robots, practice of telemedicine, and digital business & commerce;
- (4) *Opportunities will abound* – in developing better healthcare systems & infrastructure, and tackling climate change (*More details @<https://theconversation.com>*).

Amidst all the uncertainty and change of these days, what shall we do? The ancient sage had this answer and it remains an excellent one for us at the beginning of the Twenty First Century too:

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,

From whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord,

Which made heaven and earth" - Psalm 121:1-2

With prayerful good wishes for that perfect summer day,

**DK**

*The Revd Dr David , Rector*

07596 707469

[louise.vigus@westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk](mailto:louise.vigus@westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk)

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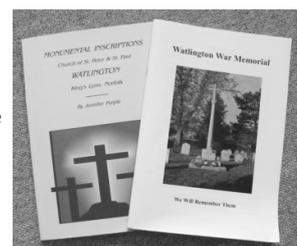
You can also follow us on **Facebook** and **YouTube**

## Watlington History

If you are interested and/or actively researching your ancestors in Watlington then there are two books which are a must have on your shelf.

Watlington Church Memorial Inscriptions, compiled by Jennifer Purple (£3) and

Watlington War Memorial and Roll of Honour by Brenda Leedell (£2) now both available to purchase in Watlington Church (open every day). Proceeds to Church Funds.





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# Watatunga Wildlife Reserve

Watatunga Wildlife Reserve reopened on April 12<sup>th</sup> providing guided buggy tours in the reserve. We're part of the national "Good to Go" scheme ensuring we keep up to date with Covid safety measures to keep our team and visitors safe and it has been exciting for the team and animals to welcome visitors back to the reserve.

Our safari trailer remains unused and last season we hired a fleet of electric buggies instead. This means that visitors can remain in their 'bubble' throughout their visit while still having a wonderful safari experience.

The guide rides in the lead buggy and visitors hire either a 4 or 6-seater, each fitted with a speaker so that they can hear about the animals, birds and conservation work while they drive around the reserve. We are very excited at the prospect of getting our trailer into gear for education trips from June.

We have created a new role in our team and recruited a Reserve Manager, Jono Usher Smith, who brings twenty-five years of experience working with a wide range of animals across the U.K. Most recently, Jono was Head of Hoofstock at Howlett's Wild Animal Park and he is now responsible for the health and well-being of the animals at Watatunga.



Mountain/Eastern Bongo

We have also welcomed some wonderful new animals, including the Mountain/Eastern Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*

isaaci). The last of this magnificent species can be found on the slopes of Mount Kenya, the Mau and Eburu forests and the Abadares in central Kenya. Sadly there are now more captive Mountain Bongo than there are in the wild with approximately 100 individuals remaining. We are looking forward to working closely with the stud book-keeper of this species and conservation programmes in Kenya.

We've also been joined by a small family of Eurasian Cranes (*grus grus*) who have come to us from Pensthorpe. The Bentleys - the crane couple's name - and their daughter have spent the last few weeks settling into the reserve where they have 170 acres to roam and hopefully find the perfect nesting site.



Eurasian cranes



White-Naped Crane

We also have a single male White-Naped Crane (*grus vipio*) strutting his stuff in the reserve and we are hoping to find him a lady in due course.

Unfortunately this crane species has suffered rapid population decline, largely as a result of the loss of wetlands to agriculture and economic develop-

ment in its native breeding territories, northeastern Mongolia, northeastern China and adjacent areas of south-eastern Russia.

Many new ducks, pheasant species and exotic birds will also join the reserve over this season so keep an eye out on Instagram and Facebook for news of these new arrivals.

We are looking forward to sharing more about the reserve with the community at the Watlington Fete and on tours over the coming months.

## Watlington Village Lottery

£1 per ticket  
 Drawn on the 2nd Saturday of every month.  
 50% of proceeds will go to 1 lucky winner  
 25% of proceeds will go to a Watlington village cause  
 25% of proceeds will go to Watlington FC

Some of the Watlington causes the Lottery has already helped:

- Pre-School
- Runcton Holme and Watlington Scouts
- Making Memories for Lily
- Church
- Millenium Green Trust

Thank you to everyone who has helped by purchasing tickets.

Average monthly cash prize £245

1 cash winner EVERY month!

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Tickets can be ordered via [Facebook: Watlington Lottery](#)  
 If you do not use facebook you can call or text me on 07450 209311  
 Payment can be made by cash or by BACS and you will be kept up to date with news and updates every month. You can help your village and you never know, you may win too!

Small Society Licence Number 20/00910/G\_SSL / Promoter: Vicky Coriella c/o Watlington Football Club

## 2nd March 2021 Parish Council Meeting

- ◆ The Neighbourhood Plan Survey Questionnaire was launched on 25th February 2021. Distribution is both via an online portal and also paper copies. Details have been published in The Gossip, on the village website and the village Facebook page. Limetree Printing was contracted to print 250 A4 Neighbourhood Plan Surveys at a cost of £276.65 + £55.33 VAT (total £331.98).
- ◆ The Clerk reported that she had again contacted Veolia regarding upgrading the waste container from a 660lt bin to a 1100lt bin. Collection and invoicing problems were also reported.
- ◆ The Council donated £70 to the Citizens Advice Bureau to help financially during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◆ It was agreed to seek quotes for a new slide and a small bouldering wall at the Warren Close Play Area and the damaged/missing knee-high fencing around the Martingales Estate for possible application to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Scheme.
- ◆ The Council committed to support the armed forces community by pledging to sign the Armed Forces Covenant, subject to the details being fully detailed by Norfolk ALC Well-Being in the coming months.
- ◆ Work was continuing on refurbishment of the Village Hall whilst it was unoccupied. The NHS Blood Donation service had contacted the Village Hall Committee to enquire about holding sessions.
- ◆ The Clerk reported that she had contacted Chris Knott Insurance for a quotation to insure both allotment sites. They had advised that the April rates were not yet known. Councillors felt that consideration should be given to raising allotment rents if the cost of the insurance was high.
- ◆ The Clerk would write to existing allotment tenants to establish their interest in participating in a Best Kept Allotment Scheme.
- ◆ The Fete has been put back to Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021 in the hope all restrictions will have been lifted by then. If Gray's Fair attended the Fete, rent from the Friday and Sunday should be received by the Parish Council.
- ◆ The start date for the Mill Road road was still on schedule to commence in March 2021.
- ◆ There has been no progress on the John Davis Way double yellow lines scheme by Norfolk County Council.
- ◆ The faded white lines on the zebra crossing by The Angel Pub had been scheduled for urgent completion in the new financial year. Minor repairs on the back road to King's Lynn had been carried out and a permanent repair would be carried out in early summer.
- ◆ The Local Plan will be delayed for a few months due to Covid.
- ◆ The Council approved the purchase of a battery and pads for the defibrator up to a maximum cost of £150.00 + £30.00 (total £180.00).

- ◆ Cllr Davidson confirmed that she would be resurrecting the donation table on her drive when the weather was less inclement. The Council gave her a vote of thanks for this.
- ◆ Council agreed that Holly Landscapes is contracted to clean the War Memorial at a cost of £175 + £35 VAT (total £210), subject to permissions, if required, being obtained from the Church.
- ◆ The Council approved £500 from the Edward Shouldham Charity Account being donated to a local family in need.
- ◆ The Council agreed to switch between the CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund and COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund at low cost for the Edward Shouldham Charity.
- ◆ The Council agreed to pay the Litter Picker an additional 2-4 hours per week at £8.72 per hour (£8.91 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021) until September 2021 to ensure the waste bins and litter in the play areas is kept to an acceptable level, or, alternatively seek a further person to help undertake this role at the National rates of pay.

## 13th April 2021 Parish Council Meeting

- ◆ Mrs Emma Burry was co-opted as Parish Councillor.
- ◆ The date for completion of the Watlington Neighbourhood Survey had been extended to 9<sup>th</sup> April. "The number of completed surveys was 196 at 10<sup>th</sup> April.
- ◆ The Council approves the emergency repairs to the Mill Road Telephone box at a cost of £250.
- ◆ Following a failure of Veolia Waste Contractors to respond to the clearing the overflowing Council trade waste bin, it was agreed that their contract should be terminated and 3 contract quotes be sought, with approval for a new contract to be agreed as a matter of urgency.
- ◆ The Council donated £50 to the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service to help financially towards their team of life-saving responders.
- ◆ The Council agreed to submit a bid for CIL funding from the BCKL&WN for a double width stainless steel platform slide from Online Playgrounds on the Warren Close Play Area. The Boulder Wall proposal was dropped.
- ◆ The Council agreed to submit a bid for CIL funding for the replacement of the damaged Martingales Estate knee high fencing and that the contractor is determined by an emergency round-robin email upon receipt of the three quotations. The Council agreed to fund 50% of the total scheme costs of both CIL bids.
- ◆ The Council approved Watlington Football Club storing four goal posts by their storage container on the Glebe Field.
- ◆ It was agreed that the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) working Group be reinstated and a meeting arranged.

## Your Parish Council News

- ◆ The Council approved for Mr K Painter to remove the fencing along the pathway of the Stone Close open space, make good of any dangerous posts and fill in the deep holes with soil that had occurred as a result of vandalism.
- ◆ A regular inspection of the Recreation Ground and MUGA equipment would be done shortly.
- ◆ The defibrillator pads and battery have been replaced with new ones in March 2021. These have a 2 year life expectancy.
- ◆ The Council agreed for the residents of 45 Paige Close to plant fruit trees in the grassed area adjacent to the fence along the south side of their property, in accordance with the Agreement dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
- ◆ It was agreed for Cllr Davidson to place a message on the Facebook page asking for litter picking volunteers who may wish to link up through the Parish Council.
- ◆ It was agreed to investigate the insurance arrangements for the allotments.
- ◆ The Clerk had prepared a leaflet for the allotment tenants to establish their interest in participating in the Best Kept Allotment Scheme under S137 LGA 1972 (Class 3: Improvement of appearance of villages).
- ◆ The Fete will be held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Gray's Fair would be contacting the Council directly regarding their appearance, when rent issues would be discussed
- ◆ The start date for the Mill Road trod has been delayed due to Covid and staff shortages
- ◆ The bid for a Recreation Ground trod had been approved. Due to the backlog of schemes, it was unknown when this work would commence.
- ◆ The Council will contact Persimmon Homes regarding their plot of land by the school to enquire whether this could be gravelled over and used as a parking facility to help alleviate parking issues in John Davis Way.

### Future Meetings of the Parish Council

**29 June** 7pm VH Main Hall

**27 July** 7pm VH Main Hall

**21 September** 7pm VH Main Hall

- ◆ ***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](http://west-norfolk.gov.uk), follow the links.
- ◆ Hopefully in the near future the Parish Council Office at the Village Hall will re-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.**

## WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### NOTICE

### Vacancies for Parish Councillors

**Would you like to have input into important decisions that make a difference in your village?**

**Yes?**

### Apply to become a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council currently has **three** vacancies for Parish Councillors to bring the Council up to their allocated number of eleven.

If you are interested or would like further information please contact the Parish Clerk.

Contact details 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. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to join the waiting list.



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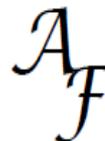
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### Want to Advertise in the Gossip?

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Advertising rates on Page 4



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## A Perfect Summer Day

In the morning, after a very sedate breakfast in the restaurant car, they gathered their belongings and waited for the train to pull into Newquay railway station. At Dawlish the train ran right along the water's edge as if it was actually travelling through the waves.

'Look Harry! Isn't it wonderful?'

Harry smiled at his wife's childish excitement. 'Yes, it's amazing.' He looked up at the cloudy sky, 'but I hope the weather cheers up.'

At Newquay, Harry jumped out of the carriage and helped Yvonne down onto the platform. Doors slammed and whistles blew and the *Night Riviera* was off again, a cloud of white steam drifting in its wake.

Suitcase in hand, Harry guided his wife through the ticket office and outside to where a black Austin Seven was waiting. A tall fresh-faced young man with dark hair came to greet them.

'Mr and Mrs Williams? I'm Charlie.' They shook hands. 'Ma's sent me to fetch 'ee.'

'Thank you,' said Harry.

Charlie opened the passenger door and tilted the seat forward. 'Mrs Williams, if ee do care to sit in the back?'

Yvonne squeezed in and sat on the shiny brown leather seat. Harry made himself comfortable in the passenger seat while Charlie went round to the back of the car and strapped their suitcase onto the luggage rack.

Harry twisted round to Yvonne, 'All right in the back?'

She nodded, eyes wide.

'Been to Cornwall afore, 'ave 'ee?' asked Charlie, as he slammed his door and jerked the car into gear. He seemed to fill the space.

'No,' said Harry, 'first time, but I hear it's pretty special.'

'Ess, tes.'

Harry turned to Yvonne and lifted his eyebrows. She stifled a giggle.

Although the weather was disappointing and the ride rather bumpy, Yvonne was enjoying the pretty country lanes with the high grassy banks, cows and sheep grazing on the hilly fields. She'd hardly set foot outside of London save for the odd day trip and this was a whole new experience. As they drew nearer to the guesthouse the sun pierced through the clouds like a spotlight on the bay. Harry watched his wife's expression as the expansive beach opened up before them, framed by cliffs on both sides.

'Oh Harry! Isn't it beautiful? I've only ever seen places like this on railway posters,' she said, turning this way and that.

As the car climbed up the hill she twisted round to look down on the scene. Harry's heart was full. Yes, he'd made the right choice.

They pulled up outside *Bay View*, the only guest house in the road, set amongst some whitewashed cottages. A plump little woman with iron grey hair in a bun stood on the porch to greet them.

'Muz Crago,' she said, beaming at them. She showed them into a cosy sitting room with its elevated view of *Tregenna Bay*, the waves gently rolling in. Through the open window came the cry of gulls and a balmy sea breeze. 'Make 'eeselves at home. I got the kettle on.'

'Thank you,' said Harry.

Charlie hovered at the door.

'Charlie? Take Mr and Mrs Williams' suitcase upstairs, will ee? First door on the right.' Mrs Crago looked at Yvonne. 'Given ee the best room as I know youm newly married,' she said with a broad grin.

Yvonne felt her cheeks turn pink. 'Thank you. That's very kind.'

'Tidn no trouble. I'll look after 'ee.'

'How did she know?' whispered Yvonne, once Mrs Crago had left the room.

'I expect a little bird told her,' said Harry. 'Come here. Look at that view.' He put his arm round Yvonne's waist and she moulded into him. 'Imagine waking up to that every morning.'

'Mm, beautiful.'

*Julie Newman © 2021*

*An extract from my mystery novel Bay Of Secrets. Available on Amazon.*



# Watlington Grand Village Fete

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021

11.00am to 4.30pm

Recreation Ground  
and Main Village Hall



**Welcome** to the 2021 Watlington Grand Village Fete. Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year the Fete has become an established popular event on the Village calendar, and a great way to celebrate our community. We hope you will find this one equally enjoyable.

Again this year we have some traditional fairground attractions to add more variety to the day. Also, we are continuing with the success of previous years by using the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on the Recreation Ground, with sports related activities for all ages and abilities.

## Dog Show

Once again judged by staff from Mill House Veterinary Surgery, King's Lynn.

The entry fee is £1. Rosettes will be awarded to the first 3 in each of the categories, which are:

1. Best Senior Dog or Bitch (over 7 years)
2. Best Rescue Dog or Bitch
3. Best Cross Breed Dog or Bitch
4. Best Pedigree Dog or Bitch
5. Prettiest Bitch
6. Most Handsome Dog
7. Best Junior Handler (under 12 years)

Registration opens at 1.30pm in the arena.

## Sports

There will be sports in the arena along with various skill competitions on the MUGA throughout the day – come along and try your skills.

## First Aid

Generously provided by F.A.C.T (First Aid & Care Training)

## Entertainment

In the arena there we are hoping for gymnastic displays, drills, singing and dancing.

The Fete favourite ROLLO with his Punch & Judy show will be back for two sessions.

## Car Boot Sale

£5 per pitch. Setting up from 9.30am. Contact us on [watlington-fete@mail.com](mailto:watlington-fete@mail.com) to book. Please note there are limited spaces.

## Stalls and Games

There will be a wide range of stalls and games for all ages and tastes to keep you entertained and refreshed throughout the day.

These include a bath bombs, crafts and gifts, sweets, handbags, coriander and lime, hand craft beer, information about Watatunga Nature Reserve and the ever popular PIMMS stall.

Anyone still wanting a stall or game at the Fete please contact us on [watlington-fete@mail.com](mailto:watlington-fete@mail.com)



## **Grays Funfair**

As in previous years, Grays Funfair Rides will be in attendance and bringing a variety of fairground attractions including inflatables, zorbing balls, bungee trampoline, cup and saucer ride and hook a duck.

## **Main Village Hall**

In the Village Hall there will be a display of memorabilia by the Millennium Green Trust, along with some craft stalls. Prize Draw tickets will also be on sale.

## **Refreshments**

Come and sit down and relax in the Village Hall and be served with delicious tea, coffee, and cakes by the WI. There will be burgers, hot dogs, and toasted sandwiches, along with donuts and ice cream.

**The Sports and Social Club will also be open from 12 noon.**

## **Grand Draw at the Sports and Social Club**

We have again received some fabulous prizes. 1<sup>st</sup> prize a 4 seater buggy ride around Watatunga Wildlife Reserve, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a photograph voucher by Light of Grace Photography, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize a wine hamper, plus many more exciting prizes.

We are very grateful to all those who have donated prizes and details of these, the donors and winners will appear on the village website. Grand Prize tickets are on sale now through various outlets in the village and will be available at the Fete. The draw will take place at 8.00pm.

## **Thank you**

A big thank you to all who have helped in any way to support the fete – including the Village Fete Working Group, the Gossip, The Village Hall, The Parish Council, The Sports and Social Club, The 2<sup>nd</sup> Runcton Holme & Watlington Scout Group, Mill House Veterinary Surgery, The Angel Public House and Restaurant, Limetree Publishing (printing of our posters and draw tickets) and the most generous sponsors of the Grand Draw.

Any proceeds from this year's fete will be divided between the Pre-School (for outside play equipment), Village Hall (maintenance) and the Millennium Green (maintenance) and the 2nd Runcton Holme & Watlington Scout Group

## **Car Parking**

Please remember, parking is limited.

## **Sponsors of the Grand Draw (at the time of going to print)**

**Banham Zoo      Birdhouse Brewery      Light of Grace Photography**  
**The Angel      Watatunga Wildlife Reserve**  
**Watlington Village Fete Working Group Committee Members**

***It would be great to see you, to help us celebrate our community!***

## Nature Notes with Chris Dyson

One of the nature highlights since the last 'Gossip' was delivered is that a Red Kite appears to have taken up residence within the village boundaries. I have observed it on a number of occasions in a number of locations within the village area. It is a large bird and can be distinguished from the resident Buzzards by its distinctive forked tail and its wings are not as rounded as the Buzzards. The Red Kite is another bird that was persecuted to extinction in this country in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1990 they were reintroduced by bringing 13 birds from Spain. They have been very successful and are now not an uncommon site.

Some of the summer migrants are back with us although the Swallows were over a week later than I usually see them. I think this was probably due to the cold north easterly winds that we had in late April.

I heard my first Chiff Chaff of the year on 29<sup>th</sup> March in Paige Close. I am looking forward to the return of the Swifts at the beginning of May. A hen Blackbird was busy nest building on the 4<sup>th</sup> March and a Robin on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst on the 8<sup>th</sup> April whilst sitting in my car in the QEH hospital car park I watched a pair of Mistle Thrush busy building a nest in an Oak Tree.

We have Great Tits nesting in one of our nest boxes and Blue Tits in another so spring is definitely here. On the 25<sup>th</sup> April a family of young Blackbirds about two days after leaving their nest were being fed by their parents near the railway station.

I have already observed Peacock, Tortoiseshell and Orange Tip butterflies on the wing. Also there have been a good number of Bumble Bees buzzing about. Ladybirds have also been observed in large numbers so whether we are due for an eruption of millions in the summer remains to be seen.



Also very active on the sunny days in late April were Mining Bees busy excavating their nest burrows. They leave what look like miniature volcanoes in parts

of our garden.

Although there are several bees making their nest close together they are in fact solitary bees. Each female is working independently and once she has excavated her nest she puts pollen and nectar in each of the five or six cells and lays an egg in each cell. Once she has done this she has no more interest in her nest and the larvae will complete their

transformation underground. Then they will emerge as adult bees the following spring and start their life cycle again.



The mining bees are parasitized by Oil Beetles which have quite a complicated life cycle. I saw the first Oil Beetle of the

year on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and a mating pair on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. They are large black beetles and are somewhat clumsy. They will start to climb a flower stem or even a wall and then fall off and will repeat this a number of times. They are called Oil Beetles because if they are disturbed they secrete an oil like substance which is in fact their blood. This causes blisters and painful swelling and gives this group of beetles their other name which is Blister Beetles.

In spring the female Oil Beetle lays a number of batches of several thousand eggs in the soil. These eggs soon hatch into louse like insects which crawl to the top of spring flowers. Here they wait for the right solitary Mining Bee to come to collect pollen and nectar from the flower. If this happens then the larvae which have strong claws attaches itself to the Bee.

When the Bee returns to its nest with the food store for its young the Oil Beetle larvae detaches itself from the Bee. It then proceeds to eat the bee's egg and lives on the bee's food store whilst going through a number of changes before emerging the following spring as an adult beetle. This life cycle all depends on the right solitary bee coming to the flower. If this does not happen then the Oil Beetle larvae dies.

I hope you have all enjoyed seeing all the different blossoms around the village.

The Magnolias were spectacular but they did not last long due I

think to the very dry spell of weather and repeated frosts when they flowered.

The Winter Cherries were very pretty with their delicate flowers. Whilst the Blackthorn in the hedgerows just seemed to go on flowering for weeks. Then in late April the Cherry trees with their gorgeous pink flowers against the clear blue sky were an absolute delight.



# Watlington Sports & Social Club



Good News! Watlington Sports & Social Club (WS&SC) is back open for business. Following the latest guidance provided by the government, we reopened on Monday 17th May 2021.

It has been the most unique time over the past 12 months, filled with a range of emotions but there finally seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel.

We have been working extremely hard behind the scenes on the club's refurbishment and we are thrilled with how it has

progressed these past few months. We simply cannot wait to open our doors to the local community so you can all come and see just how it looks!

Face masks will still be mandatory whilst moving around within the club until you are seated at your table. (Unless you are exempt). We will be continuing with table service until government restrictions lift.

## Opening times will be:

**Monday to Thursday : 17:00 - 23:00, Friday: 16:00 - 01:00, Saturday: 12:00 - 01:00 Sunday: 12:00 - Close**

These are under constant review and any changes will be displayed within the club and emailed out to members.

WS&SC 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.

The committee have made the decision to keep the kitchen closed for the time being. We will look to start food service - hopefully by the Summer.

**Membership:** As memberships have all now expired, this years memberships will all be due upon reopening. We have agreed to keep membership prices fixed for the next 12 months. These will remain at £15 for a single membership and £20 for a joint/family membership. You will be given a new style of membership card which will not only display your membership number, but will also have some great other benefits. You will need to request a membership form from a member of staff to ensure we have your details up to date and correct. If you are not on our mailing list and would like a copy of our membership form which can be printed off at home, filled in and returned to the club with your membership fee, please message Mikayla (details below) directly and I can send one over to you. For those who do not have a printer, do not worry as we will keep paper copies behind the bar, just ask a member of staff for one to fill out the next time you visit us.

If you would like to be part of the Watlington Sports and Social Club Committee, please email Mikayla Coote with your interest as there is currently an opening.

If you have any questions or queries at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Stay safe and see you all soon!

**Contacts:** Mikayla Coote on 01366 348190

(Please leave a message with name and number and you will get a call back)

**Website:** [www.watlingtonssc.com](http://www.watlingtonssc.com)

**Email:** [watlingtonsportsandsocialclub@outlook.com](mailto:watlingtonsportsandsocialclub@outlook.com)

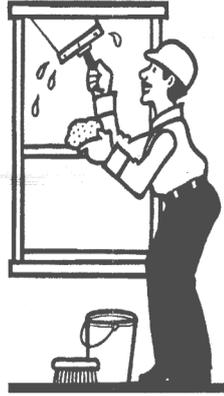
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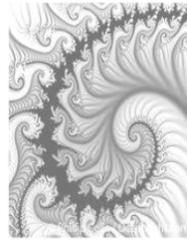
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## Millennium Green Trust



The new trees planted survived the dry spell and the cowslips are looking good. The grass has not grown as much as normal allowing the flowers to come through, but we would like it to return to normal growth soon and I am sure the bank holiday weather will provide the necessary rain.

The focus at the moment is trying to weed the petanque pitch. There are some very tenacious small plants which are a challenge to remove. We need to have it ready for July when the Wednesday Club play their annual game and usually beat our team. The pitch is available to anyone.

The bird nesting boxes have been cleaned and two more added. The trees, especially the bird cherry next to the scots pine, are showing wonderful blossom.

We have been fortunate to have two new volunteers. If you like fresh air and a bit of helping the environment, please join us.

You may have noticed colourful signs around the green and the village encouraging dog owners to pick up their dog poo. I would also ask you not to put it in the bins on the green as they are open and unhygienic for this purpose. Please use the proper bins which are at each end of the green. These are sealed and emptied by the Borough Council special teams. Enjoy your Village Green and hope to see you on the first Saturday of the month.

*Keith Leedell*

## Watlington Wednesday Club

We hope that we will be able to meet in June after the 21st, all being well, if the virus is kept at bay and according to Government Restrictions and Guidelines.

I think a few of us think that if all is well our first meeting should be a celebratory Strawberry Tea. Let us hope there is a good strawberry crop and that the weather is as clement as some wonderful sunny afternoons in April were.

There will be a lot of catching up to do after so many weeks apart. We have so much to be thankful for with the successful rollout of the vaccine. And just as an aside, I heard the cuckoo this year on the 20<sup>th</sup> April what a journey these migratory birds make!

*Barbara Church*

*Chairman of Watlington Wednesday Club*

## Watlington Brownies and Guides

### We're Looking Forward to Summer!

After more than a year since we last met at our hut, the leaders of 1<sup>st</sup> Watlington and Runcton Holme Brownies and Guides have been getting out the feather dusters and installing hand sanitiser stations. Finally, we are returning to our hut!

We have had a great time meeting online – learning new skills, laughing with friends, and forgetting our worries for an hour or so. But we are so excited to get back to our hut. The longer and warmer summer evenings can only mean one thing... it's campfire and S'mores season!

It's almost that time to get back to learning our campfire songs and freshening up our uniforms, so why not join us?



As we welcome back old Brownies and Guides and say goodbye to zoom calls and the technical issues that come along with it, we are inviting new girls to join us too.

Brownies and Guides is open to all girls aged between 7-10 or 11-14. New volunteers are welcome too – no age limits, but being young at heart helps!

At Brownies and Guides we teach the girls a variety of skills as well as giving them a safe space to relax and have fun. We arrange a variety of activities for the girls such as completing badges, special guest talks, craft and of course lots of fun games!

Our girls have said: "We like being just us girls because we can express ourselves", "I like seeing people I don't get to see at school", and "you get to escape and just... have fun with likeminded people!"

We meet on Thursday evenings, come along and make your promise, as a Brownie, Guide or even a leader.

*If your daughter wants to make some new friends and earn lots of exciting badges, contact Barn Owl (Chloe) at [watlingtonbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:watlingtonbrownies@gmail.com) or call 077539349691.*

*By Lucy Carter*

### 1st Watlington and Runcton Holme Brownies & Guides

Meet at the Scout Hut in Runcton Holme

**Brownies (7 - 10 years old) Thursday 6:00 - 7:15 pm**

**Guides (11 - 14 years old) Thursday 7:30 - 9:00 pm**

Email Chloe at [watlingtonbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:watlingtonbrownies@gmail.com) for more information

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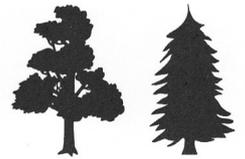
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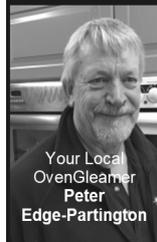
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# Watlington Village Hall



Good to see activity in the hall again as the children's groups have been able to meet again. Hopefully by the time you read this more groups will be able to resume their regular meetings even though we still have to be careful and follow the Covid safety guidelines.

We have been fortunate in receiving a further grant from the Borough Council and so have taken the opportunity to get a few more improvements done, specifically new flooring in the Jubilee Hall corridor and kitchen. Sometimes we can only get workmen in when the hall is not in use, ie children's holiday times. We do hope you can see the difference.

The bar area is the next in line for improvements, but this may not be completed until August. New stage curtains and some window blinds are also being costed. Unfortunately it seems that we will have to replace the heating boiler in the Jubilee Hall and plan to have that done in August too. Also thanks to the S&SC we now have some more comfortable chairs in the Committee Room.

## Quiz Nights

- 31st July Village Hall Quiz - 7.30pm start.  
(Bring your own drinks & nibbles)
- 21st August Watlington Players Quiz - 7.30pm start  
(See page 29 for more details)

## 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.

- Feb 2021 - £54.02 Watlington Young Players
- March 2021- £63.10 Watlington Church Roof Repairs
- April 2021 - £90.70 Millennium Green Trust - AGMGT

Thanks to all the customers who contributed.

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

Jim has extended the distribution area to local villages that use Watlington shop and Post Office and probably contribute to the charity box. If you know of a worthy cause in Runcton Holme, Tottenham, Wormegay or Magdalen please let us know.

## 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 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

## Recent Winning Numbers

***You have to be in it to win it!***

***Please Support YOUR Village Hall***

2021	£100	£40	£15	£10	£5	£5
Feb	-	111	27	89	177	135
March	-	66	125	177	100	29
April	47	-	101	121	175	167

## WATLINGTON VILLAGE VIRTUAL MARATHON 2021



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POPULAR DEMAND**

**Watlington's 2nd Virtual Marathon.  
Your challenge is to walk, run, cycle or swim  
26.2 miles between 31st May and 31st July 2021.**

Entry is available to all and costs £4.99 per person.  
All successful participants will receive a medal and certificate.

This is a fundraising event hosted by Watlington Preschool and Watlington Community Primary School's PTA.

All children who attend Watlington Preschool and Watlington CP School in the second half of the Summer term 2021 will receive free entry into the event.  
Why not get the whole family involved!!

To keep up to date, follow our Facebook page Watlington Village Virtual Marathon.

Watlington Preschool, charity no. 1133641



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## Watlington WI



### Ban the Lockdown Blues!

Watlington WI meetings in the Village Hall will resume in July, with our delayed Birthday meeting, our Pimms & Puddings evening with music by Patsy Rose.

We are now booking speakers for the rest of the year with the emphasis on fun. Craft Club and Book Club meetings are also planning to resume.

However, we have not been hiding for the last year. We embrace modern technology and have been having virtual meetings by Zoom since the beginning of the year which have been a lot of fun and enabled us to keep in touch.

Our June meeting on 8 June will still be by Zoom with a demo of Indian Block Printing.

We also have our monthly newsletter, mostly sent out by email, and still receive our "WI Life" magazine which is sent out to all members direct to their home.

The WI page on the Watlington Norfolk Website is being kept up to date and is a good starting point to catch up.

**Working from home?** Feel the need for personal contact? Then why not come to one of our meetings.

**Recently moved into the local area?** Come along to a meeting and meet new people. We have members from several local villages including Runcton Holme & Tottenham.

**Myth Busting!** You don't have to be able to cook, sew or knit. You only need to be 18 or over to join.

We have had several prospective members contact us, so you will not be alone and will be greeted at the door and welcomed.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the WI or coming along to see what we are about, please contact Emma on 01553 618855. or check out our page on the village website for updates.

**Email:** [watlingtonwomensinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:watlingtonwomensinstitute@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk) - WI page

**Facebook:** Watlington WI

### WI Open Meeting Tuesday 10th August

This is one of the rare occasions when our menfolk are welcome to attend and anyone who may be interested in seeing what we do.

#### Alex Harrison a local Chocolatier

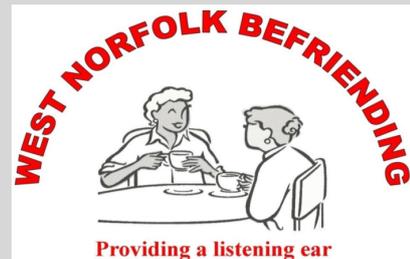
will be doing a demonstration and there will be chocolate to try and buy.

Refreshments will also be served.

### 'That Perfect Summer Day.'

Mist floated on the water  
Light as candyfloss,  
Ready for sunlight  
To blend its warm rays.  
It looked soothingly calm the lake,  
Waiting to burst  
Like taut plastic  
Across a pickle jar.  
Gradually it came  
A giant yolk  
With the dawn chorus  
And shafts of golden light.  
Filtering through the reeds, with  
Wisps of steam rising from the surface.  
A ripple broke the tautness,  
All seemed to change.  
The mist cleared, and soon,  
Was gone like a giant balloon.  
But, there was no going back  
The insects were out to play, on  
'That Perfect Summer Day.'

*John Reynolds*



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Please contact us for volunteering opportunities



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Runcton Holme & Watlington Scout Group

I am delighted to announce that we are now holding all of our section meetings face to face at our HQ! The laughter, smiles and chatter have returned. This has been down to a lot of work behind the scenes by our leaders and group executive committee.

I would like to thank them all for their ongoing work, to enable our Beaver, Cub, and Scout sections to meet and take part in some amazing activities which help the young people gain skills for life. The sections have enjoyed some great face to face meetings to date, all of the Zoom meetings will now be put into practice with hands on practical activities, whilst following the government's guidelines. The safety of our young people and adult helpers is paramount.

To help run the section meetings we are actively looking at recruiting adults for leadership roles, occasional helpers and also members for the executive committee. Whatever your skillset, if you can lend a hand for as little or as much time as you can spare, we promise you'll get more out than you put in. We provide the training. You show up, get stuck in, and make memories for life. Sounds fun? Worthwhile? It is. Could you spare us a couple of hours a month?

Let's not forget our young people also. Scouting around the world has seen a drop in numbers over the last year, but we kept on scouting throughout the global pandemic. Cooking, movie making, museum visits and survival skills were just a few of the activities we were able to deliver via Zoom meetings. Over the last week or two we have had five young people join the Beaver and Scout sections, which is great news and we are hoping to welcome more young people in the future.

If you are interested in finding out about Beavers, Cubs or Scouts please contact Bob Keens, Group Scout Leader on 01553 810855 or email [b.keens@hotmail.com](mailto:b.keens@hotmail.com).

The group will be helping out at the Watlington village fete this summer with activities for everyone to take part in and a display in the main arena. There will also be a Scouting competition running throughout the day with a chance to win a fantastic prize.

To show our thanks to everyone that has supported the group, and our young people, throughout the pandemic we will be holding an open day at our HQ on Saturday July 3rd. The day will consist of lots of outdoor activities for everyone to take part in along with a BBQ and refreshments, finishing off with a camp fire in the evening. We hope to see you all pop down so we can say thank you.

Lastly I must say a massive thank you to all Beavers, Cubs,

Scouts, parents and carers, Zoom guests and helpers for sticking with us over the last 14 months. It's been a tough time but we have all helped each other along the way.

*Thank you*

*Skip (Andy Nicol) Scout Section Leader*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Runcton Holme and Watlington Scout Group*

*School Road*

*Runcton Holme, Norfolk PE33 0AN*

### **2nd Runcton Holme & Watlington Scout Group**

Meet at the Scout Hut in Runcton Holme near the school

**Beavers (6-8 year olds) Monday 6:00 to 7:00 pm**

**Cubs (8-10½ year olds) Wednesday 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Scouts (10½-14 year olds) Monday 7:15- 9:00 pm**

**Bob Keens:** Group Scout Leader 01553 810855

*[b.keens@hotmail.com](mailto:b.keens@hotmail.com)*

**Andy Nicol:** Scout Section Leader 01553 811201

*[andy-nicol@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andy-nicol@hotmail.co.uk)*

### **Plan for a perfect day**

Waking up to a bright sky, with just a hint of breeze  
Breakfast in the garden, wearing shorts that show your knees  
No need to rush and no one to please  
Close your eyes and listen to the birdsong in the trees.  
Ploughman's lunch by the river, being part of the summertime cast  
Cold beer in the glasses, for summer's here at last  
Ice cream, melting memories of sticky-fingered past  
Cherish every moment-it will go by so fast.  
Meeting friends for a barbeque in the eventide  
Tempting smells waft from the coals, so good to be outside  
Till dark, from the cold no need to hide.  
A perfect day? Well we certainly tried.

*Elaine Carpenter*



## Watlington Young Players

### We Are Back!!

Since Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April we have been rehearsing the songs to the Disney Junior version of ***Alice in Wonderland*** – working within the guidelines. We are hoping we will be able to block the scenes after 17<sup>th</sup> May in readiness for our performances on Saturday evening **17<sup>th</sup> July** and Sunday afternoon **18<sup>th</sup> July**.

We are all so pleased with the young members of the cast who are demonstrating such enthusiasm and commitment to the production. Details of tickets are not available at present so if you would like to support the show please look out for posters and other advertisements.

We have some special 'thank-yous' to make:- To Jim, June, Linda, the rest of the staff at the Village Shop and its customers we thank you for the donation of £54.02. Thank you to The Watlington Gossip Team who has kindly agreed to donate £300 to the cost of a further radio microphone for our production. We are very grateful to both organisations for their generous support.

It all looks promising that we can go ahead at last!!

*Penny Cooke*

## Watlington Players

### Hello everyone!

I hope you are all well. As our roadmap to freedom starts unfurling we have been able to make some plans for our future shows. Obviously, if things change we may need to have a rethink, but fingers crossed!

Our first slot is in October with the already cast ***Allo Allo***, so we have had to postpone Carrie for the moment sadly. We can't wait to see everyone and start rehearsing again.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support during these challenging times. Best wishes to all of you and your friends and family.

### 'Allo, 'Allo

Directed by Jenny Ives

Performance dates: 28th - 30th October 2021.

More details to follow!

Allo Allo is based on the hugely successful British Television series that ran for seven seasons. This uproarious comedy relates the adventures of the hapless cafe owner Rene, in occupied France.

### Quiz

We hope to have our first quiz all together on Saturday 21st August, 7.30pm. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles, no need to pre-book, but teams can be up to 8! This will once again be hosted by the fabulous Richard A and Debbie. Entry TBC.

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# Watlington Football Club



With the light at the end of the tunnel seemingly closer I hope that everyone is well and enjoying the bit of freedom we have had over the last month or so. As a club the season was heavily disrupted and we only

got going again in April. Some teams have managed to complete the season but others were null and void back in December. During this time our long serving Chairman, Nathan McDonald, who managed through the age groups and was Manager of the Men's reserves has stood down. This will be a huge loss to the club but I would like to say a massive thank you to Nathan for all his hard work and wish him the best going forward.

**Under 9's 7V7 Format (Mid Norfolk)** What is great to see is the enjoyment at training and matches on a Saturday. They have continued to improve and the games have been really enjoyable. The players are clearly loving the environment and even though a broken season still continue to work hard and learn. With only a few more games to go I hope they will be able to finish with the same passion and looking forward to next season.

**Under 11's 9V9 Format (Mid Norfolk)** The development of this side is a joy to see, they continue to learn and this will stand them in good stead as they move in to competitive football next season. The team has adapted well with players leaving but thank you to the coach for his continued hard work.

**Under 13's Yellow 11V11 Format (Norfolk Youth Combined)** In a strong league the team have competed and worked tirelessly, against some very strong sides they have held their own and have continued to improve and enjoy their football. It has been a hard season with a small squad but with the determination shown has been a credit to them and though the season was null and void in December at that point they were midway.

**Under 15's 11V11 Format (Mid Norfolk)** They keep on improving season after season and are really pushing forward, competing with sides who not so long ago they would have found a hard game, Huge credit to the players for continuing and just shows that enjoying the game and hard work does pay off.

**Men's First X1 11V11 Format (North West Norfolk Saturday)** The side has become more settled and have really shown that they are capable of more, they have played some good football and results were going their way. With the league being null and void they were entered in a group

knockout competition, there are 3 games remaining and they need to win two of those to progress through. They are also in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the County Cup tie to be played 15<sup>th</sup> May against AFC Lynn Napier Reserves.

**Men's Reserve X1 11V11 Format** They have had a great season even though it has been disrupted they have only had one defeat in the last 13 months. A big thank you to Rob for taking over the reins from Nathan and for Colin for his continued support. They are now looking to next season and hoping that they can continue their good form.

**Season** For all teams it has been a difficult year and we hope next season is far better for everyone.

**Committee** I would like to thank the committee who have continued to work extremely hard, it has been difficult with the breakup of the season, but huge credit for their continued support.

**Fundraising** The lottery thanks to Vicky has been a huge success for the club and village which is great to see, thank you to everyone for the support.

We have not been able to complete any fundraising in this period but we are hoping to start once we can all get back round a table to discuss further.

**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, Creative Resin Design Ltd, Officescape and the Watlington Gossip.

Sponsorship is a massive part of all grassroot football 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 can 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.

**Next Season** We are in need of players so if anyone would like to join a club with a great environment for playing football then please contact me below.

**Finally**, I would also like to thank all Players, Parents, Guardians, Grandparents for their continued support.

Also the Coaches who work very hard to continue to provide football for all age groups and do an amazing job.

Most of all, enjoy your football!

**Tony Leggett**  
*legosw6@gmail.com*

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## More Tales From The Signalbox



The job of a signaller is mainly routine, but occasionally there is the 'I don't believe it moments'.

I was just raising the barriers after the train from Lynn, the down train, when I noticed a guy who got off struggling with a guitar,

large rucksack and a huge surfboard. His accent confirmed he was an Aussie and "Mate could he leave his gear with me while he fetched a van." "We don't do left luggage" I said "but just leave it by the stairs and don't be long."

When he returned I said "You must have had trouble with that on the train" to which he replied "Yea but not as bad as the TUBE." How on earth did he get a surfboard on the tube, how was he allowed? I had pleasant visions of the chaos he caused Londoners.



A week later two guys got off the train from Lynn with a very large chest of drawers. Again how did they get it on the train? They also asked to leave it while they get a van.

I should start charging for left unusual items.

I had a phone call from Cambridge University film training unit saying they were filming all along the line, any problems. No just do it from a safe position. They would be there about 10 o'clock. Just before 10 I heard crunching noises from trackside and looked to see which engineers it was, as they are allowed on trackside. It was the Cambridge camera crew set up with tripod right next to the track and No Trespassing sign. I suggested (!) they get off the track and film elsewhere preferably Kings Lynn.

Then there is the arrogant passenger. The barriers were down and the train from Lynn approaching when a guy in a three-piece suit walked in without knocking, holding out a set of car keys. He said "Just park the car over in the car park. I'm stuck on this side of the barrier". No I don't do valet parking, he seemed most put out and said "Well it

can stay where I left it" and rushed off. I hoped someone complained his car was obstructing the highway.

Us signallers try and keep good relations with the train drivers. Not easy as they work for a different company and when there are problems it becomes a blame game.

One driver Bernie was always amenable, would give you a passing wave or a bit of advice rather than a complaint. I saw he was driving the up train from Lynn and he returned my wave. I heard the train doors close and then rather than the train depart there was a pounding on the stairs, the door flew open and Bernie appeared looking concerned.

A heart stopping moment, what was the disaster. He held out his tea mug, "Lend us a splash of milk, I've run out." With shaking hands, I gave him some milk and off he went. Luckily, the passengers were unable to see this as the doors had closed, not good when you see the train driver abandon his cab, but I spent the rest of the shift waiting for the call from control to explain the delay incurred by Bernie's train and trying to work out a plausible reason. Lack of milk for driver's tea would not pass. The call never came but whenever Bernie passed the signal box sometimes I got a thumbs' up or a wave of his tea mug.

I was not a fan of night shift. When all trains had finished it was fairly quiet but you heard odd noises from equipment; the signal box which was a prefabricated wooden building creaked and things in the dark, foxes, cats and other eerie noises animals make.

Railway stations attract odd people. I was happily dozing when I realised the dark was a bit lighter. Too early for sunrise and looking out I saw a glow in the old wooden waiting room.

Could be a fire. Brave or stupid

I grabbed an extinguisher and rushed over. There in the waiting room was a

gentleman of the road, we call them homeless now.

He had lit a fire in the old hearth to keep warm. I told him it wasn't safe, there wasn't a proper grate and this old wooden building would go up like a torch. I had to put the fire out but let him stay - he may have been waiting for a train at 2 o'clock in the morning.

*Keith Leedell*



## 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  
Mrs E Burry 01553 618885 emburry@googlemail.com  
Mr A Culy 07885 990624 antony\_culy@hotmail.com  
Mrs R Davidson 07776 367036 reaandbarry@aol.com  
Mrs J Golding 01553 811362 jean@goldings.biz (**Chairman**)  
Mrs S Sheldon 07824 353555 sarahholmes8019@hotmail.com  
Mrs B Leedell 01553 810848 kgbj@dell4277.plus.com  
Mr T Palmer 07919 033943 timpalmer73@aol.com

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**Borough Council:** 01553 616200

**Borough Councillor:** Jim Bhondi 07542 229013 / 01553 810263

**County Council:** 0344 800 8020

**County Councillor:** Brian Long 01945 430169

**MP: Elizabeth Truss:** 01842 766155

**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

**Village Hall Website:** www.watlingtonvillagehallnorfolk.com

**Village Hall Email:** watlingtonvillagehallnorfolk@gmail.com

**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

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**Gas Emergency:** 0800 111 999

**Electricity Emergency:** 105

**Public Road Water Leak:** Anglian Water 0800 771 881

**Street Light Faults:** 0344 800 8008 or www.norfolk.gov.uk

## Coming Events (At the Village Hall unless stated)

### June 2021

31 May to 31 July - Preschool Virtual Marathon (See p.25)

13 - Preschool Yard Sale (See p.5)

29 - Parish Council 7pm (See p.15)

### July 2021

17 / 18 - Young Players *Alice in Wonderland* (See p.29)

24 - Grand Village Fete 11.00 - 4.30 (See p.18/19)

27 - Parish Council 7pm (See p 15)

31 - Quiz Night 7.30pm (see p 25)

### August 2021

10 - WI Open Meeting: Chocolate! (See p.27)

17 - Watlington Players Quiz Night (See p 29)

### September 2021

2 - Grand Church Fete 2pm (Old Rectory) (See p.11)

## Benefits and Advice Team

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You can email us at any time to request a visit or ask for advice: [revenuesvisitingteam@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:revenuesvisitingteam@west-norfolk.gov.uk).

## Considering advertising in the Gossip?

For further information contact Brenda Leedell  
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## 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 Village People (Norfolk) - issues and events**  
**Watlington Gossip**  
**Watlington WI**  
**Watlington Sports & Social club**  
**The Angel Watlington**  
**Watlington Grand Village Fete**  
**Watlington Lottery**

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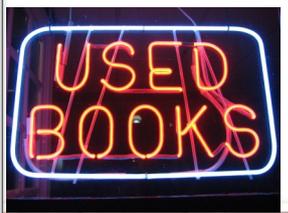
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