



WEETING VILLAGE LIFE



December 2024
Edition 48

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church, Weeting

TO ENTER
Bring your tree to church on
Fri 13 Dec, between 3:00 - 6:00pm

Theme for decorations
Christmas around the world.
Sat 14 Dec 2:00 - 5:00pm
Sun 15 Dec 2:00 - 5:30pm
Vote for your favourite tree
£1.00 first vote, 50p extra votes

Prizes announced!
Sunday 5:30pm
Child, Adult, Business, Club, Groups

Carol Service
Sunday 6:00pm
Mulled wine, Mince pies

MEET SANTA
3:00 - 4:00pm
Sat & Sun



BRECKLAND HANDBELL RINGERS

Invite you to our

Christmas Concert
with
Carols & Seasonal Music

On Saturday December 14th
in
Methwold St George's Church

2pm-4pm

Free Admission

Donations gratefully received for the

East Anglian Air Ambulance



WEETING ALL STAR PERFORMERS

PRESENT

SANTA SCROOGE

IN WEETING VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 6TH & SATURDAY 7TH
DECEMBER



SHOW STARTS AT 7PM FRIDAY
SATURDAY MATINEE STARTS AT 2PM

REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE

TICKETS: ADULTS £5.00 / O.A.P.S & CHILDREN £4.00

Visit Dee's Delites, High Street, Brandon
OR RING: CAROLE ON 01842 550919

BOOK YOUR TICKETS EARLY



WEETING VILLAGE HALL SAXON PLACE

NEED SOMEWHERE TO HOST A PARTY?
MAYBE FOR A WEDDING, BIRTHDAY OR
ANNIVERSARY?

NEED TO JOIN A CLUB OR GROUP ON A
REGULAR BASIS? OR WANT TO SET UP ONE OF
YOUR OWN?

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF OUR REGULAR
ACTIVITIES THAT ARE GOING ON IN THE VILLAGE
HALL.

KEEP FIT BINGO ART DANCE

WEETING WEENIES LINE DANCING

CARPET BOWLS DRAMA GROUP

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE CLUBS
AND GROUPS SEE DETAILS IN THIS MAGAZINE OR
CHECK OUT THE WEETING VILLAGE HALL
FACEBOOK PAGE.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH Raffle



Medium Turkey Crown
(serves 8-11 people)
Stuffing
Potatoes
Vegetables
Pigs in Blankets
Yorkshire Puddings
Cranberry Sauce
Turkey Gravy
Christmas Crackers
Christmas Pudding
Bottle of Prosecco
Bottle of Shioer



First Prize
win all the ingredients
for your Christmas
Lunch!



Second Prize
A Christmas craft
and movie night
hamper
Which will include:
a variety of
Christmas themed
crafts
Popcorn
Hot chocolate
Christmas treats



Tickets on sale from Monday 2nd
December from the office
Tickets £2 per strip or 3 strips for £5.

O Holy Night

A selection of festive music
Conductor - Chris Parsons



Wednesday 18th December 2024
7.30pm

Thetford Methodist Church

Tickets £10
No booking fee



Or

[https://
www.ticketsource.co.uk/
the-thetford-singers](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-thetford-singers)

To book the Village Hall for meetings, parties or other social
functions, contact Angie Page on 01842 814147

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*A very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to all
our readers in Weeting and around the world and our sincerest
thanks to our advertisers and regular contributors who keep Weeting
Village Life Magazine going.*

The Editor and Weeting Parish Council.



Weeting Village Life is edited by Sue Nairn, published by Weeting Parish Council and printed by Barkers Print and Design. Any sentiments expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the editor or individual members of Weeting Parish Council. Articles submitted are subject to space and the discretion of the Editor.



School Report



Our first term back has been busy and exciting. The school grew in size as we welcomed our new children into Chestnut Class and the staff, children and families who make up our new Acorn Class.

Tesco Tokens

A huge thank you to everyone who collected the blue Tesco tokens and voted for our school. Over the summer holidays we heard that we were the winners and that Tesco were donating £1500 to the school! We have used the funding to buy gardening equipment and to set up a gardening club.

DEMAT Together Key Stage 2 Football Tournament

The team have been on a real journey after their first outing at the Trinity Partnership competition held in the Summer Term. After showing great individual talent here, the children have been skilfully coached by Mr Jarvis to share and support these talents to help create a successful and supportive team.

Each member of the team really demonstrated the school core values of "friendship", "perseverance" and "creativity". In the morning they competed against 3 other teams, playing each of them twice. I proudly witnessed their first wins and draws and saw an amazing 8 goals scored in total. The team then progressed to the afternoon stages where they played against another 2 teams. They lost the first match and won the final one. This was an amazing result, especially as the team they beat was from The Norman School – a local derby! The children showed great sportsmanship and sportswomanship as they shook hands with all their opponents at the end of matches, congratulated each other and their opponents when great shots were made and checked on each other when the medical bag came out!



School Council



An important part of the children's time at school is to have experiences that enrich and extend their knowledge of the curriculum and the wider world outside of school and the local area.

Miss Woodison and Key Stage 2 members of the School Council were lucky enough to be able to visit London for the day. They embarked on an epic train journey, tackled the tube-like superstars and managed to reach their destination.

First, the children visited the Tate Britain where they got to see some amazing artwork, including some pieces that they have studied in their art lessons.



During their time at the Houses of Parliament, the children had a tour of the Houses of Commons and Lords and even got to see a Bill being debated. They learnt lots about how our government works and how laws are made. It was an amazing day and the children were a real credit to Weeting Primary School. Several members of the public commented on how polite and thoughtful they had been.

Harvest Festival

It was lovely to see St Mary's Church so full on Monday with so many families joining us to celebrate Harvest Festival. After two whole school Harvest themed songs, each class performed pieces written especially for the occasion. Chestnut started the celebrations off with a Harvest acrostic poem, accompanied by some beautifully decorated Autumn lettering. Beech Class were next and



demonstrated their understanding of adjectives beautifully as they shared facts about their favourite harvest foods. Elm Class shared their Autumnal poems, illustrated to great effect through their accompanying autumn-scapes paintings. Finally, Oak Class took us on an international adventure, sharing some fascinating facts about how Harvest is celebrated around the world.



Thank you to all our families who donated so generously to our Weeting Pantry. The items will be put to good use and help to stock our "Weekend Bags".



Acorn Class

We are excited to have completed our first half term as the new Acorn class! We welcomed some new children in September who have settled in really well. We have been proud of our current children who have been very helpful at making their new friends feel welcome.

Our main focus over the half term has been our theme "All About me". We have discussed our families and learnt and named parts of the body.

The song "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" has been a fun way to do this! We also looked at some x-ray pictures and created our own skeletons out of cotton buds! We learnt how to take care of babies. We looked at different jobs people have and how they help us, focusing on the emergency services. The children shared what jobs they would like to have when they are older and why.



We enjoyed reading "The Colour Monster" and discussing the different emotions we might feel and the reasons why we might feel them. Our core text was "The Gruffalo" and the children became really confident at reciting parts of the story! The children enjoyed exploring Gruffalo crumble, Owl ice cream, roasted Fox, and scrambled Snake



in our tuff tray! We made some Gruffalo claws out of brownies and chocolate buttons.

Our Maths has focused on measuring and using the language "long" and "short" to describe and compare objects, creating repeating patterns and looking at amounts of more and fewer.

Chestnut Class



In Literacy we have been reading the story "The Gruffalo". The children been retelling the story using character figures and asking the characters different questions during role play sessions. They have also looked at the setting of the story and used adjectives to describe this. Finally, the children have been describing how the characters might have been feeling when they saw the mouse and the Gruffalo.



In Maths, the children have been developing their subitising skills, comparison skills and counting. Throughout our Maths sessions they have been creating different arrangements of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and discussing how they made each arrangement. The children have also been comparing numbers and using key mathematical language such as "more", "less" and "fewer" to compare. The children have also been learning about weight, length and capacity. They have identified if objects are heavy or light and have learnt how to use balance buckets to weigh objects. They have used playdough to create long and short worms and used measuring worms to compare the lengths.



In our Primary Knowledge Curriculum this term the children have been exploring the theme "All About Me". The children have explored what different body parts are called and what these do. They have also learnt about their faces and facial features and used this learning to create self-portraits.

The children have explored the wider community, focusing on the different occupations that people may have. Chestnut class were firefighters helping each other to put out fires!



In Art this term the children have been learning about primary and secondary colours. The children learnt what primary and secondary colours are and how we mix primary colours to make secondary colours. The children then developed their scissor skills and cut different strips and shapes to create spirals. We used the knowledge that we learnt to create our own versions of 'Matisse's The Snail'.





School Report



Beech Class

Beech Class have studied two class texts, "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell and "Arabian Nights", focussing on the story of Aladdin. We retold the story of Owl Babies following the structure of beginning or opening, middle or climax, and end or resolution. We refreshed our knowledge of capital letters and punctuation such as full stops, looking at how a simple sentence is constructed of a subject and verb. While reading Arabian Nights, our focus was on describing characters by using adjectives. The children in Year Two extended their sentences by using the 'power of three' to produce a vivid picture of the character they are describing. We finished by writing instructions on 'How to Marry a Princess', using imperative verbs and time adverbials.

In Maths, Beech Class focussed on place value and developed a firm grip on numbers within 20. This included writing numbers in numerals and words, being able to represent numbers in different ways, and counting accurately. We demonstrated our understanding by adding and subtracting numbers using objects, pictures and numerals. We learnt how to find one more and one less, and compare numbers, as well as estimating them.

Our Science topic was the Human Body, specifically the five senses. The children learnt which body part corresponded with which sense. They discovered that our eyes send messages to our brain, and also that our pupils change size in response to the amount of light it receives. We found out about how some people have difficulties with one or more of their senses, and studied the life of Helen Keller. The children got to experiment with their senses by testing their taste buds and noses by trying different foods and scents.

Our Geography unit was called Spatial Sense, which focussed on map work. The children were introduced to the concept of aerial perspective, as well as the symbols and key in an Ordnance Survey. We learnt and practised finding the points of a compass. The children drew detailed maps of the school and the local area.

In Art, the children revised their knowledge of primary colours using work by Mondrian. They also learnt that colours can be described as warm and cool by comparing Bruegel's "Hunters in the Snow" with Van Gogh's "Sunflowers". The children explored the concept of tints and shades looking at how Vermeer uses tints and shades of blue to paint the headscarf in "Girl with a Pearl Earring". They also studied Hockney's "A Bigger Splash". They found out that different brushstrokes create different effects by looking at two paintings of the sea by Monet. The children then created their own interpretation of a stormy seascape.

In RE, we looked at the question "Why is belonging to God and the church family important to Christians?" We answered this by looking at what it means to belong to a church and how Christians might start their journey with a baptism or christening. We looked at what a baptism ceremony was like, how Jesus welcomed children, and how new believers joined Christianity.

Elm Class

The children have been exploring the class text "Oliver Twist" and using this to support and extend their grammar and writing knowledge and skills. This included extending their knowledge of subordinating conjunctions and subordinating clauses and how they are used to add extra detail and information to a sentence. They learnt how to use expanded noun phrases and extended their writing by adding more exciting vocabulary. The children learnt about including speech in their writing and how they have to use the same speech markings all the way through our writing as well as putting the punctuation inside the speech. All this complex knowledge was used to great effect as the children retold the events of the burglary scene in Oliver Twist and wrote a letter to Fagin to either forgive or not forgive him for his actions.

In Maths, Elm enjoyed Roman numerals and grasped the concept of counting and representing numbers through using the numerals in the correct places. The children have worked hard with partitioning, learning how to do this with numbers up to 10,000. They have also explored and demonstrated number understanding by finding 1, 10 and 100 less than a number as well as representing numbers on a number line.

In Art Elm have explored still life, learning about shadow, tone and highlighting. All of these help to create form by showing shadows and reflections of light giving the effect of their art work becoming 3D. The children have learnt about the Italian painter Giorgio Morandi and discovered that he is well known for his still life work. They went on to learn that he kept a supply of vases, bottles and jars in his studio, which he used as models in a variety of arrangements again and again.

Oak Class

The children in Oak class are taking their responsibility as the oldest children in the school very seriously and have been setting an excellent example to the other classes.

In English, we have explored determiners, fronted adverbials and the use of direct speech. This helped us hugely when it came to having tools in our toolbox for writing our own text based on our guided reading book "The 1,000 Year Old Boy". The children worked really hard to come up with excellent sentence examples, using adventurous vocabulary and really thinking carefully about their grammar. We explored effective vocabulary; formal and informal language and we also explored how the use of commas can change the meaning of a sentence. This last skill is incredibly important when it comes to trying to convey different moods and ideas to our readers. The children showed a great base knowledge of all of these things, and we were able to build on this well. They were then able to effectively transfer this into their own writing, creating some beautiful diary entries and setting descriptions that really showcased how their writing skills have progressed.

In Maths, we have been exploring place value and thinking about how we can read and write numbers up to 10,000,000. This can often be tricky as larger numbers can become quite confusing! However, we have thought carefully about the place value families and have been using place value grids and part whole models to build up our confidence. We have also been looking at the value of digits within larger numbers and exploring what they represent. We then moved on to using our knowledge of place value to compare and order numbers before starting to look at how to round numbers.

In the wider curriculum, we have learnt about the British Empire in History – looking at what an Empire actually is and some of the countries that were part of the British Empire. We started to look at the good and bad points about being part of an Empire; it was interesting to hear the children's opinions on this. We developed our knowledge of the British Empire by thinking about why England wanted to create colonies and the advantages this would give them. We explored the idea of global trade, thinking about how this would have looked when Britain started expanding its Empire. We discussed the positive and negative aspects of having an Empire, particularly linking this to trade, and the children had some thoughtful ideas.

In Science we explored the circulatory system and went on a journey through our bodies, looking at the importance of both our heart and lungs. We explored the different blood vessels in our body and the important jobs that they have, linking this to our understanding of how the heart works.

In Geography, we started to develop our map skills. We looked in more depth at lines of longitude and latitude and will be using these to think about how they help us not only to read maps, but also to understand things like time zones. We developed our understanding of the Arctic and Antarctic Circles and specifically looked at what Polar summers and winters look like. Everyone was amazed to find out that some countries experience periods where they have either 24 hours of sunlight or 24 hours of darkness at a time!

In Art we looked at the concept of styles and techniques within artwork. We discussed how every artist develops their own styles before looking at a 'smooth' and 'rough' art technique. The children were able to articulate what they liked, and didn't like, about both before having a go at producing some of their own versions of both styles. We then took all of our learning across the term, incorporating some learning about Modernism and the Rococo style, and created some of our own abstract pieces of artwork.

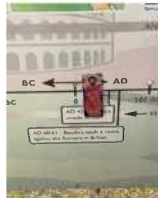


School Report

In RE we explored the idea of incarnation within Christianity. We looked at a painting by Antonia Rolls, which showed Jesus on a London Tube train. We discussed how Christians believe that Jesus is God in human form and we used Antonia Rolls' painting as



inspiration for a discussion about what we would ask Jesus, or God, if we had the chance to meet Him. We then took this even further by thinking about where Jesus would choose to spend time if he came to visit Weeting. The children had some incredibly sensitive and thoughtful ideas and finished up the lesson by taking some pictures of Jesus in different places around the school.



The Nest

In English, our younger children enjoyed the story "The Gruffalo". They found out about, drew and thought of different vocabulary to describe the characters. They made puppets using lollipop sticks to represent each of these and used them to help them to re-tell the story. Our older children read and listened to the story "Aladdin". They practiced re-telling the story and thought about wishes they would like to make; these included wanting to be happy and wanting an extra playtime!

In Maths, our younger children have been practicing lots of counting. They are beginning to be able to order more numbers and to recognise 1 more and 1 less. They have used strategies to help them with their counting including moving each object as it has been counted. Our older children have been continuing to develop their addition and subtraction understanding, using resources, number bonds and number patterns to help them to find, and check, their answers.

In PSHE, the children thought about different people who look after them and who help them to keep safe. They considered the different responsibilities they have both at home and at school and discussed what rules are and why rules are important. They decided that rules help people to stay safe and that they help to make sure that resources are looked after.

In RE, our younger children studied our big question "Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?" They found out that Christians believe that God is special and important because He created the whole world from nothing, that the Bible contains stories about how God made the world, that God made people to take care of the world, that it is important to say "thank you" to God at different times of the year, like at Harvest Festival time and that The Lord's Prayer is one way of saying "thank you" to God. Our older children studied our big question "Why is belonging to God and the church family important to Christians?" They found out that Christians believe that they are part of a church family, that a Christening, or Baptism, is a special welcome into the Christian family, that presents are given to help the baby grow up as a Christian and that it is important to welcome people to church because Jesus always welcomed people.

We have continued to enjoy cooking and have made pizzas, pastas, salads and a range of cakes and biscuits. The children have practised measuring, pouring, cutting and slicing and, most of them, have enjoyed trying the different things we have made.

Editor's Note:



The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published in March 2025.

If anyone would like to submit an advertisement, article, photo, etc for consideration to be included, the deadline for receipt by the Editor will be **Friday 14th February 2025**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Walking on Air (Hockwold)

07596157826

D.T.Byrne MCFHP MAFHP

Foot Health Professional

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Suffolk
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Gift Vouchers Available

Editor's note:

A list of the clubs and organisations in the village can be found in the centre pages of Weeting Village Life along with details of who to contact if you would like to make enquiries. Most of the clubs have room for more of you to come along, so have a look and see if anything takes your fancy!



Help someone smile, become a Befriender

Join our volunteer team and help us provide companionship and support to unpaid carers in Norfolk.

Could you:

- Offer regular companionship to an unpaid carer feeling alone and isolated?
- Support an unpaid carer to access services in their community?
- Provide practical support such as dog walking, shopping or gardening?
- Offer an unpaid carer a break by supporting their loved one in their own home?



Please get in touch to see how you can help someone smile. Thank you.

Jane Hawkins 07843 327485
volunteers@caringtogether.org
caringtogether.org/befriender



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Weeting Bowls Club

2024 – An eventful and commemorative Golden Anniversary year at the Bowls Club.



Due to early inclement weather this year, the start of the bowling season was somewhat delayed. Despite this, our bowlers have enjoyed an extended season of bowls playing well into September.

Our bowls presentation evening, held on 14th September, was testament to the success of the many club competitions running throughout the

summer. With most players winning trophies and medals, it was wonderful to celebrate such worthy achievements.

Our two league teams have been augmented this year, by a number of new bowlers who have shown remarkable determination and commitment to the club. Next year we would like to see more ladies join us and hope to organise an Open Day in the spring to encourage more ladies to "have a go". Children are always welcome at the club, so this year we organised a very successful Under 11's bowling competition which we hope to repeat next year.

On the buildings side, we are delighted to report the completion of the new kitchen which will undoubtedly enhance any future events taking place at the club. If you are looking for somewhere warm and friendly to host a **private event** please call Zoe Taylor 07884 582862 for details and availability.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday 7th December, 8.00pm - Karaoke with Jerry
Sunday 15th December, 8.00pm - Bingo & Meat Raffle (Turkey crown & Gammon)
Tuesday 24th December, 7.30pm - Christmas Eve Gathering
Tuesday 31st December, 8.00pm - New Years Eve Party - Entrance by ticket only (£3 members, £5 non-members)
Available from the bar until 29th December or until sold out.
Saturday 11th January, 8.00pm. - Live music with Steve Lees
Sunday 19th January, 8.00pm - Bingo & Meat Raffle
Saturday 1st February, 8.00pm. - Karaoke with Jerry



Winter Opening Times

- Fridays 4.30pm 'til late
Saturdays 7.30pm 'til late
Sundays 12.00pm -10.30pm
Tuesdays Discretionary, dependent on pool matches.

Art For Pleasure

You may recall that during the year we put aside paper and canvas and painted our masterpieces on pebbles. It was different not having a flat surface to work on and a lot of fun. Always ready to try something new, we then progressed to terracotta flower pots. The



results again were varied and colourful. However, we soon returned to our usual sketching and painting in various mediums. Those we are particularly pleased with will be framed and on sale at the **Weeting Christmas Fair at Weeting Village Hall on 23rd November**. We hope you will come along and visit our stall. You might even see a few painted pebbles and flower pots.

So, if you have always wanted to try your hand at drawing/painting, or want to return to a hobby you once enjoyed, we would love to see you any **Thursday morning at Weeting Village Hall 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** The cost is £3 a session, which includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

New members are always welcome. The main essence of the group is in the title – the pleasure of painting and socialising with like-minded art lovers.

Further details can be obtained from:-
Beryl Pountney, – Tel: 01842 828750

Have you considered volunteering?

Volunteering is a fantastic way to support people, and research shows that volunteering can boost happiness and confidence. There are plenty of ways to get involved, and anyone, regardless of age, can make a difference.

**VOLUNTARY
NORFOLK**
Services

Volunteering helps build connections, bringing people together and fostering friendships. It's a great way to meet new people, develop skills, and take pride in our communities. Norfolk & Waveney boasts beautiful countryside, tight-knit villages and bustling market towns and our volunteers help keep this special part of the country strong, united, and supported.

By giving just a few hours a week or more, you can have a real impact on the lives of those around you. You're not only improving life for others but for yourself. Whether it's helping at your local hospital, supporting the vulnerable to stay in their own homes or return home after a hospital stay, or driving them to their non-urgent medical appointments, assisting Voluntary Norfolk behind the scenes or helping with community initiatives, every contribution counts.

Visit Voluntary Norfolk at www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk to explore roles that, with your time and energy, will make a real difference.

You'll be amazed by the positive impact you can have and how rewarding it feels to lend a hand!



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School Report

September term began with an AGM meeting to reform this years committee. I am pleased to say that the following roles were filled by:

Nicci Dyer - Chair
Mica Barker - Vice Chair
Jemma Sanderson - Secretary
Jenny Barnett - Treasurer



We would also like to welcome Mel Byford to the team and say thank you to our previous members who have continued to support us for another year.

We discussed events to be held throughout the year, starting with a coloured hamper and non-uniform day for Oak Class which raised £100 towards their school trip. Congratulations to Herbie who had the winning ticket and took home the Red hamper filled with lots of treats!

We then held an Autumn disco at the end of October term which proved to be really popular and as always, discos are our most supported event. We raised £263.80 so a big thank you to all involved. Everyone made such an effort with their costumes, and I know the judges had a hard time choosing the 'Best Dressed' and 'Best Dancers'. Well done to all of our winners - Tudor, Blanka, Maggie, Archer, Alfie, Kelsey, Isaac and Ella.

We are now in our second term and the countdown to Christmas has officially begun. Unfortunately, we have decided not to hold a Christmas fete this year but believe us when we say that this wasn't an easy decision to make. In place of this, the Friends are holding the following festive events:

Friday 29th November:

- NEW! Wreath Making Workshop (although this event may need to be cancelled if not supported)

Wednesday 4th December:

- Christmas Lunch including crackers and table decorations

Monday 16th December:

- A classroom visit from Santa including gifts
- Christmas Disco KS1 5.45pm-7pm
- Christmas Disco KS2 7.15pm-8.30pm

We will also be holding another raffle to WIN all ingredients to make Christmas lunch, to be delivered on 23rd December. Second prize will be a Christmas craft & movie night hamper. Raffle tickets can be purchased from the school office from Monday 2nd December, £2 a strip or 3 for £5. The winners will be drawn on Friday 20th December.

And last but not least, we would like to say a big THANK YOU to Mick & Mica Barker, who kindly paid for and donated a real Christmas tree for the children to decorate at the school. Your generosity hasn't gone unnoticed and is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Keep Fit

"Come join us, you don't need to wear Lycra!"

- ✓ Stretch
- ✓ Strengthen
- ✓ Balance
- ✓ Move
- ✓ Exercise Equipment
- ✓ Quick Quiz



Meet like minded people who want to have some fun while they exercise.

Weeting Village Hall

Monday 10am – 11am
(except bank holidays)

For more information – call Dot on 01842 810378

The equipment we use has been here for several years, it is all functional, it would be nice to add something different to our routine, if you have any unwanted gym equipment and would you like to donate, please get in touch.

Calling All Clubs!

If your club would like to submit a report, advertise an event and / or include photographs in the next edition, please contact the editor (details on front page).

Similarly, if you wish to add your club to the list in the centre page, or change contact details, days, times, etc. please let the editor know.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Military Bases in the Arctic since WW2 - Part One



Our speaker this month was John Blakeley who presented a very interesting talk (Part 1 of 2) on military bases in the Arctic.

The Arctic has been a hotbed of contention for many years and there is still a very active 'Cold War' going on in the latitudes above 66.30 degrees North where temperatures can be as low as minus 40 degrees. Thule Air Force Base was built in Greenland and is the highest latitude Air Force base in the USA remaining in use today. Constructed in 1951, as the Cold war kicked off, it remains a vital USA and NATO base. John showed us an interesting film of its construction. The Arctic Air Ferry route was established under Operation Bolero to move aircraft across the North Atlantic in WW2 into the European Theatre of Operations. A series of bases was established to allow a maximum distance between bases of 750 miles. The route was from Newfoundland via Greenland, Iceland and onto the North of Scotland. Due to weather, mechanical and navigational difficulties, the many single-engined aircraft attempting the journey needed the assistance of an escort in the form of a well-equipped multi-engined aeroplane. An expected loss rate of 10% was anticipated but, luckily, 5.2% was the reality. However, losses rose exponentially in the winter and all crossings were suspended from Nov to March.

There are a number of amazing survival stories including that of a B17 crew surviving for 100 days in the tail section of their crashed bomber waiting for the weather to improve enough for them to be rescued. There is also the remarkable story of a P38 Lockheed Lightning fighter which crashed in Greenland after returning in bad weather and was very recently recovered from under the ice and restored to flying condition. Appropriately named Glacier Girl, it remains in operational condition; Google it - it's a remarkable story.



Little known facts emerged like the UK 'politically invaded' Iceland and the Faroe Islands to prevent them falling into the hands of the Germans. The USA took over 'protection' of Greenland which was semi-autonomous with Denmark. However Denmark had been invaded and subjugated by Nazi Germany. The Germans were unable to counter this because until late 1941 the USA was a Neutral country and any action against Greenland would have meant war against the USA. All highly intriguing.

Meanwhile, back in the present, the vast majority of populated areas in the Arctic fall within Russia so maintaining a western 'presence' in the area is vital, hence the continuing cold war in the region which brings us to the end of Part 1. We look forward to welcoming John back in January with Part 2 which John says is even more interesting and makes it a definite "do not miss" in my book.

Finally if you like the sound of our group why not come to the West Norfolk Aviation Society meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at Mundford Bwls Club between 1900-2130 where you will be guaranteed a warm welcome with free tea, biscuits and light snacks. Be sure to check the website (Google West Norfolk Aviation Society) to see what exciting topics await and to ensure we will actually be there and not on an away day.



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HOPE TO SEE YOU!



★ W.A.S.P.s ★

Hello everybody. Well Christmas is just around the corner, and so what have the WASPs been up to since the last Weeting Life Magazine?

Well, we started our rehearsals for the forth-coming show (more about that later). It is such a pity but we have no children for this show as all our regulars have either changed schools or, much more importantly, have exams etc. Hopefully we will have some more youngsters wanting to show their talents for our next one in late Spring.

In September we put on a Quiz evening which was great fun and provided a meal to go with it of baked potatoes and all the trimmings etc. Everybody seemed to have had a good evening and we have promised another one next February, so look out on the Village Hall site for details.

On November 23rd and 24th we put on a two-day Christmas Bazaar and I hope you all got along to see it as the talent of our neighbours is outstanding. We were spoilt for choice, so many beautiful flower displays, cards, dolls, even lovely jams and pickles just right for the Christmas table. If you missed it, there will be another one just before Easter next year, so look out for that.

As usual during the summer, I have to come up with an idea for the next show, as we like to do something a little different. For example, a few years ago in a meeting we were trying to think of the next show when our musical director said what about "Aladdin"? I said say that again – A-LAD-IN and, yes, we had a show about a lad that went all over the world with a touch of the Aladdin story in it! So, yet again, thinking about this year's show we came up with "SANTA SCROOGE" and we hope you all enjoy it.

Our back-room girls and boys have been painting scenery, making costumes, getting props etc., and, most of all, writing scripts, printing and all that goes with that side of things, i.e making numerous copies of scripts, song sheets, date list etc., etc. The time has gone so quickly and show time is almost upon us. So, although we have no children, I do have some in their second or third childhood - you all know about PC Plodd and PC World, so I will say no more except, yes, they are in it again and, yes, I am pulling my hair out as they get up to their usual antics. All in good fun! Only two shows this time, just **Friday December 6th evening 7pm and Saturday 7th afternoon 2pm**, so get your tickets quickly from Dees Delight High Street, Brandon or ring me 01842 550919

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

CAROLE

St Mary's Church



Rector:

Joan Horan Tel: 01842 828034. revjhoran@gmail.com

Curate:

Juanita Hawthorne Tel: 01366 728545. revjuanita58@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Tommy Saward Tel: 01842 813601 tommysaward@hotmail.com

Julianne Young julianneyoung0@gmail.com

Regular services are as follows:

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month: Eucharist @ 11am



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23rd January 2025

20th February 2025

20th March 2025

Angerstein Close	10.25 - 10.40 am
St Edmund Close	10.45 - 11.00 am
Saxon Place	11.05 - 11.15 am
Glebe Road	11.20 - 11.45 am
Rectory Lane	11.50 - 12.10 pm

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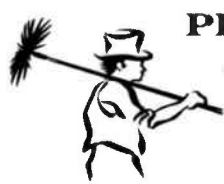
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Ron Bloomfield
14 Glebe Road, Weeting
Tel: 01842 812173



WEETING SPEED RECORDER UPDATE

Time Period FROM	Time Period TO	Position (Direction facing)	Total Count of vehicles	Speed Limit mph	Vehicles within the speed limit	Speeding Violations	% Speeding Violators
2024	2025						
25 th July	23 rd August	Lynn Road (S)	70777	40	64019	6758	9.54%
23 rd August	21 st September	South Park (N)	80025	30	69250	10775	13.46%
21 st September	19 th October	Park View (W)	30829	30	28874	1955	6.34%
19 th October	16 th November	Lynn Road(N)	61565	40	42491	19074	30.98%

Quarterly Summary

Total Vehicle Count for the recorded period	243196
Vehicle Count within the speed limit	204634
Speeding Violations within the village	38562
We recorded our highest ever speed on 29 th October at 19:40 which occurred within our Village. This latest data will give our Village increased Police presence and enable us to extend the 30 mph limits.	95 MPH

(Speed) Breaking News

Our mobile SAM 2 speed recorder logged a **record 95mph** vehicle passing through the village and **19,074 exceeding the 40mph limit** between mid October and mid November. That means almost **31%** of all the vehicles were over the speed limit.

The Parish Council are trying to get the 40mph limit reduced to 30mph, but delays in decisions by the powers that be and red tape always get in the way. Now that we have also lost our Lollipop crossing patrol, we are even more concerned.

Hopefully these speed recorder results will afford us some increased Police presence and extra pressure for our argument towards changing the speed limit.

?? Who's Who ??

Weeting Parish Councillors

Cllr Ian Childerhouse 07747 794867
Cllr Tom Childerhouse (V Chair) 01842 811469
Cllr Margaret Lister 01842 810467
Cllr Mike Nairn (Chair) 01842 810212
Cllr Sue Nairn 01842 810212
Cllr Peter Nordan 01842 815638
Cllr Rowena Read 07985 702940
Cllr Bernard Smith 07985 902188
Cllr Carole Wilkins 01842 550919

ianchilderhouse@icloud.com
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sue.nairn@btinternet.com
nordanp@hotmail.co.uk
rowena71uk@gmail.com
bernardsmith7@btinternet.com
carolewlkns@sky.com

Weeting Parish Clerk

Mrs Pauline Angus 07741 481956

clerk@weetingparishcouncil.org.uk

Breckland District Councillor

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen 07771 966457
Cllr Robert Kybird 01842 753132

sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk
robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk

Norfolk County Councillor

Cllr Fabian Eagle 07774 295510

fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Mr Terry Jermy
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk
Facebook: Terry Jermy for South West Norfolk
Twitter: @cllrterryjermy
Office: 020 7219 8254

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

CLUB	CONTACT	LOCATION	DAY AND TIME
Adult's & Children's Street Dancing	Micha 07841 474400	Village Hall	Wednesday 3:45 - 8:45
Art For Pleasure	Beryl Pountney 01842 828750	Village Hall	Thursday 10:30am – 12:30pm Thursday 10:30 - 3:30pm 3rd
Bingo	Angie Page 01842 814147	Village Hall	Tuesday Open at 6:30pm Eyes down at 7pm - 9pm
Brandon & District Classic Vehicle Club	John Maxim 01842 811032	The Ram, Brandon	2nd Monday 7.30pm
Brandon & District Camera Club	Denise Whiting 01842 862079	Baptist Church Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm
Brandon & District Society of Model Engineering	Dave Moore 01842 811996	Brandon Council Offices	1st Wednesday 7:30pm
Brandon Day Centre	Michelle Jarrett 01842 819777	Warren Close, Brandon, IP27 0EE	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10am - 3.30pm
Brandon Speaker's Club	Gary Sander 01842 814679	The Ram, Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesday 7:00-9:30pm
Carpet Bowls	Heather Woodhams 01842 815406	Village Hall	Friday 10 – 12 midday
Fit Camp	Naomi 07506 246786	Playing Field	Monday 6:15 - 7:15pm
Green Bowls	Jo Nordan 01842 815638 Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7pm-10pm, Friday 5pm–10pm Saturday 8pm-Late, Sunday 12pm-12am
Gun Club	Derick Spencer 07766 750153	Weeting Gun Club	Alternate Sunday January to October
HATS	Gary Sander 07754 727130	Hockwold Village Hall	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 - 9:30pm (during rehearsal periods)
History Group	Julianne Young 01842 813581	Various - call to check location	Last Thursday 7:30pm
Hockwold Cricket Club	John Ruddick 07902 231235		
Outdoor Archery	Mike 07894 904090	Euston Park	Friday 6:00 – 10pm Sunday 12 midday – 4:00pm
Keep Fit	Dorothy Kent 01842 810378	Village Hall	Monday 10:00– 11am (except Bank Holidays)
Line Dance	Rita Thompson 01842 815550	Village Hall	Friday 2:00 - 4:pm
Methwold Badminton Club	Jeff Millard 01842 827428	St George's Hall, Methwold	Every Thursday between September & April 7.00pm
Methwold Theatre Club	01366 727526	The 21 Room St George's Complex Methwold	Tuesday 7:30pm
Model Car	Colin. 07876 330687	Village Hall	Alt. Wednesday 7pm - 9pm
Pool	Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7:00pm
St Mary's Church	Tommy Sward (Churchwarden) 01842 813601	St Mary's Church	See list of Service times
Shoestring Theatre Company	Jill Hopper, 07985 376465	IES Breckland School Crown Street, Brandon	Tuesday 7:00 - 10:00pm
Thetford Singers	Sue Nairn 01842 810212	Methodist Rooms Tanner Street Thetford	Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm
W.A.S.P.s	Carole Wilkins 01842 550919	Village Hall	Monday and Friday 6:00 - 8pm (during rehearsal periods)
Weeting Saxon FC	James Langley. 01842 811627		
Weeting Steam Rally	Kate Plant Rally Co-ordinator 07907 720312		Monday 7pm to 9pm Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm
Weeting Weenies	Marie Stebbins mariestebbins@hotmail.com	Village Hall	Wednesday 10:00 – 12 midday (school term time only)
West Norfolk Aviation Society	07706 030307	Mundford Bowls Club	1st Tuesday

WEETING PARISH COUNCIL RECORDS

1954 -57

We have reached 1954, there were plans to use waste stone from the Hall (? *Angerstein*) site to make up Chase Road and the council voted unanimously to adopt the bus shelter. Plans for new houses were discussed and the site of the sewage works. Mr Malt, the Clerk still has not replaced his typewriter, but the bus shelter was insured and light maintenance agreed at £7.8s.10d per annum. By July, a satisfactory conclusion had been reached over posting the times of collection from the Post Office and Mr Kent's resignation from the Council had been accepted with regret. Four new houses were due to be built and the question of the council house allocated for the use of the Village School Headteacher was discussed, but it was agreed that this should continue as being the only way of retaining anyone.

Complaints had been made regarding the neglect of the grass verges and it was agreed protest should be made to the NCC together with an application for a permanent road man. (*nothing changes*). Agreement was reached on the purchase of a small piece of land with a view to using this for a children's playground.

(By 1955 Mr Malt seems to have purchased a ball-point which makes the minutes legible!). British Rail finally refused to re-site the water tank at the crossing to speed up the road access as too expensive and the Parish Council proposed they should ask for a pedestrian footbridge instead. There is a mention of the RDC producing a village plan for Weeting (!) covering both Council and private enterprise building, with water, sewage and electricity laid on. **It was agreed that a request be made for a fortnightly refuse collection rather than the existing six weekly one.** Councillors then discussed the allocation of four houses and two bungalows that had been built. Mr R Burlingham was one of this allocation.

(Mr Malt has returned to his fountain pen.) Not surprisingly British Rail did not favour a footbridge over the level crossing. Refuse collections were now monthly but the NCC rate had been increased by 3d. It was agreed that some house rents were uneconomic and should be discussed. The ongoing plea for a regular road man came up again. (*A little strange*) one of the parish councillors asked that the Chairman deny in public that "at any time when the councillors were in committee, any reference to any person's character was made" – the Chairman was happy to do so.

A long-awaited meeting with members of the Parish Council and British Rail had taken place in connection with the level crossing. (*However, no further comments were made regarding the outcome.*) After a further meeting, British Rail promised they would do everything possible to improve shunting times. A decision was made that the parish would be known as Weeting with Broomhill for all official purposes. Concern was expressed that there were no lights in the sheds of the new bungalows which would be reported to the Housing Officer.

The estimate of £7.10s.0d for the installation of a streetlight and £3.13s.0d for annual maintenance was accepted.

By 1956 the Parish precept (tax) was £10 per household and Mr Knight was still Chair with Mr Malt the Clerk, (*who is still using his fountain pen.*) It was agreed a request be made to the RDC for them to provide dustbins and concrete posts for washing lines for the new houses. (*Great news*) – the RDC should be starting with the new sewage system shortly. 28 plots had been sold in the Weeting Park development including one for a shop and Cromwell Road was born.

In 1931 the population of the village was 328 and this had risen to 589 in 1951 and it was thought that this would have been 700 in 1956. A local resident raised the question of the increase in rents for the council houses but the Chairman commented that the housing subsidy had been cut. It was not accepted that pressure had been used in the suggestion that older tenants of council houses, should accept a bungalow to release their houses.

The annual accounts for 1955/56 were presented with a total expenditure of £18.17s.11d (*approx. £595.00 today so they say!*) Precept request was now £20. By July the Chair was able to confirm building the four new bungalows would be commenced shortly and that plots were still being sold in Cromwell Road. Mr Malt, (*a stalwart of the Council as Clerk*) felt that as he now lived in Brandon, he should resign. However, after discussion he agreed to continue. In October 1956, it was proposed to seek tenders for the modernisation of The Row, together with pre-war council houses in Park View and the sewage upgrade had been completed.

Cromwell Road was expected to have four streetlights costing £16.2s.0d per year. The condition of the road to the Church has for the first time come to the attention of the Parish Council and the Chairman said he would find out who was responsible for this! Mr Malt finally resigned from his position as Clerk Mr Farrow took over the position in January 1957 (*and he had a typewriter*).

Interestingly, Mr Farrow reported that he had received a reply to his letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries saying they were sending a Contractor "with a view to undertaking the repair of the road to the Church". Apparently, the thatched roof of the bus shelter needed repair and the Chairman confirmed that the Nissen huts in Weeting Park would not be re-let! The new sewers were also causing a problem causing the bad condition of Rectory Lane but the sewage system was working.

(*Interestingly*), in the March 1957 meeting, it was confirmed that the repairs to the road to the Church had been completed by The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and the bus shelter was being re-thatched. There was a mild spat about the condition of the tow path – Brandon Parish Council complained to Mr Parrott (the landowner) that it had been obstructed. This was due to the River Board not re-erecting the stile on completion of the work.

There was now news on the proposed Children's Playground, - land had been conveyed to the Parish Council who were approaching the Education Committee for advice. It was confirmed that the new bungalows were for the occupation of old people(!) but that should they not be let, then younger people would have the opportunity of applying.

(*Speaking personally, Mr Farrow's minutes were much easier to read than Mr Malt's but one must applaud (as a past Parish Clerk/Chairman of the Parish Council) Mr Malt's devotion over some nine years that he clerked Weeting Parish Council.*)

Our Trip to Windsor Safari Park

One summer in the '80's, the local British Legion took a coachful of people to Windsor Safari Park. There were 4 adults and 5 children in our group and we had a lovely time seeing all the animals and amusements, followed by a picnic lunch. However, the main reason we went there was to see the orca show in a large enclosed pool where dolphins performed with their trainers followed by the star attraction, Winnie.



We were some of the first to arrive, so we sat on the red seats in the front row thinking the children would get a good view, but, as people began to fill the seats, an usher came over to us and said it would be better if we moved to the white seats, otherwise we could get wet. So, we all moved to the back where we still had a good view. At this point I noticed a coach load of visitors from overseas who had to sit in the front seats as there was nowhere else available. Winnie was watching us all through the steel gate that divided her living quarters from the main pool.

After some announcements, the show began and it was brilliant. First the dolphins and their trainers performed and then it was time for Winnie. The gate was lifted and in she came underwater, producing a huge shock wave that you could actually feel. She went twice round the pool under the water, then hurled herself into the air, twisted around three times and fell back into the water with a tremendous splash that swamped the first five rows of seats! The people in the front row were soaked, some of them stood up with the water dripping off them, shouting and screaming! I looked over to the usher and caught his eye – he just smiled as much as to say 'I told you!'. Those that got wet were not very happy, but the rest of the audience applauded and cheered as Winnie carried on with her act. She would kiss her trainer, surf across the pool, flick a football and many more things. It was wonderful to see such an intelligent creature perform for us.

Unfortunately, Winnie was only half the weight and size she should have been having been in captivity all her life and was moved to SeaWorld in Florida in 1992 when the safari park went into receivership. Sadly, as she had always been on her own, the other orcas bullied her as she was so much smaller than them at only 14 feet long and weighing roughly 2 tons and she passed away in 2002.

Windsor Safari Park closed in 1996 and the animals went to other parks. The dolphins went to the Netherlands, Longleat took giraffes, rhinos, ankole cattle and the pack of wolves. Knowsley Park took the camels, cape buffalo, elands, tigers and the herd of elephants. The camels, deer, lions and hippopotamus family went to the West Midlands and the chimpanzees to Monkey World in Dorset. In 1996/7 Windsor became Legoland.

Although at the time we all enjoyed the show, we believe that animals, such as Winnie, should remain where they belong in the wild.

John Holledge

Winter Gardening

The final month of the year is here, but there's still plenty to do in the garden! Sure, the demand for watering and dead-heading has stopped but the garden doesn't have to be out of bounds during the winter. A few hours spent in the garden quickly gives visual results and caring for plants will lift your mood. If you can't get outside go on pintrest or flick through gardening books and magazines for inspiration! Here are the key gardening jobs for Winter:

December:

From late November until late February its Bare Root Season. Bare Roots are plants, usually trees, hedging, soft fruits, roses, and even some perennials, that have been grown in the ground then lifted for sale when dormant. They are sold without any soil or pots which makes them much cheaper to transport. They are usually sold mail order, but some large nurseries will also offer a great selection of bare root plants. It is essential that the roots of a bare-root plant don't dry out. Be sure to soak the roots in winter as soon as you receive your plants. If you can't plant immediately - if the soil is frozen, for example - heel them in until the weather improves. Sprinkling mycorrhizal fungi around the roots when planting will increase nutrient and water uptake and help bare-root plants establish well. Bare Root roses can be susceptible to damage from cold, drying winds so if the weather is particularly bad it may be worth potting them and keeping them in a very sheltered location before planting when conditions are better.

Other tasks for December:

- Winter prune plants that are prone to bleeding such as grapevines, birch, walnuts and Acers (Japanese Maples).
- Keep of lawns in frosty or snowy conditions, however if the winter is mild then keep removing fallen leaves from lawns to let in light and prevent dead patches.
- Take care not to let leaves accumulate around Alpine's, they will die if left damp.

January:

The new gardening season begins. January is a month of promises to come. You can start sowing hardy seeds, chitting seed potatoes and add colour by planting snowdrops, primulas, winter flowering shrubs and hellebores.

Other tasks for January:

- Cut back old foliage of ornamental grasses and perennials such as sedums.
- Winter Prune Wisteria.
- Remove yellowing leaves from your winter brassicas as they are no use to the plant and may harbour pests and diseases.
- Finish pruning apple trees and pear trees.
- Start forcing Rhubarb by placing an old bucket over the crown.
- Plant new soft fruit bushes and canes (as long as the ground is not frozen)

February:

Its time to put the pruners into action! It's time to finish tidying the borders, cutting back old growth of perennials and grasses. You can also cut back over-wintered fuchsias and pelargoniums to encourage new growth. Trim deciduous hedges before birds start nesting, and prune back any winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering such as Mahonia, Viburnum and heathers. And whilst the pruners are in your hands don't forget to prune back the colourful stems of dogwoods and salix, you can prune right to their base to encourage lots of fresh new growth that will give bright stems next winter!

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc(Hons)
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Weeting Village Hall

Well, here we are again. Another report to write – can't believe it's been three months since I wrote the last one!!! Time flies when you are busy.

All the regular groups and clubs are now in full swing making use of our lovely hall, so if you need a venue for a party or a family gathering – don't forget we are one of the cheapest places in the area and we try to accommodate everyone who wants to use the hall.

We do have a nice large kitchen for cooking and food preparation, as can be witnessed by those who have been to the recent quiz nights, barn dance and the craft fayres where the kitchen is in full swing with baked potatoes, soups sausage/bacon rolls, cakes etc as well as teas and coffees – our kitchen dollies work their little socks off. We have a 100-piece place setting crockery set – it has everything you should ever need and it is free when you hire the hall plus an assortment of mugs etc. However, do not hesitate to ask if there is anything else you need as there is always someone around who knows where you can get most things.

By the time this comes out, we will have had the Grand Xmas Bazaar Weekend, run by Carole Wilkins, and believe me that takes some doing and if you did attend I hope you found lots of lovely gifts and presents for your family and friends.

This is just one of many things that are put on in the hall at regular intervals as well as shows, dances and quizzes – if you have any preference for any other sort of thing please let the committee know and we will see what we can arrange, BUT as with most events, we always need willing volunteers to help set up, run and clear up afterwards – we cannot do it all by ourselves anymore – so if you want to start up a work party committee, again please let us know, handymen/women, painters, decorators, electricians, plumbers etc are always welcome to join us – as you can see from recent months we have had a lot of work done with no expense spared, e.g. the Fire Alarm, CCTV cameras, new ramps etc.

The next thing on the "hit" list is the heating which we are looking into right now. When that has been done, we will be getting people in to redecorate the hall throughout, as we are always striving to make the hall look nice and presentable for all who come in and use it.

In the meantime, I just need to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, take care, keep safe and well and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Karen Scott
Treasurer
Weeting Village Hall

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Walking in Norfolk



Walking in Norfolk <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/norfolk> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walk routes, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Norfolk (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

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John Harris

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BRECKLAND CATS PROTECTION

THE STORY OF LILY

In July this year I was asked by our vet if I could take in a pregnant cat. I had a space at the time, so I was happy to be of help. But I did ask them to blood test her for Feline Aids and Feline Leukaemia first, which are both viruses in cats and can be fatal, although the cat may not be showing any symptoms to start with. She was also flea'd and wormed. We always carry out this procedure on pregnant cats before the kittens arrive. If mum is virus free, then the kittens will be too.

I picked up Lily from our vet a day or two later and found that she was the most stunning Ragdoll cat, with beautiful blue eyes. She is a pedigree – a first for us, as we only usually foster domestic cats and, more often than not, they are black. The vets thought she was imminent to give birth. So, I brought her home and set her up in my 'cat' room, with a cosy bed, food and water and waited.

Apparently, Lily was found in Bury St. Edmunds by a member of the public and taken to the Bury branch of Eastgate vets, where it was found that she had a microchip. This gives all the details of the cat, name, age, breed, and her owners details. The vets rang the mobile number on the microchip details and was told that the family had moved to London, and when they got there, they realised that they didn't have Lily. They asked the vet to put her in a taxi and send her to London and said that the vets could pay for the taxi! Obviously, that didn't happen, but all attempts to contact the owner afterwards, failed. They had blocked their mobile number and didn't reply to the email address on the microchip details. My own theory is that Lily came into season during the move, escaped from the house, and found herself a mate, or maybe two. I was sure she wasn't carrying pedigree kittens, as the owners would have wanted her back because they would be worth a lot of money. Ragdoll kittens sell for around £400.

The only problem with Lily was that she tended to be a bit aggressive. I would stroke her and she would be purring loudly and then suddenly she would bite or scratch me. The vet and the vet nurses had all been 'had' by Lily. But we have no idea what her home life was like before she came to us. Maybe they were not kind to her, maybe they hit her. We will never know, and she couldn't tell us. I made excuses for her all the time, that she was so big and uncomfortable being pregnant that it made her bad tempered, but things with Lily never changed. She was always ready to have a go – but I got used to her and I could tell when she was about to lash out and kept my hands out of her reach.

Three weeks went by with no sign of kittens. Lily was getting bigger and bigger and looked like she had swallowed a football! I took her to the vets to check that there were kittens in her tummy, and they scanned her and said the kittens were very squashed and they could only hear one heartbeat. But the very next day Lily gave birth to 5 beautiful babies. None of them were like her, but at least they were not all black! I lived in fear that the father was a black Tom and all the babies would be like him. However, they were all different. There were 2 pale ginger and white kittens, both male, an all-grey male kitten, a female grey and white kitten, and dark tortie (female – as torties always are). Lily was a good mum to start with. She let me take each kitten away from her every day to weigh them. We always weigh kittens to make sure they are all being fed, as we wouldn't know if one of them was hungry. They did fine until they were about 2 and a half weeks old, and then Lily wasn't eating very much and the kittens were gaining less and less weight each day. They should gain between 10-15 grams every day. So, I took Lily back to the vets, and they examined her and told me that she hardly had any milk. One of the vets said – typical posh cat! So, from then on, I had to supplement the kittens with milk formula. I left them with Lily and took them 2 or 3 at a time into another room and fed them with milk formula about 4 times a day. I had to take them away to feed them, as Lily also liked the milk formula and she wouldn't let the kittens have any!

The kittens went from strength to strength then, and when they were around 5 weeks old, I took them all away from Lily, to wean them off the milk and on to solid food. At least Lily didn't go through the discomfort that most mummy cats do, of her teats filling up with milk, and no babies to take it off her. They spend about 10 days crying for their babies and feeling really uncomfortable. But it has to be done, otherwise the kittens would still be feeding from mum when they are 12 weeks old and more!

The kittens have now all been homed to lovely adopters after being vaccinated and wormed. Two of them went together, which was great. The two ginger and white boys kept their blue eyes, just like Lily. All kittens are born with blue eyes, but they change at around 6-7 weeks, but these two boys looked like pedigree kittens.

The problem was what to do with Lily. Technically she was not a Cats Protection cat. We contacted our Head Office, and they took advice from a solicitor. We had to send the owners a recorded letter, so we know they received it, asking what they wanted to do about Lily. They did not respond, so the solicitor said to send another letter by recorded delivery, 2 weeks after the first letter, giving the owners a date to reply by – which was 30th September. They didn't respond, so on 1st October Lily was neutered. She was then legally 'our' cat. Otherwise, we couldn't neuter a cat that didn't belong to us and I didn't want to risk Lily coming into season and driving me crazy with her yowling. Fortunately, that didn't happen.

So, Lily was put up for adoption, hoping that someone out there would take on a cat with Lily's temperament. We had a few enquiries, but when we mentioned her behaviour, they were put off. Then a lovely lady got in touch to say she had seen the pictures of Lily on our Facebook Page and was very interested in adopting her. She wasn't worried about her habit of lashing out. She is a 70-year-old lady, living in an old people's complex, where she has her own bungalow, out in the sticks, near Colchester. Her last cat lived until he was 18, always a good sign of a caring owner. She came to meet Lily and was smitten. So, Lily has gone off to a lovely new home and is being spoilt rotten.

If you need advice of help with the cost of neutering, please call us on 01842 810018.

Rita Thompson.



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Rector's Report

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Weeting is celebrating its reopening with a Christmas Tree festival culminating in a Carol Service on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December from 4-7pm.



We're inviting village and local organisations and individuals to join in the festivities by entering the Christmas Tree decorating competition. Trees can be small or large, artificial [probably easier to manage] or 'real' and the theme for the decorations, "Countries of the World", takes its inspiration from this year's Olympic and Paralympic Games. There is much scope for imagination – Christmas and other traditions or customs, national dress, sports, flags, major landmarks/outstanding geographical features/city landmarks, native animals/plants/humour and/or anything else you can think of. There will be group and individual categories for adults and children and the prize winners in each category will be chosen via the votes of everyone who attends. Whoever gets the most votes in each category will win a prize. So please enter and decorate your tree with imagination. Please include lights which can be either plugged in or battery operated.

In addition to the Christmas Tree competition, there will be visits from Santa on both afternoons, a raffle and lucky dip for children and seasonal refreshments. The Breckland Handbell ringers and possibly a group of little 'angels' will be participating in the Carol service which will follow on after the festival concludes with the prizegiving and raffle draw at 6.00 on the Sunday evening. All are welcome to enjoy and sing along during a special service lit by the twinkling lights of the Christmas trees and lots of candles. There will be seasonal refreshments following the service.



Trees can be brought to the church between 3-6pm on Friday 13th December. You can bring them already decorated or decorate your tree in church.

Here at St Mary's, we hope that the Church will be transformed into a winter wonderland by the twinkling lights and lovely decorations on many trees and we look forward to your participation in this event.

Please let us know if you would like to participate so that we can plan where the trees will go. There is no charge for entering a tree. We hope to make this an annual event so please come along and enjoy.

Christmas Message

The world seems a dark and scary place at present. Just this morning I read that Putin is responding to Biden's permission to allow Ukraine the option of using long range missiles on Russian targets with the threat of nuclear retaliation. This takes the danger of escalation of this war to a whole new level. Then there is the continuing conflict in the Middle East. In addition, there is much unrest and disquiet here at home as government policies increasingly bite 'working people' such as farmers and where corruption among government ministers at the highest levels seems rife. We all feel on edge.

In contrast most people think of the classic Christmas 'crib' scene as somehow timeless and comforting. Here we have a healthy-looking baby lying on a glowing bed of pristine straw with his adoring parents, a few shepherds and assorted animals adding to the cosy picture. It's a tableau out of a story book. Over centuries we have tamed the harsh reality of the true story. The world into which Jesus

was born was every bit as brutal, unpredictable and unstable as our own. Joseph and Mary were forced by Roman law to make a perilous journey to Bethlehem to be counted in a census that was simply a Roman extortion racket. The town was packed out – there was literally no room for a young couple whose child was due and Mary's labour would have taken place in cold, squalid and filthy conditions – that the child survived was a miracle in itself. Soon after the birth, the family was threatened by a murderous petty tyrant hell bent on eradicating all opposition to his power. He thought nothing of massacring a generation of small children in the hope that he killed the young 'king' whose star was followed by the wise men. So, Joseph, Mary and Jesus found themselves as refugees, fleeing to the comparative safety of Egypt. And I say comparative because the whole region, then as now was unsafe and foreigners were not welcome. A familiar story?

Yet into the darkness, the randomness, the brutality of this world, Jesus came. He crept in beside humanity as a newborn infant in all His weakness and vulnerability to be Emmanuel - God with us - the Truth and the Life and the Way - to reconciliation and peace.

This sounds like such a tall order in the darkness of our own world where peace is increasingly fragile and like the Jewish people of Jesus' time, we too feel helpless at the mercy of powerful world forces. How can we realistically hope for peace?

Jesus lived among us. He showed us the way to live by bringing healing, reconciliation peace and love through his presence, his touch, his word. He lived in solidarity with us – in suffering and rejection too. He died an excruciating death. One of the reasons why I like the symbolism of the Christingle is that it points us forward – with that red band of ribbon around the orange – to the Prince of Peace shedding His blood for us on the Cross. Why? So that all the earth might be reconciled in love and peace with God and enter into the joy of life eternal with Him forever.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace for all time. Though he was born, lived among us and died in time – around 2000 years ago – He remains with us now. He is our only hope in the present darkness of our world, our hope amid the posturing and increasing aggression in our communities and in the wider world, our hope, dare I say in the midst of so much human tragedy.

I wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas.

Joan Horan

Rector, St Mary's Weeting



Some of you may still be blissfully unaware that **Virtually Norfolk WI** exists – well, we do and very much so.

We have been in existence for some three plus years and have had great support from our members. We are able offer the WI experience to those potential members who are challenged for getting out and about or indeed like in my case, not keen on turning out on a dank winter's night but don't want to miss our WI. Like any traditional WI we have a full programme of speakers, craft sessions, the odd quiz and actual garden parties where we take the opportunity to meet up in person and also include some of our traditional colleagues as well.

Hazel, our President, often hosts afternoon tea and chat sessions and as members of the Norfolk Federation, we are able to take advantage of all their programmes of events. This year I was able to link into the National AGM and joined in for the first time for some twenty odd years!

So, if as I put it, you have now reached the age of wisdom or don't like driving in the dark, why not give us a go ... contact me on the email below.

Ann E Morgan.

Annmorgan163@gmail.com

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Air Rifle Ranges

Well since our last update we have now been able to set up the air rifle ranges at the club and have held two great days with a good number of people coming along to try their hand at both relatively easy targets and one or two more stretching targets out to 40m. The feedback has been excellent and we have had some new members join us as a result which is great news.

We have two ranges, one out to 25m and the other out to 45m. There's a mix of paper, knockdown, clay, chalk disc, tin cans and some interesting snap cap targets fed into the old primer positions of 12g shot gun cartridges. Not easy to hit when it gets a little windy!



The plan is to now get the range fully up and running for the New Year with publicised dates that we will share on our social media. We do hope you'll join us for what is a great bit of fun and an excellent entry into the sport.

Clay Pigeon Shooting



This continues to be the main area of our friendly club and we've enjoyed some great shoots of late with the last shoot of the season being a 30-bird sporting compact in aid of the British Heart Foundation. We have been able to send off a cheque to them for £150



this year for this worthy cause.

Our final members shoot for the season will be our Christmas sporting shoot on the 15th December when festive food and a hot drink will be enjoyed and prize giving for our top shots of the year. We'll be having a go with whatever the weather decides to throw at us!

We are a really friendly little club with the emphasis on enjoyment for all. We have skeet, DTL, ABT, Teal and sporting set ups along with our newest trap here we can set up 25/50 or 75 bird flushes at the single push of a button.

We'll put next year's shooting calendar on our social media as soon as it is finalised and look forward to seeing both old and new faces at the club in the New Year.

All the best

WGC Committee

Picture Puzzle



Can you find the 10 differences?
Answers on page 18



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Who Is Doing This and Why?

I am sure that most Weeting residents are aware that St Mary's Church has been partly, then completely, out of action for a long time due to the structural problems with the floor underneath the south aisle, the south porch ceiling and finally the main aisle ceiling. Thankfully, the building is now safe to use once again, although more remedial work needs to be done.

Some grant money has been obtained over the past couple of years to assist with the costs towards surveys and repairs, but on-going fund raising is vital in order to breathe new life into the building. Various individuals and groups have put a lot of time and effort into organising events such as dances and quiz nights in order to do just that and have obviously needed to advertise these functions.

So WHY does someone think it necessary to tear down the advertising boards, steal and, in some cases, destroy them????

I received this email from the person who made and positioned the signs:



"Good morning Sue,

I forgot to mention my frustration and annoyance of having some of the signs I placed around the village as part of the 'Save Our Church' campaign, either stolen or ripped out of the ground and broken.

These photos were taken yesterday and it's the sheer wasted time, money and effort making and placing them which I struggle with when this happens.

One photo shows the broken sign which had been tossed into the school grounds. It has happened before and not the first time"



As Editor of Weeting Village Life for the past 12 years, I have now broken my rule of never printing resident's letters in this magazine, but this is vandalism, pure and simple and whoever is responsible needs to stop and consider what the purpose of their venom towards the church, and those supporting it, is supposed to achieve.

Sue Nairn - Editor

Picture Puzzle Solution



Storm Chaos

Storm Bert brought a bit of chaos to Weeting in November when a branch of one of the trees on Parrott's Piece broke off and landed across the electricity cabinet. Fortunately, no damage was sustained to the cabinet and our Christmas lights should be safely installed very soon. Thanks to Tim Murfet for clearing it up.



New Rules for Recycling

From Monday 18th November, anyone wishing to take items to a recycling centre within Norfolk must book a day and time slot for their visit.

Although this may seem rather an inconvenience, it really is very straightforward and will prevent having to queue at busy times. There are 16 bookable slots for every 15 minute period during their working hours and staff will be available to assist you if you need help. You can also book up to a week in advance. You can either book on-line if you have a computer or call a designated number to make your booking as follows:

Booking on-line:

- Type in Norfolk County Council
- Choose Rubbish, recycling & planning
- Choose Rubbish & recycling – this will take you to a list of where all the recycling centres are and, also, how you can dispose of various types of waste, including hazardous, DIY and large items such as freestanding, fixed and fitted furniture.
- Click on the recycling centre of your choice and whether you are bringing household or business / trade waste.
- Click on the day of your choice within the next seven days on the calendar on screen. This will then show you how many free time slots there are available every 15 minutes throughout that chosen day.
- Choose the time slot you want, add your car registration number and select "BOOK"
- An email will be sent back to you confirming your booking.

Booking by telephone:

Call 0344 800 8020

Weeting Parish Council urges everyone to comply with this new regime and please remember that fly-tipping is an offence and fines can be very hefty if you are caught in the act, or the rubbish can be traced back to you.

A word of caution – if someone knocks on your door and offers to take away your DIY rubbish for a fee, make sure they are a bona fide company with a permit to take it away and dispose of it correctly. Not so long ago, a Weeting resident paid someone a significant fee, when they offered to take away his DIY rubbish, only to see, to his profound embarrassment, that this material had been found dumped in the forest off fire ride 23, photographed by dog walkers and the photos placed on the Weeting Facebook page!



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