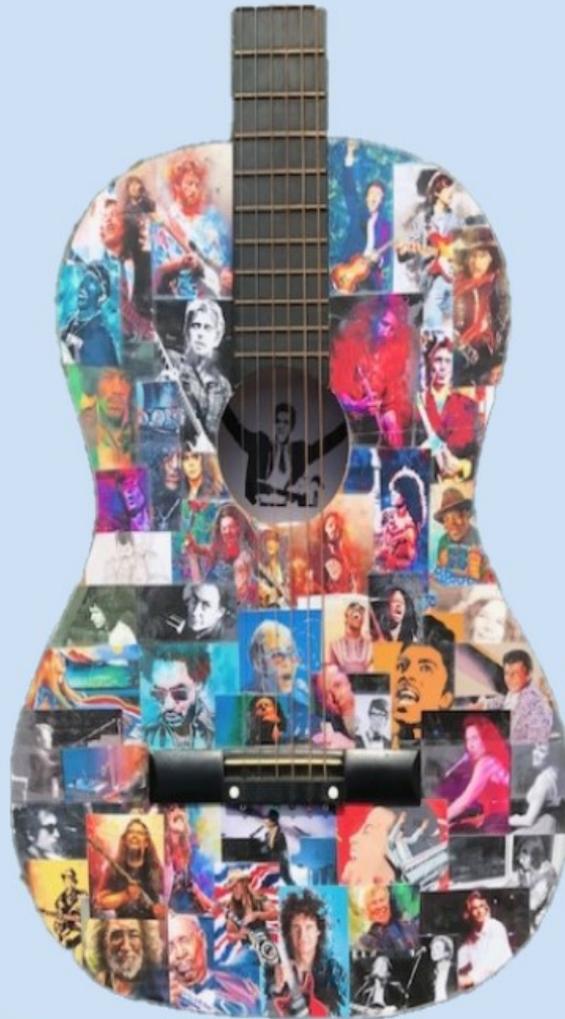




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Edition 91 Autumn 2021



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Music All Around Us

Welcome to the Autumn 2021 Gossip. Our theme for this issue has been 'Musical Memories' which has brought a good response and a few trips down memory lane.

Music is all around us, not just in the form of the many genres that are out there, but in other media as well, particularly television and film. The theme music for your favourite soap is a sort of call to the telly!

Dramatic music in a film - sometimes to the point where there are complaints that the dialogue can't be heard. But can you imagine a film like 'Casablanca' without the theme of 'As Time Goes By' running through it?

It is rare these days for a nature documentary not to have 'mood music'. And of course there are the jingles, commonly used by a TV station or streaming app or in adverts. I'm sure we've all had an earworm at times - a memorable piece of music that continuously occupies your mind even after it is no longer being played!

But most of all music is the backdrop to many occasions, personal and community, where there is a celebration to be had. Or it's singing out loud to your favourite song or at a music festival with a joyous crowd. Anyway, whatever your relationship is with music enjoy the rest of the summer days.

To end - as always our grateful thanks to our contributors, advertisers and distributors.



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 92** of the Gossip is **1st November** for publication by 1st December 2021

Thieves Bridge Road Housing Development Meeting



Freebridge Community Housing are looking to develop land at Thieves Bridge

Road, Watlington. We are proposing to hold a drop in event at the **Village Hall (Jubilee Hall) on the 21st September between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm to explain our proposals.**

The land has been allocated in the local plan for a number of years for development and we would like to hear your thoughts and give residents the opportunity to put forward suggestions for inclusion in our planning application or raise any concerns about our proposals

This is an informal opportunity to share our proposals and seek feedback. We look forward to seeing you there.

Local Plan Review Draft Consultation

The draft blueprint for future potential development in West Norfolk up to 2036 is now available, including the site in Thieves Bridge Road.

As well as housing site allocations the review incorporates other documents including environmental impact, flood risk and affordable housing. To see the Local Plan Review Draft, go to west-norfolk.gov.uk/haveyoursay, click on **Consultations and then Local Plan. Representations can be made up to 27th September.**

Watlington Gossip

Published by The Volunteer Committee of Watlington Community Magazine

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Bonfire Etiquette

For over a year we have lived with the dreaded COVID-19. The village residents have been marvellous and maintained social distances around the village and the shop as well as the good old chippy.

The government recommends the opening of windows to allow air to flow and reduce the spread of the horrible virus. However, this is extremely difficult when individuals decide to have a bonfire during the day or late evening. Some residents suffer from asthma, COPD, and other respiratory problems and this doesn't help at all. So before you light that bonfire ask yourself;

1. Is it necessary?
2. Have I informed my neighbours?
3. Is it causing a nuisance?
4. Can I dispose in an other way?

Perhaps a little thought for the neighbours and air pollution needs to be considered before we light up, especially with the sunnier weather most people will dry clothes outside to reduce carbon footprint and be more environmentally friendly.

Nigel Wagg

Thank You from Watlington Church

Our thanks to Watlington Preschool and Watlington School PTA who kindly donated £126.63, part of their proceeds from their July 2021 Virtual Marathon, towards the repair of the Church Roof.

We would also like to thank Watatunga Wildlife Reserve for giving the proceeds from their reserve visits on the day of Watlington Fete, £240.

Thank you all so much.

John Murfitt, Barbara Church, Churchwardens and all members of Watlington PCC

New Floodline Number

A new single point of contact for flooding in Norfolk has been launched, allowing residents to report any sort of flooding quickly and efficiently. In the event of flooding residents can call **0344 800 8013** to report it.

Alternatively, residents can continue to report flooding online via www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding.

Where there is a potential risk to life from flooding people should still call 999 immediately.



Swan Youth Project

Here for the young people in and around Watlington!

We run an Open Access Youth Group at the Jubilee Hall, Watlington.

When: Thursday 4.30pm – 6pm, term time

Who can come: anyone over 10 years old

Cost: 50p per session

Come and fun with friends in a relaxed environment. Tuck and Hygiene Bank available at all sessions.

More info: anna@swanyouthproject.org

www.swanyouthproject.org

The Watlington Handbell Ringers

It is with great regret that the Watlington Handbell Ringers have closed down. Unfortunately age and ill health have caught up with us and although we could still ring, transporting the bells in their cases has proved too difficult for us.

The bells belong to St. Peter & St. Paul church and this group was started by Rosemary Harris in about 2005, although most of the bells are over 100 years old.

We have had some lovely times playing in church, village halls, social functions, day care centres and care homes.

I would like to thank all those who have listened to and enjoyed our music.

If there is anybody who would be interested in learning the bells, you never know we could be back!!

Please contact me on 01553 810201.

Val Dagnall

Advertising Rates for one year (4 issues)

1/16th page £35; 1/8th page £55; 1/4 page £80
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Watlington School is 40!!

2021 marked a momentous time in the history of our school as we turned 40 this year. Our birthday was actually on 8th January but with another lockdown announced we decided to move our celebrations until the summer. So, on a glorious summers day of 16 June we held a big birthday party with lots of games and activities.

Children baked cakes to celebrate the day as well as sketching the school building, exploring the history of the school through the old school log books and prepared a leaflet for new parents. Other classes took themselves back to 1981; learning about the fashion, the music and the dancing that went on in that time. The smallest children made “40” with their handprints and footprints and put in a jar sentences about everything they loved about the school to be read out over the next few weeks.



Photo taken courtesy of Jamie Robinson, JR Light & Sound

There were two highlights of the day. The first of which was a fantastic picnic held outside for all the children, made better for the fact that it was held in glorious sunshine and because it was the first time in nearly 18 months that the children were able to see each other in person – albeit still maintaining social distance and being in their bubbles. Thank you to Mrs Carter and Mrs Tiffin our amazing cooks for the food. We even sang Happy Birthday!

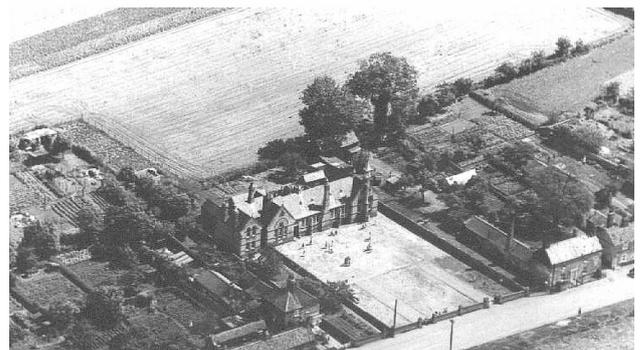
The second highlight was taking a photo of the whole school in the shape of **40!!** It took a little organising but we loved the photo that was taken and we hope it will be a reminder of the great day that we had! We all hope the school will continue to serve the community of Watlington and hope that there will be many more birthday celebrations to come.

2021 was also the year I said “Goodbye” to Watlington Community School as I start a new role supporting schools all over Norfolk in September. I have many fond memories of my time at the school – 15 years in total and 9 ½ as Headteacher. It has been a privilege and pleasure supporting the community of Watlington and wish everyone all the best for the future.

Thank you to everyone in the village who sent me messages of good luck and gave me presents in my last days of the school year. The last 18 months have been challenging but I am so pleased that I know the school is in safe hands with staff who are committed to doing the best for the children. I look forward to hearing great things about the school and of the village in the local news. I am sure there will be many!

As we have come to the end of another academic year and look forward to a new year, we all hope that 2021-2022 will be a little more “normal” than the last two. September has always been known as a fresh start in education and it will be even more so this year as we hope to hold whole school events and finally move away from bubbles. We have really missed sharing our news and what the children have been doing with our families. Let’s hope we can.

Mrs Ruth McGlone
Headteacher



Old school photos of the old school, in School Road



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Watlington Medical Centre News

I can't believe how fast this year is flying by and we are talking of the flu vaccination season. Influenza is a potentially serious disease and an annual vaccination is the best way to protect yourself.

Let me reassure you that Watlington Medical Centre has ordered your flu vaccination and we will endeavour to inform you via our website and Social media of our clinic dates or please ring us in October.

During this difficult last 18 months living with the restrictions that Covid 19 has brought, a lot of us have neglected our health and wellbeing. Some of us have gained weight and this has implications on our health and wellbeing.

Worldwide obesity has nearly tripled since 1975 and in 2016 more than 1.9 billion adults were overweight and 13% were obese. The Watlington Medical Centre Team are aware how difficult it is to lose weight and that support is needed.

A modest weight loss of 5 to 10 percent of your total body weight is likely to produce health benefits, such as improvements in blood pressure, blood cholesterol and blood sugars, as well as a boost to your mental health.

We are very pleased to announce we have new ways of supporting you with your weight loss, including access to a digital weight management programme, access to Slimming World clubs and will be actively encouraging those who wish to lose weight to contact us.

Please don't be alarmed if you are asked about your weight at a consultation and whether you would like some support, it is part of looking after you and not meant as an insult at all (some of us also need the support!).

I was thinking of the theme of musicals of this issue of the Gossip and how I could link this to my blurb, I gave up and will end with this instead ...

Don't be Les Miserable Guys and Dolls, The Sound of Music and Singing in the Rain is not Taboo in autumn time and we will soon be spraying our Hairspray and walking along Sunset Boulevard, seeing the Cats playing on 42nd Street!

Keep safe, healthy and happy and look after each other.

Amanda Moss
Partner WMC

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Advertising rates on Page 4

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| 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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Fen Line Users Association

The name FLUA may not be familiar to all the readers of this magazine but for the last 35 years the Fen Line Users Association has been actively campaigning to improve services and facilities for passengers on the line between King's Lynn and Cambridge. And that includes your station at Watlington which according to official figures was used by nearly 154,000 passengers in the year before the Covid 19 pandemic struck. We know that some passengers choose to drive to Watlington rather than brave the traffic queues heading into King's Lynn but it's still surprising that we don't have a single member with a Watlington address which is something we'd like to remedy.

Over the years FLUA has successfully lobbied for extra seats on both the platforms, a proper hard-surfaced car park plus longer trains on the route, and we now have all of these. Getting a seat when joining the train at Watlington wasn't usually a problem but now with 8-coach trains there should be plenty of seats for travellers returning from London and Cambridge - and you can sit in any part of the train as long as you remember to walk through to the front 4 coaches to get off.

Earlier this year we were concerned about the amount of rubbish behind the platforms and at our request Great Northern have now provided hoops and bags for refuse at the entrance to both platforms.



Currently on our wish list for Watlington are a larger shelter on the southbound platform and a new ticket machine on the northbound side of the level crossing along with a much needed freshen up for the station in general.

However, our main commitment remains the same – that of a full half-hourly service on the line

throughout the day.

FLUA members receive 3 x newsletters a year and can attend our AGM with the chance to speak directly with railway management. For details, please see our website at www.flua.org.uk or have a look at our new poster at the station. And as well as recruiting some local members it would be great to have a Watlington resident on our committee too. Contact us at: fluasecretary@flua.org.uk



Watlington Under 5s



Watlington Under 5s

We are an established group for children 0-5 years old. Based at Watlington Village Hall the group is open every term time Wednesday from 9:30-11:30.

We are very reasonably priced at £2 per child with just an extra 50p for any additional children. Our main aim for the group is to offer interaction and support for children and adults.

We are currently looking for more volunteers to help run the group. If this is something you would be interested in please contact us via our *Facebook page Watlington Under 5's* or contact elizabethhowling@hotmail.com .



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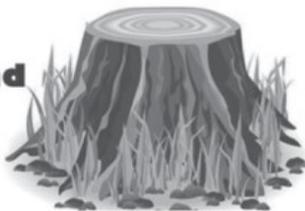
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Watlington Church News

Writing this towards the end of July, the next day in the Christian calendar falling on Sunday 1st August is Lammas Day when traditionally a newly baked loaf made from the first cut of wheat from the harvest would be brought into Church to be blessed.

Thankfulness for the harvest and all that represents can sometimes seem quite removed from the huge variety of foods on our supermarket shelves, the huge delivery lorries that drive on roads, the enormous contract combine harvesters which work through the night. And yet we still have Foodbanks in this country of relative variety and wealth.

As a church we feel thankfulness that the work on the chancel roof has been completed safely and thankfulness that the resident bat roosts have not been disturbed.

A few weeks ago, John Murfitt found a tiny baby bat no bigger than a large bumblebee on the floor, it had slipped off its mum. On the advice of the bat expert who has been helping to protect the bat roosts during the roof work, the tiny thing was put in an open box and was retrieved by its mother in the evening. We think that's a bit like the parable of the lost sheep or the lost coin.

I think many of us know the joy of finding something which we thought irretrievably lost, car keys and debit cards come to mind or that school project on which we burnt the midnight oil and then pressed the wrong button!

Many of you will have noticed the access paths in the churchyard with many areas left wild for flowers and longer grass which encourages insect life, birds, amphibians reptiles and small mammals.

Church Events for your Diary

Church Fete on Sunday 5th September 2pm at The Old Rectory Downham Road. All Welcome

Harvest Supper on Saturday October 2nd in Watlington Village Hall, lookout for posters and social media. A popular event! You need to book!

Quiz on 13th November 7pm in Watlington Village Hall

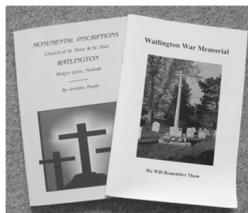
John Murfitt and Barbara Church Churchwardens

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.



From The Vicar

Dear reader,

Summer has been busy in our church in Watlington with baptisms and weddings. After a difficult winter with Lock-downs and sad funerals, the change has been very welcome. We continue to pray for all those who have lost loved ones, but we rejoice too with all those who are being brought together in love and marriage and all the young ones who are being baptised into the Church of God.

The Church of England's liturgy for weddings makes clear that marriage "is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind... Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthen community".

Alfred Lord Tennyson captured these ideas well in his poem 'Marriage Morning':

Light, so low upon earth, You send a flash to the sun.

Here is the golden close of love, All my wooing is done.

Oh, all the woods and the meadows, Woods, where we hid from the wet,

Stiles where we stayed to be kind, Meadows in which we met!

Light, so low in the vale, You flash and lighten afar,

For this is the golden morning of love, And you are his morning star.

Flash, I am coming, I come, By meadow and stile and wood,

Oh, lighten into my eyes and my heart, Into my heart and my blood!

Heart, are you great enough For a love that never tires?

O heart, are you great enough for love? I have heard of thorns and briers.

Over the thorns and briers, Over the meadows and stiles,

Over the world to the end of it Flash of a million miles.

With prayerful good wishes,

DK

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It's pretty hard to have a care
While Fred and Ginger dance on air.
Gene Kelly splashing in the rain
We'll never see the like again.
Howard Keel and Doris Day
Hollering "Whipcrackaway"
Sinatra singing in a bar
Charisse with legs that go so far-
Grace Kelly and Bing singing "True Love"
While Satchmo smiles down from above.
Watching Travolta strut down the street-
Even his hair gets combed to the beat.
Dirty Dancing- Patrick Swayze
Oh, he drove the ladies crazy!
Jesus Christ Superstar - it gets to me
I bet you too cry at Gethsemane.
So many dreams set to music and dance
Our senses to soothe and to entrance
Each with the power to bring laughter and tears
Enduring magic, through the years.

Elaine Carpenter

Millennium Green Trust

The seasons this year have been a distinct challenge, with more than our fair share of rain in recent months. Many of you will have adopted 'no mow May' to encourage more wild flowers and insect activity than you get in a neat clipped lawn. We went further and had 'no mow April, May, June and half of July'. The result was an increase in wild flowers from the latest survey with some 95 different species recognised by Gaywood Valley Conservation Group during their survey on the 9th June.

Our activities up to getting the grass cut for hay revolved around litter picking, with a surprising number of silver mini gas bottles found, along with some treatment to preserve the gates and associated posts near the entrances to the field.

Trustees have also been waging war on the weed spread across the petanque pitch where some tenacious stone crop varieties are trying to hold their own. We have resorted to chemical warfare and hope to win through so the pitch can be better enjoyed for a few games of petanque over the summer and for years to come. Please feel free to use the pitch for a game and currently there is no need to book, a potential very low risk activity for small groups.

The earlier warmer and wetter weather did result in thousands of wild flowers bursting into bloom and attracting many different butterflies and other insects over the sunnier and drier days. Now the organic hay crop has been gathered in the shorter grass will yet again encourage more seeds to find a suitable resting place to germinate in readiness for flowering next spring and summer.

The common names of the plants of the Green include **Birdsfoot trefoil, Catsear Chickweed, Cow parsley, Hogweed, Pignut, Common stork's-bill and Oxeye daisy** – all of which have wider animal connotations reflecting the plant namers scope of description of many years ago. There are some fascinating stories behind plant names, and I recommend 'Flora Britannica' by Richard Maybe as an excellent reference work. For example 'Field Horsetail' is often called the Lego plant. The cones are borne on the tops of separate unbranched stems rather like brown sticks of asparagus, which appear in March and April, two months before the branched green stems. Horsetail stems can be dismantled in sections and put back together again -hence Lego.

We hope for warmer weather (if not an Indian Summer) so all can enjoy the Millennium Green. If you would like to get involved do not hesitate to contact any volunteer. We are often on the Green from around 10.00am on the first Saturday of the month.

Mike Carter



A Burnet Moth on the Millennium Green

4th May 2021 Annual Parish Council Meeting

- ◆ Cllr Golding was elected Chairman and Cllr Leedell elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the coming year. Appointments were made to Council panels and to outside bodies for the year. (See the meeting minutes on-line for the full list.)
- ◆ The Council completed the annual review of its finance regulations and operating procedures for the coming year, with no amendments being made. (See meeting minutes).
- ◆ The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 Annual Return) for the financial year 2020/2021 and the Accounting Statements (Section 2 Annual Return) for the financial year 2020/2021 as detailed. The Council approved the Edward Shouldham Charity Accounts for the financial year 2020/2021.
- ◆ The Council approves the Internal Audit for the financial year 2020/2021.
- ◆ The Clerk reminded Councillors to review their Registers of Declared Interests and update them if necessary, this being a statutory requirement.
- ◆ Highways had scheduled repair works for the surface of the back road to King's Lynn and this was likely to be carried out within the coming weeks.
- ◆ Due to Covid, the Borough Council Local Plan was behind schedule.
- ◆ Discussions between the developer and Planning Officers were ongoing regarding the planning application for 25 dwellings on land to the rear of 24-36 Downham Road, Downham Road.
- ◆ The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) had confirmed it was now needing to contract a Planning Consultant, but fees for this service were not yet known. The Council supported this, but sought that quotes must be obtained.
- ◆ The Council approved a new trade waste contractor, Ellgia.
- ◆ The council has match funding of £2667 under the CIL scheme for a replacement of Martingales Fencing, the total cost being £5,333. and £1389 for a new slide on the Warren Close Play area, the total cost being £2779. Decisions made by the Borough Council would not be known until July 2021.
- ◆ The Council agreed to investigate a community litter picking scheme with the Council's insurance company before deciding on Council involvement.
- ◆ The Play Inspection Company had carried out the annual inspections of the four play areas. The Clerk to seek a quotation from Fenland Leisure for repairs.
- ◆ The Council approved the planting of small low-maintenance ornamental trees along one boundary of Martingales Green.
- ◆ The Village Hall had received an additional government grant to offset income loss. Small redecoration projects

within the building would be taking place. Window curtains were being replaced with blinds where necessary and costings for replacement stage curtains were being sought. A new cleaner of the Hall had been contracted and was doing an excellent job.

- ◆ The Council approved General Gardening Services trimming the Paige Close laurel hedge at a cost of £45.
- ◆ The Council's Insurance broker, Came & Company, is to be contacted to investigate whether the Council held any insurance cover for its two allotment sites.
- ◆ Construction of the Mill Road road had commenced. Some objections to the scheme were noted because of potential loss of parking spaces, but the Council noted that the scheme was to improve pedestrian Safety.

29th June 2021 Parish Council Meeting

- ◆ The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group updated the Council on the Neighbourhood Plan. The group is currently tendering for a Planning Consultant and preparing a draft funding application form
- ◆ Mr Martin Berliner was co-opted as a Parish Councillor following the resignation of Cllr Prior.
- ◆ The dispute with Veolia waste management company was now near resolution.
- ◆ The Council granted £1,000 to the Angel Field Millennium Green Trust to help with their ongoing costs for the ensuing year.
- ◆ The Council donated £400 to the Watlington Village Hall as a contribution towards the costs of new stage curtains for the Main Hall, subject to an application form being received.
- ◆ It was agreed to place another post on the village Facebook page advising that Norfolk Community Foundation Covid-19 Restricted Funds Grant money is still available for anyone in need. Cllr Davidson was given a vote of thanks for all the work she had carried out for the community during the crisis.
- ◆ It was agreed to investigate the possibility of having a lighting beacon for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.
- ◆ The Council signed a pledge to support the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's campaign to Sajid Javid MP, Health Minister, and the Secretary of State, for the funding of a new hospital.
- ◆ The Council approved Watlington Football Club erecting a goal post on the Glebe Field for the use of villagers.
- ◆ Some items on the Annual Play Inspection Reports would be tasked to the Community Payback Team (CPT) workers. A list would be made of all other items for Fenland Leisure to cost.
- ◆ An application to the Woodland Trust for 400 low ornamental, low maintenance, fruit and other hedging types trees application for the Stone Close Play area had been approved and delivery would be October 2021.

Your Parish Council News

It was agreed that some of the trees could be planted at the Warren Close Play Area hedge. Volunteer tree planters are needed.

- ◆ At the Village Hall new flooring had been laid in the toilets and kitchens, further painting had been carried out, the bar area had been revamped and a new fridge purchased. The worktops and new blinds will be installed soon.
- ◆ The Football Club is in need of new changing rooms and showers, as the Village Hall and Sports & Social Club no longer have suitable accommodation.
- ◆ The Clerk reported that no responses had been received from the allotment tenants regarding a Best Kept Allotment Scheme. It was agreed to rescind this project idea.
- ◆ The footpath hedging adjacent to the Pre-School was very overgrown. This is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council, who would be contacted.
- ◆ The landowner of the Fairfield Lane dyke has agreed to clear the nettles, but has advised that there is a discrepancy regarding ownership of the dyke.
- ◆ The Mill Road trod had been completed and feedback from most residents had been extremely positive.
- ◆ The bid for the Recreation Ground trod had been approved by Norfolk County Council. It was unknown when the construction would take place.
- ◆ The Borough Council has approved the planning application for Land Rear of 24-36 Downham Road, Downham Road - Residential development for up to 25 dwellings.
- ◆ Antisocial behaviour had recently been occurring at the side of the Village Hall. The Management Committee was looking into CCTV, via a link to the Council's CCTV and relocating the benches.

The 27 July meeting will be reported in the next issue.

Future Meetings of the Parish Council

21 September 7pm VH Main Hall

19 October 7pm VH Main Hall

30 November 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, 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 **Two** 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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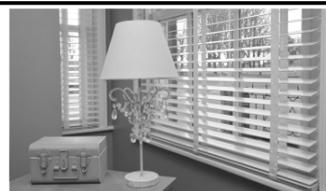
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Watlington Grand Village Fete

24th July 2021

After the disappointment of having to cancel last year's fete, the people of Watlington and surrounding villages took the opportunity of the good weather to 'Celebrate our Community' in style.



Rea opens the Fete with Alastair Bingham

Thank you to Rea Davidson for opening the fete and her kind words that wished everybody an enjoyable day.

As in previous years, various stalls, entertainment and refreshments were available on the day, the Punch and Judy show and Gray's funfair seemed to be popular, and the wooden games attracted children of all ages. The Watlington WI served tea, coffee and cakes in the village hall.

New to the fete this year was Watatunga Wildlife Reserve, with their bottle fed deer and ducklings. This addition to the fete was well received and provide the opportunity for them to explain more about their work. The trailer tickets sold on the day raised money for the Church roof fund.

In the main arena children's sports event and the Dog Show were held, these were both eagerly contested and provided good entertainment for the watching crowd.

The winners of the top three prizes in the Grand Prize Draw were Jane Edwards, the buggy tour for 4 at Watatunga Wildlife Reserve, M Powell, the portrait photo shot from Grave of Light Photography and Ivan Jacob, the hamper of wine. Noah Fleet, aged 9, won the children's prize on the wooden games.

From the proceeds from the fete, donations will go to Watlington Preschool, towards maintenance of the Village Hall, the Millennium Green, and the 2nd Runcton Holme and Watlington Scout Group.

The village fete working group can't thank enough those that supported the fete from generous donations to the grand prize draw, to the Gossip for funding the medals and rosettes, the Millennium Green for the use of their Marquee and the Village Hall Committee for the use of the Hall.

Thanks must go to all the help and support we received, way too many people to mention individually but collectively they all made the Fete the success it was.

Organisation of next year's fete has already begun, this will be held on the 11th of June 2022.

Alastair Bingham, Chairman

[More photos page 35]

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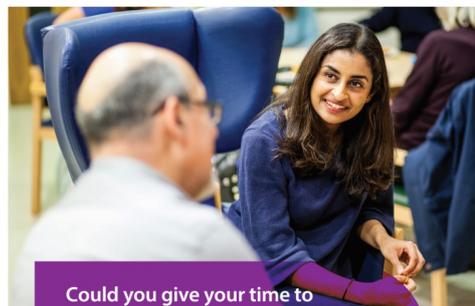


motor neurone disease
association

Volunteer Visitor, Motor Neurone Disease

Do you enjoy listening to people? Can you spare a few hours a week?

Association Visitors are trained volunteers who act as a point of contact for people living with motor neurone disease and their families and carers. The role is a challenging but rewarding one.



Could you give your time to support people with MND?

By donating your time, energy and skills you can make a real difference to the lives of people affected by MND. You would keep in touch regularly by phone, email, on-line or with visits. Timing is flexible, to suit you and the person you support.

For further information please contact Liz Cooper, Area Support Co-ordinator on 01604 800620, or by email Liz.cooper@mndassociation.org.

CP20/15

Watlington Preschool

Without doubt, parts of this last school year have been greatly affected by the continuing pandemic but we have so many positive things to look back on too.

As always, our children, families and the wider community have whole heartedly supported us in so many ways. The children's continued amazing ability to carry on through differing routines, still learning, laughing and making our job just the best. Our families commitment to trusting us with their children's care and some of them not ever having set foot inside our building. And the community for yet again taking part in the fundraising activities that mean so much to us. The Village Yard sale was a huge success again with over £700 being raised and the Virtual Marathon adding £784 to funds too, with a proportion going to church roof fund. A huge thankyou to Jack's at Woodlakes for their sponsorship of medals and prize tokens and all the local businesses that have sponsored and donated to preschool.

Alongside all the staple learning opportunities for our children such as themed role play areas, construction, messy play, music and movement, loads of outdoor play including growing vegetables we have again been able to offer brilliant PE sessions with coach Aaron from ICS Coaching. The children absolutely love this and the benefits are huge for them.

Probably our most exciting addition to preschool this school year has been the beautiful piece of wooden play/climbing equipment that was installed in July. We were so excited to be able to buy this, as a result of the hard work of fundraising of our dedicated volunteer committee and donations from the community. It was brilliant to see the children's faces as it was being installed and although there was only a shortish period to use it at the end of term, it will be there for many children to enjoy in the future.

So, as we came to the end of our school year, we were lucky enough to be able to stage our Sports Day and leaver's presentation as planned. It was a very hot, sunny day and the children were just amazing.

Four teams took part in running, bean bag, water and obstacle races and we concluded with our legendary parents v staff race which this year was "human buckeroo". As always the staff were victorious!!!! Thanks also on the day to our helpers Katherine, Aaron, Anjali and the stirring sound system and music provided by Norfolk Sound Systems. We presented our leaving children with a personalised photo/handprint frame and showed them a very special photo montage of their journey from first day to last on the big screen. Thanks to Mike Cooke for his help.

We would also like to wish Helen Haylock a long and happy retirement after many years as school secretary at Watlington Primary and Good Luck to Headteacher Ruth McGlone in her new post. Huge thanks for all your help and the support given to preschool.

And finally, although most of us have been at preschool for some time – actually 58 years service between us, we never ceased to be amazed by the progress, development and achievements, of the little people who come to us as not much more than babies and leave with so many fantastic skills and ready to learn in reception class. We are so proud of you and will miss you all – good luck!

And come September we will be ready and look forward to seeing our returning children and welcoming lots of new ones who will hopefully have lots of fun with us.

Best wishes

From the Blue Team

6 REASONS TO JOIN OUR PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISING TEAM

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">FOR THE CHILDREN</p> <p>BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU VALUE THEIR EDUCATION.</p> <p>THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S PRE-SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">FOR YOU</p> <p>VOLUNTEERING IS A REWARDING EXPERIENCE.</p> <p>WE PLAN TO HOST MANY SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY.</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">FOR THE SCHOOL</p> <p>HELP THE PRE-SCHOOL TO RAISE FUNDS</p> <p>HAVE A VOICE IN THE PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN.</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;">BE CONNECTED</p> <p>THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PRE-SCHOOL.</p> <p>MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE THE SAME COMMON GOALS TO HELP IMPROVE THE PRE-SCHOOL.</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">IT IS FUN!</p> <p>WE AIM TO ENJOY OURSELVES IN ALL OUR ROLES.</p> <p>FROM PLANNING EVENTS TO RUNNING A STALL IS EXCITING!</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">KEEP THE PRE-SCHOOL FUNDRAISING TEAM GOING</p> <p>AS PARENTS LEAVE PRE-SCHOOL WE NEED TO KEEP THE FUNDRAISING TEAM GOING.</p> <p>COME JOIN OUR FRIENDLY TEAM AS MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!</p>  |

Hello!

As always we appreciate all the volunteer help we receive when running fundraising events!

If you feel you would like to contribute time or resources please contact the **Preschool Manager Caroline Pocock: 01553 811035** or the Committee management team Chair, **Tracey Taylor: tj.b13@hotmail.co.uk**.

The Watlington Preschool is charity funded and relies heavily on government and community support.

We hope you can help us even if it is with a cake or two when we run cake sales. All funds as always go directly to the preschool and the children who attend.

Musical memories of a Bexley Girl

The first memory I have of any kind of music is my nanna singing to me and rocking me on her lap, 'We're two little sheep who've lost our way'. She also played the piano, 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic' and 'The Wedding of the Painted Doll'. I loved my dad playing the piano on a Sunday morning; the boogie-woogie and 'Walking my Baby Back Home' were my favourites. When I was seven he bought a Pye hi-fi in a polished walnut case and his first record, a ten-inch recording of Beethoven's fifth symphony. The sixth and seventh symphonies followed along with recordings by Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi. My dad liked jazz too, names such as Fats Waller, Earl Hines and Louis Armstrong. When he was working on a piece of lettering in his studio he would listen to the third programme on the portable radio. We children had our own record player, a Portadyne. The first record I bought with my pocket money was an EP of The Temperance Seven for 11s 6d. I played it constantly. One track was called 'You're Driving Me Crazy' and my mum said, yes it was very fitting!

Then came The Beatles. I bought every new release and stuck posters up in my bedroom, but I wasn't allowed to stick them on the wallpaper! So I stuck them on every available surface I could: the fireplace, the wardrobe and the door. My dad liked The Beatles, he said their music was close to jazz with all the syncopated rhythms, and we used to listen together. I had a school friend whose father was in the police force. He was given two tickets for a Beatles concert at the Lewisham Odeon in 1963. I was so overjoyed when he gave them to us. Wow! But I was very disappointed when the whole cinema was filled with screaming girls. I wanted to listen to the music.

After going to the cinema to see *Genghis Khan* in 1966, I bought the sound track in our village music shop. I loved this music and my dad would listen with me and encourage my diverse tastes. Also in that year, I was introduced to our local jazz club at The Black Prince. I loved it. From then on I went every Monday evening with friends from work. We were treated to some of the big names, Kenny Ball and Chris Barber among them. During the break pop records were played and this is when I got into Motown. 'Reach Out' by The Four Tops takes me straight back to those days. Sunday was R&B night when we had visiting bands such as The Shevelles, Gino Washington and the Ram Jam Band and The Ferris Wheel. It's only now that I realise how fortunate I was to be able to see all these live bands so close to home.

Julie Newman © 2021 E: J.A.Newman@pobroadband.co.uk
www.facebook.com/J.A.Newman.author

Books: 'No One Comes Close' a memoir; 'Where There's a Will' a light-hearted tale of rags to riches and 'Bay of Secrets' a family mystery. All available on Amazon.

Watlington Brownies and Guides

A refresher for a Brownie farewell song:

This term at Watlington Brownies and guides we have been writing down lyrics for a musical twist on the songs we use to end our evenings together!

It was great to see the girls in Brownies come up with so many different ideas on what to include in our own version of the song below:

*We've done our best to help our friends,
Be kind this week, 'til we meet again.
Good night.*

All of our evening activities are girl driven at the beginning of every term us leaders like to ask the girls what they would like to do throughout the following weeks.

We've also enrolled lots of brownies and guides this term who took their girl guide promise to help other people and to keep the guide law. It's been amazing to see so many girls keen to take their promise and continue their girl guiding adventure!



Before saying a final goodbye as the summer holidays commenced, we were lucky enough to get invited once again to Watatunga Wildlife Reserve on a breath-taking tour of the reserve. A massive thank you to Dee for giving a brilliant tour

and being such an inspirational conservationist.

As always we welcome girls aged 7-10 for Brownies and 10-14 for Guides to join us for the new year starting on Thursday 9th September. Adults are always welcome to join as leaders too!

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Chloe aka Barn Owl at watlingtonbrownies@gmail.com or call **07538349691**.

Ist 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
for more information

Nature Notes with Chris Dyson

One of the main observations since writing the 'Notes' for the last Gossip was the absence of our usual summer butterflies. To date (Late July) I have only seen one Painted Lady, about three Red Admirals and no Holly Blues. Even the Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, Orange Tips and Brimstones have been in short supply. Whilst as an allotment holder I should be pleased there has also been a scarcity of the, so called, Cabbage Whites. The Large White and Small White butterflies are normally in profusion at this time of year and their caterpillars decimate grower's brassicas.

However, when the hay was cut on the Angel Field/ Millennium Green on the 17th July there were large numbers of Meadow Brown and Large Skipper butterflies on the wing. Also when the hay was being cut a number of Cinnabar Moths were also seen.

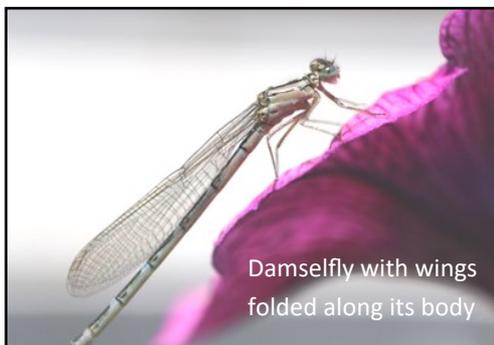


Whilst at home on the 11th June there was a very nice caterpillar of a Vapourer Moth. This is a rather striking little caterpillar with what

appear to be two horns on its head, a tail, four cream tufts along its back and red spots along the sides of its dark brown hair covered body. This showy display presumably tells birds that it is not good to eat. On the 1st July a newly emerged Large Skipper butterfly was on a Rhubarb leaf inflating its new wings.

The insects which have been noticeable by their large numbers have been Damselflies. They have been observed in our garden,

on the allotments and on the Angel Field/ Millennium Green. Whilst at the fishing lakes at Stow Bridge there



Damselfly with wings folded along its body

were clouds of them along with Dragonflies.

Several people have asked me how you tell the difference between a Damselfly and a Dragonfly. Damselflies are smaller and much daintier than most Dragonflies. However, the best way to tell them apart is to observe them when

they are resting on a plant stem. The Dragonflies always rest with their wings out-stretched whilst the Damselflies always fold their wings along their body.

I have had some very good views of Red Kites around the village since the last 'Gossip' was published. I saw my first Swift of the year on the 14th May over the Millennium Green which I think was a little later than usual. Whilst since then I have been pleased to observe as many as twenty performing their aerial flights over the 'Green'. They can be seen elsewhere around the village but the 'Green' is a really good place to watch them.

At home a pair of Great Tits reared a brood of young in one of our nest boxes. The young left their nest on the 16th May. Whilst a number of young Blackbirds, Starlings and House Sparrows have been brought to our garden to be fed.

We also regularly have a pair of Goldfinches (King Harry's) come to our feeders, as do Blue Tits, Great Tits, the occasional Chaffinch, numerous Wood Pigeons and Collared Doves. Dunnocks almost never go on the table but feed on the ground underneath it. A Wren regularly hunts our fences for insects.

Our Hedgehogs continue to come to feed each evening and at least two Bats fly over our and our neighbours' gardens in search of insects.

4th December
Watlington Village Hall
6pm start, eyes down at 7pm.

10 x rounds
3 prizes a round, and raffle
Refreshments on sale

Watlington Pre-School
Charity number 1133641

Watlington Sports & Social Club



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.

Current Opening Times

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.

The kitchen is still closed for the time being. We will look to start food service as soon as practical.

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.

Membership: Membership prices 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. Please request a membership form from a member of staff or a committee member.

There is currently an opening if you would like to be part of the Watlington Sports and Social Club Committee,. Please ask a member of staff or committee for details.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contacts: 01553 810171

Website: www.watlingtonssc.com;

Email: watlingtonsportsandsocialclub@outlook.com

Watch out on Facebook for updates.



The Key of Time

My dad loved country and singing along
I still know the words of each Jim Reeves song
Mum was so cool, she loved blues and jazz
Dylan, John Lennon, and Joan Baez.
I remember being tucked up in bed
Transistor radio held to my head
Aretha and Otis on 208
Enthralled by the sound, asleep too late!
First crush - the one you don't forget
He gave me his jacket as I'd got wet
The radio played "Something in the Air"
It doesn't sound much - guess you had to be there.
New friends and faces came along
Dances and parties full of song
We sat on your Mum's mock leather banquettes
Listening to Zeppelin, The Who, and Yes.
I danced with him to Spanish Eyes
In retrospect, it wasn't wise
Time passed - suddenly you were gone
Leaving too Abraham, Martin, and John.
And Dylan's "I want you" still starts a small fire
Once sung to me, with such desire.
You sang to me too when we first met
And that I will never, ever regret.
The song told me all you were too shy to say
And "Thank You" played still makes my day.
We chose a tune for our first dance
That summed up our gentle romance
"How Wonderful you Are" - and stay
Joyous memories of our wedding day.
For songs unlock the door of memory
Stepping back to where we used to be
And feel like a teenager, just once more
Dancing around the kitchen floor.

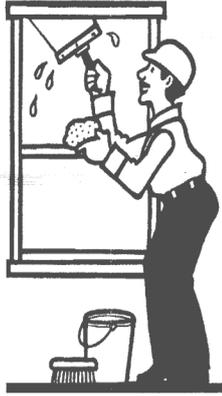
Elaine Carpenter



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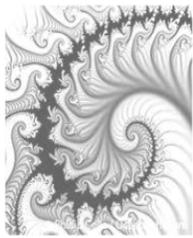
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Watlington Players

'Allo, 'Allo

Directed by Jenny Ives
28th - 30th October 2021, 7.30pm, £10
Watlington Village Hall

There has been some changes to the original cast, but we are looking forward to performing this hilarious comedy in October. Tickets are already on sale and you can buy them from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/watlingtonplayers.

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. He and his wife have stashed a priceless portrait stolen by the Nazis in a sausage in their cellar, where two British airmen are also hiding until the Resistance can repatriate them. Communications with London, using a radio disguised as a cockatoo add to the embarrassments this intrepid proprietor endures in the company of his patrons. News that the Fuhrer is scheduled to visit the town inspires tricksters disguised as Hitler to frequent the cafe. Meanwhile, Rene summons all the wit he can muster to save his cafe and his life.

To launch our first production (Allo, Allo) we are going to have a party evening on Saturday 25h September, 7.30pm!

You will also be able to buy show tickets. We will also use this night for people to have some fun performing. Whether you have a magic act, song, dance, comedy routine, mime, or something completely different, just let us know what your plan is and you can jump up on the stage to entertain us! Any backing tracks will need to be sent before the event. We will provide some cheese and wine, but feel free to bring your own snacks and drink as well. Entry £7.

Rapunzel The Panto

Directed by Ian Halliday
Assistant Director: Megan Abbott;
Choreographer: Ellie Fradley

Reading dates: Wednesday 8th September, Sunday 12th, Wednesday 15th, Sunday 19th Auditions Time TBC.

Performance dates: 6th - 8th January 2022

Rapunzel is a classically charming fairytale about a young princess who is locked up in a tower by the evil Mother Gothel. Until one day a handsome former prince (after being banished from the royal castle) stumbles across the princess after following the sound of her voice. He makes it his mission to rescue her and to defeat the evil mother Gothel and her evil henchman with the help of his sidekick Frankie and Frankie's mother who runs the kingdom hairdressers along with a whole host of other friends in a classic battle of good versus evil. You will not want to miss it. *Ian*

Watlington Young Players

Well we did it!! Finally, we were able to present the Disney Junior version of *Alice in Wonderland*. Two performances were held on the evening of Thursday 22nd July in Watlington Village Hall. *[Cast Picture p.35]*

I have to say that words will not convey how proud I was of the Young Players. They certainly pulled their stops out and gave the performances of their lives to two very appreciative audiences. I have received so many compliments on their behalf not just from proud parents but also from many people, not related to the performers, who were delighted to be back watching a live show and very impressed with the standard of performance. So well done team WYPS.

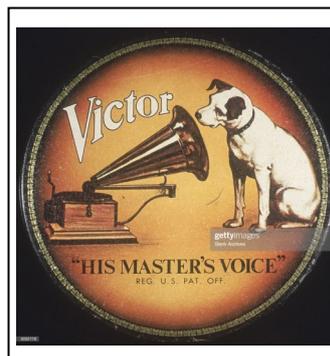
Sadly there were three of our members who at the last minute had to withdraw from the show because they were told to self-isolate. This was very disappointing to us and especially so to them. Erin Nicol, Maddie Jackson and Sophie Briffitt had all played a part in the preparation of the show and deserve credit for their input during rehearsals.

Last minute rehearsals meant that some doubling up of roles took place on the night. So special thanks to all who covered the various parts without scripts on stage, including our Musical Director, Debbie Bennett, who performed the role of the Queen of Hearts.

In view of the many problems we faced over the last 16 months, it is amazing that we managed to stage the show at all. There are so many people to thank – not only the regular team of helpers and technical crew of the Players but also the donations we received from the Gossip, The Village Shop charity fund, the people who won the Football lottery and others. We also thank, Alison Mason, Hugh Pearce, Eileen Cook, Kate Carpenter, Judith Lord, Abby Marshall and Jordan Leadbitter for their expertise and support.

WYPS will return on Friday 24th September. There are a few spaces for new recruits. If you are on the waiting list and of the correct age, I will be in touch. Please contact me if you wish to go on the waiting list.

Penny Cooke 01553 810732



Nipper (1884 – September 1895) was a dog from Bristol, who served as the model for an 1898 painting by Francis Barraud titled *His Master's Voice*. This image was the basis for one of the world's best known trademarks.

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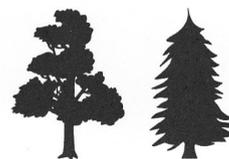
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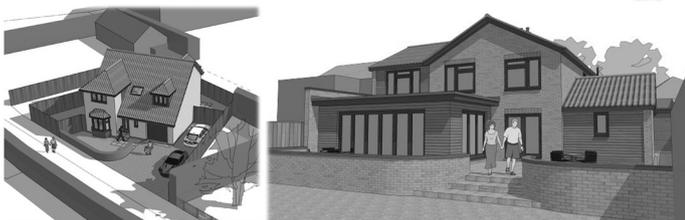
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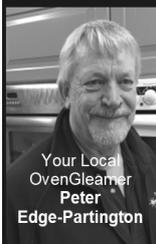
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Watlington Village Hall



July was a busy month seeing most groups back to face-to-face meetings in the halls. People are still being vigilant without compromising their freedoms. The first Quiz Night for a long time was held at the end of July and was very well attended.

No sooner had we got going again, school holidays are upon us, and the hall is not as busy. However, this gives us a bit more time to get more of the planned improvements and maintenance done.

By the time we get into full swing again in September you will be able to see a big difference in the main hall with an upgrade to the bar area, blinds replacing the upper windows and new windows for the remaining kitchen and toilet windows. The new windows were fitted at no cost to the Village Hall by Chris Prior, Neil Garton and Jack Paige and the bar counter the same by David Priest. All of these gentlemen were keen to do something for the village hall and we are extremely grateful.

The new stage and door curtains are on order and these will see a much improved look and feel to the Village Hall of which we can all be proud.

We think we now have the ideal venue for any party or celebration so why not consider hiring the hall for your next event. See page 34 for contact/booking details.

NEW Website: www.watlingtonvillagehallnorfolk.com

Email: watlingtonvillagehallnorfolk@gmail.com

Defibrillator



There has been quite a lot in the press recently regarding the availability of defibrillators in the proximity of sporting venues.

Watlington has had a public access defibrillator since 2018 which is situated on the wall of the Village Hall, opposite the Sports & Social Club and in close proximity to both football fields, the Bowls Club and the MUGA. The access code will be provided by the ambulance service when someone rings 999 for assistance.

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 |
|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| May | | 119 | 118 | 104 | 158 | 57 |
| June | | 149 | 109 | 73 | 177 | 111 |
| July | | 57 | 58 | 34 | 199 | 198 |

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Advertising rates on Page 4



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Watlington WI



Face to face meetings in the Village Hall resumed in July, with our delayed Birthday meeting, our Pimms & Puddings evening with music by Patsy Rose. There

was an extremely good attendance and a lot of happy faces. The ladies enjoyed providing the refreshments for the Grand Fete which made a good sum towards the Fete total which will be distributed to several groups in the village.

We are looking forward to our August meeting, which will be an open meeting, so non-members and our gentlemen can also attend. We will be having a demo by a local Chocolatier, Alex Harrison and there will be an opportunity to purchase some goodies.

Craft Club and Book Club meetings have also resumed.

The Rainbow Café also resumes 24 September.

Recently moved into the local area? Come along to a meeting and meet new people. We have members from several local villages. You don't have to be able to cook, sew or knit. You only need to be 18 or over to join. Why not come along to a café morning and meet the team.

The WI page on the Watlington Norfolk Website is kept up to date and is a good starting point to see what is planned.

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 811521 or check out our page on the village website for updates.

Email: watlingtonwomensinstitute@gmail.com

Website: www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk - WI page

Facebook: Watlington WI

Watlington Knitters & Stitchers



I hope that we shall be able to resume our meetings again in September, so on the 20th at 2pm, anyone interested in knitting or sewing is welcome to come along. The group is attached to Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers We have a Facebook page where there is plenty of information and patterns of items that are always required.

We meet at 16 Warren Close, Watlington PE33 0TA.

I also collect used postage stamps in aid of Parkinson's Society, these need to have a good margin of paper left around them so that they can be trimmed.

Many thanks.

Janet

Watlington Wednesday Club

Watlington Wednesday Club met for the first time this year, July 14th 2021, in a Fen Road garden to enjoy that most succulent of summer fruits in a Strawberry Tea. The weather was perfect with intermittent sunshine, warm enough to be without a cardigan when the sun shone.

The chatting was non-stop it seemed with a rich hum of conversation around the tables, as people caught up with one another after months of caution and concern. The smiles and bright eyes brought animation to faces as people shared their news, some joyous and some sad as we remembered several members who had died, lives full of shared experiences and memories.

There were twenty-nine of us at this occasion, one under the thirty allowed to meet outside at the time!

A fortnight later we met in the Village Hall with all the doors open and were entertained by Kenny Rich who took us down a memory lane of music with his wonderful singing. That was so appreciated by everyone and gave us the confidence to meet indoors as a group again. Hopefully if the weather is kind we will have been able to play petanque on the Millennium Green in August.

Our programme for the Autumn will be a bit ad hoc as we respond to the Government advice and the confidence of members, although we are all double jabbed we will keep each other safe.

Barbara Church

Chairman Watlington Wednesday Club

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 2021 | £64.50 | Watlington Under 5's |
| June 2021 | £115.50 | Village Hall Refurbishment Fund |
| July 2021 | £87.68 | Watlington Preschool |

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. If you know of a worthy cause in Runcton Holme, Tottenhill, Wormegay or Magdalen please let us know - watgossipads@gmail.com.

For links to local websites use our website

www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk

A Lifetime of Musical Memories by Mike Cooke

As an amateur musician and performer I have many musical memories. I think my first memory of music was when I was living at home with my parents in the 1940s and 50s.

Although neither of them were musicians they were keen music listeners and my earliest memories are of listening to the radio, when we enjoyed such programmes as Friday Night is Music Night and Music While You Work.



My dad had a portable wind-up Decca gramophone (record-player to younger readers) on which we played his collection of 78 rpm records. I still have this piece of equipment and one or two of his records today. His collection ranged from light

music to orchestral and a favourite which entertained us frequently was *The Laughing Policeman*. He was also keen on brass bands so a regular trip was to a local park at the weekend to listen to a band on the bandstand. Both my parents enjoyed musicals, so trips to the theatre to see these performed were quite common.

My next memories are in my school days. At my Junior School every class in each year had a music lesson which included singing and learning the recorder. We also had an assembly every morning which included hymn-singing. About this time I also joined the choir at our local parish church which my parents attended. This introduced me to Church of England music of all types as we sang hymns, psalms, carols and anthems. I also had piano lessons with a teacher who was the organist at the church.

At my boys' grammar school music was quite a strong subject and every class up to the third year had a music lesson which was mainly music appreciation with occasional singing. Again there was a morning assembly every day which included a hymn. The Head of Music frequently had hymn practices at these assemblies - a stickler for good standards. Somewhere in my archives I have my old school hymnbook which also includes the school song! At school I progressed from the recorder to learning to play the flute with a peripatetic teacher.

Learning to play an instrument involves music theory and exams and some music festivals at which I played the flute. So somewhere I have a collection of certificates and awards. I soon progressed to the school orchestra which rehearsed every Friday afternoon. I think this was probably my highlight of the school week. The orchestra gave concerts and played at the school's annual speech day.

Each year before Christmas the school put on a Gilbert and Sullivan production and I played in the pit orchestra for shows such as *Iolanthe* and *Ruddigore*. The school also introduced me to live opera as we had a theatre visit to see *Carmen* by Bizet performed and this has always stuck in my memory. On another occasion the school orchestra made a recording of *Finlandia* by Sibelius which was broadcast on BBC radio.

After leaving school I played in an orchestra which was called The St Cecilia Orchestra and Chorus which was lead by a former school music teacher. We played various concerts and one I remember was with the Central Band of the Royal Air Force at a Battle of Britain memorial event. Unfortunately the orchestra was subsequently disbanded but some of use former members formed a small group of instrumentalists and singers and we toured around entertaining care homes, social groups and church events.

At about this time I met and subsequently married a young lady who was a dancer and teacher. This broadened my musical interest into such areas as ballet and other forms of dance. It also introduced me to "am dram" and more particularly musical theatre.

In later years I have taken up playing the saxophone and have been playing in a swing orchestra. This added a new dimension to my musical experiences as the orchestra has in its repertoire all the standards of band leaders such as Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman. The orchestra plays at various events ranging from fetes to charity concerts and strict tempo dances.

As a couple we have always enjoyed going to musical events including ballet, opera, concerts and musical theatre. We try to visit the West End to see shows when possible as well as supporting productions locally. We have had memorable visits to Covent Garden and the Royal Albert Hall. At the latter we went to the Last Night of the Proms as well as other Proms concerts.

One memorable musical event was when we were on holiday in Italy a few years ago we went to the famous amphitheatre in Verona where we saw the opera *Aida* by Verdi. It was a fantastic experience and also memorable because as we sat high up outside on the stone terraces before the performance started it poured with rain! So we saw the opera sitting in rather damp clothing! However, the local Italians had more sense as they arrived after the rain had stopped.

I cannot imagine life without music, which I believe can enrich any occasion.

2nd Runcton Holme and Watlington Scout Group

With the Covid-19 restrictions easing we continue to hold 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. Section leaders were able to deliver meetings via Zoom. Lots of activity and challenge badges were awarded. We continue to see the rise in young people joining the group. We have seen six Beavers join and over the summer break some of our young people will move up through the 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 or volunteering as an adult helper our **contact details are in the box opposite.**

The Scouts will be attending a district survival camp in September which is being held at Wolverton. The Scouts will be utilising all of their survival skills over a weekend, building a shelter to live in and cooking all of their own meals over camp fires. There are lots of other outdoor activities to keep them busy over this weekend. This is a well-attended event which brings together other Scout groups from the North West Norfolk district.

All sections will be out and about in the autumn with lots of planned water sports, shooting, archery, camping and hiking. We will also be taking part in some litter picking duties in some of the local villages.

Unfortunately we had to postpone our attendance at the Watlington village fete due to lots of people starting their holidays. 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 in September (Date TBC)** 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

2nd Runcton Holme and Watlington Scout Group

School Road Runcton Holme PE33 0AN

2nd Runcton Holme & Watlington Scout Group

Meet at the Scout Hut in Runcton Holme near the school

Beaver Scouts (6-8 year olds) Monday 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Cub Scouts (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

Andy Nicol: Scout Section Leader 01553 811201

andy-nicol@hotmail.co.uk

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*

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*

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*

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*

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Watlington Football Club

First of all, I would like to say a big hello to you all and that we hope we find you well.

After a very strange year, the new football season has arrived very quickly, there has only been a brief break as last season was so broken that we have only just completed games in June. Training for some has just continued while others are now ready to restart. The leagues are starting late August, early September. At the time of writing AGM for leagues were still not completed.

The little time remaining sees us get very busy for pitch repairs, player registrations and try and make the start of the season as smooth as we can

Season Start

Under 10's, under 12's, under 15's Mid Norfolk League
(Waiting on League for Divisions)

Under 14's North Norfolk Combined Youth League
(Championship)

Men's Reserves, Men's Frist North West Norfolk Saturday League

There is a change of management in the First Men's First X1 Sam Lester has stood Down and Andy Brydon Will join Luke Jackson, would like to give huge thanks to Sam for the huge amount of work last season and will be missed.

Committee

The committee has been brilliant and the work and commitment to the club is unwavering. I am hugely appreciative with the work put in the club continues to push forward.

Fundraising

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

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 grassroots football clubs and any sports clubs up and down the country. If any parents know of any companies or you're 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.

I would also like to wish all Players, Parents, Guardians, Grandparents and coaches a very good season and most of all enjoy your football.

We are looking to complete a starter session for 6–8-year-olds after our AGM. Dates to be announced soon.

Any new players or coaches wishing to join please get in contact.

Thank you.

Tony Leggett Legosw6@gmail.com



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
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Some of the Watlington causes the Lottery has already helped:

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- Church
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Thank you to everyone who has helped by purchasing tickets.

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

Singers Inspired Choir

We're a non-religious community choir, based in Downham Market, who meet every *Thursday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30pm, during school term in the Methodist Church Function Room in Paradise Road PE38 9JE.*

Singers Inspired is a friendly, fun way to enjoy your singing. Why not come along and give it a try - see if you like it - your first two sessions are free. We don't expect you to read music and you won't be asked to take an audition.

Our next term starts on 9 September 2021, with the option to wear masks and socially distance if you prefer.



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“Music is a very strong tool to induce emotions and therefore, to evoke memories ...”



We all know of songs or tunes that conjure clear memories that seem to take us back to a different time in our lives. We don't even have to like the songs but they can still have the power to evoke vivid memories! The songs we love (and find annoying!) become woven into a complex tapestry of the mind, linked with the people, events, experiences and places throughout our lifespan. Music is a sensory gift that allows us to be taken back in time to a moment, often so small and seemingly insignificant, we didn't even realise it was a 'memory'. How many of us can sing along to a song we haven't heard for years – even decades – and still be

word perfect? Yet, if we were asked to write down the lyrics, 'cold', so-to-speak, we would struggle even to get started without humming the tune! This, in itself is quite simple to understand but why is music such a powerful medium for recall? Well, here's the science (in a nut shell!).

Dr Nikki S. Rickard^{*1} (Music Psychologist), points out that an event, an emotion and a song get bound together in a part of the brain called the medial pre-frontal cortex. When we hear that music later on, it's like the 'tip-of-the-tongue effect'. The faint memory is there; the sound helps bring it to the forefront. Listening to music engages large-scale neural networks across the entire brain. Similar to Rickard, Irish singer-songwriter **Stephanie Rainey**^{*2} sees music as an emotional outlet which brings boxed away memories and feelings to the surface. Like a language or a smell, you hear a song and it can snap you right back to a time, an experience or a person and it can draw out feelings and emotions as if it's happening right now. **Maria Borck**^{*3} (Psychologist & Music Therapist) explains why we tend to remember the words of a song from 10 years ago and be brought back to the exact moment our brains associate with that melody. It's because sensory information brings attention back to events that had emotional importance in our lives; as if tasting an unusual food which takes us to the first time we tasted it, or where we perceive a smell which reminds us of the day we went shopping with our best friend, and such. Music is a very strong tool to induce emotions and therefore, to evoke memories. When you listen to a song while being in a place where you can find peace like a forest or a beach, you are saving that moment in your memory as a whole. You are saving the blue sky, with the sea, the comfortable temperature, the feeling of wellness. If this moment is accompanied by a specific situation or person that makes your emotion bigger, the memory and the relation of it to the music will be bigger. According to **Tiffany Jenkins**^{*4} (BBC Journalist & Researcher), the hippocampus (a complex brain structure embedded deep into temporal lobe) plays a large part in determining precisely what we remember. 'Implicit' memories are stored in the unconscious, yet they can still be retrieved by our conscious minds. They also seem to last longer than 'explicit' memories as they are usually attached to a certain emotion. For example she remembers descending a particular mountain several years ago because she was extremely happy and paired that strong emotion with the song. Yet she says, she probably won't remember what she had for breakfast today because there was no strong emotion linked to her eating breakfast! OK – that was some of the heavy stuff – now for something a bit lighter!

Since cinema's earliest days, there have been some truly iconic movie songs. So what makes a film song so memorable? Some of the following are chart topping songs, some are not - yet over the years have become synonymous with the films they are from! I've chosen 8 and simply placed them in date order – EXCLUDING Musicals! See if you agree. More to the point, can you remember where you were for some of them? Or even what you were doing when you first heard them? Which one(s) have I missed?!



'As Time Goes By', Casablanca (1942). Written 11 years earlier by Herman Upfeld. Performed by Dooley Wilson (Sam, the pianist in the movie). Another highly recognisable tune, though did you know neither Humphrey Bogart (nor Ingrid Bergman) ever actually said, 'Play it again, Sam' in the film?

'Eye of the Tiger', Rocky III (1982). Written and performed by Survivor especially for the film. Interestingly, Queen refused to allow Sylvester Stallone to use 'Another One Bites The Dust' – his original choice!

'Ghostbusters', Ghostbusters (1984). Written and performed by Ray Parker Jr, the song hit number one on both the US and UK charts. *Ghostbusters* is surely one of the most instantly recognised film songs of all time!

'Don't You Forget About Me,' The Breakfast Club (1986). One of my favourites, written and performed by Scottish band, Simple Minds. Not least because I was the same age as the cast and was a big Simple Minds fan!

'Take My Breath Away', Top Gun (1986). Written and performed by New Wave US Band Berlin. Always associated with the movie starring Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis & Val Kilmer. An excellent soundtrack all round but 'Take My Breath Away' IS Top Gun!

'I've had the Time of My Life,' Dirty Dancing (1987). A song that has grown in popularity over the years; it did reach number one in the US but only number 6 in the UK. Performed by Bill Medley & Jennifer Warnes, is surely 'Dirty Dancing' all the way!

'Unchained Melody', Ghost (1990). Originally performed by The Righteous Brothers in 1965. Certainly the best choice for the film, starring Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore. The story goes the song was actually written by a young 16 year-old named Hy Zaret about a girl in his village he had a crush on, 85 years ago!

'My Heart Will Go On,' Titanic (1997). A massive blockbuster with a truly haunting theme. Written & composed by Jennings & Horner, Sung by Celine Dione. Incidentally, Horner was also responsible for Braveheart, Apollo 13 and Aliens soundtracks.

^{*1} <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-27/music-memory-song-that-takes-you-back-to-a-moment-in-time/12391160>

^{*2 & *3} <https://spunout.ie/voices/opinion/power-of-music-and-memory>

^{*4} <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20140417-why-does-music-evoke-memories>

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
Mr M Berliner 07879 628243 martin@martinberliner.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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County Council: 0344 800 8020

County Councillor: Brian Long 01945 430169

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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

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Coming Events (At the Village Hall unless stated)

September 2021

04 - Wrestling

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

14 - WI: *My Desert Treks with Jon Lawrence*

21 - Thieves Bridge Road Consultation 2-6pm (See p.3)

21 - Parish Council 7pm

24 - Rainbow Café: Supporting Macmillan (see Ad page 22)

October 2021

02 - Church Harvest Supper (see p.11)

12 - WI: TBA

19 - Parish Council 7pm

22 - Rainbow Café (see Ad page 22)

28 to 30 - Watlington Players 'Allo Allo' 7.30pm

November 2021

09 - WI: Annual Meeting and Poetry with Elaine

13 - Church Quiz (see p.11)

20 - Preschool Xmas Craft Fayre 9-1pm

26 - Rainbow Café : Countdown to Christmas

30 - Parish Council 7pm

December 2021

04 - Preschool Bingo 7pm

Benefits and Advice Team

We are available to help people complete the following forms:

Housing and Council Tax Benefit – means tested benefit
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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.

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

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

The Gossip Photo Gallery



Fete: You're Never Too Young To Run!



Young Players Alice In Wonderland



Fete: Going For Gold!



Preschool Potato Harvest



Fete: Everyone's A Winner!



Preschool Sports Day



Fete: Deer From Watatunga



Fete: Dogs On Parade



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