



# WEETING VILLAGE LIFE

June 2024  
Edition 46

OMAHA **D-DAY** JUNO  
**CELEBRATIONS**

WEETING VILLAGE HALL  
**SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**Starts at 3pm**

*Doors open at 2pm*

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Inspiring  
Communities

## The Wombles of Weeting

The Weeting Wombles had a very successful litter-pick on March 16th and collected about 30 sacks of bottles, cans, tyres, car parts and paper/cardboard rubbish from all around the village. Many thanks to everyone who turned up to help.



## Weeting Village Yard Sales

As many of you know, the Weeting Yard Sales event we held last year was a great success, so due to popular demand, we will be holding another this year. Hopefully even more villagers will join in, so start sorting out that clutter and those things you don't really need anymore!

The date for your diaries is: Saturday 21st September 2024 (weather permitting).

For more information or to register your street on the map, please contact: [weetingyardsales@gmail.com](mailto:weetingyardsales@gmail.com) or Susan Mann 07783 009606



## Weeting Steam Engine Rally & Country Show

Charity No : 1158906



**Fri 19th, Sat 20th &  
Sun 21st July 2024**



**See page 15 for your Weeting  
Resident's Exclusive Offer**

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

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# School Report



This year has gone so quickly and the school community has gone from strength to strength! The children have engaged in a huge amount of learning in the classroom and have grown in confidence in their communication, writing and mathematical skills. As you can see below, we have also looked about providing the children with experiences outside of the classroom to enhance learning further.

As we move towards the end of the school year, we are preparing our Year 6 children for their journey onto secondary schooling. As part of this, we have been fortunate to have support from Norfolk County Council and a trained youth worker who has been sharing what the high schools look like, what a day at high school might consist of and answered lots and lots of questions that are important to the children at this time. We have also welcomed the children and families who will be joining us in September. They all seemed very excited about this and the children seemed to enjoy their time exploring the activities.

I would also like to welcome Miss Woodison who joined us as our new Oak Class teacher. We have been extremely fortunate in appointing such a skilled and experienced teacher who has fitted right in to our Weeting family. Here are just some of the highlights across the school over the last term.

## World Book Day

It was clear to see that all the children had a lot of fun dressing up for World Book Day. Everyone took part in the fun and some of the costumes had clearly taken a lot of time and effort to create! During worship, the rest of the school had to guess



which character each child was by looking at our costumes. Sometimes we had to give each other clues! We couldn't believe how many people shared favourite characters and counted at least 14 characters from the 'Harry Potter' series and 4 'Wimpy Kids'!

Each class participated in book related activities throughout the day. These included creating class story books where the children took on the role of an author and illustrator and creating portal story boxes complete with antagonist and protagonist characters.



For the first time in six years, we were able to worship with Mother Joan at St Mary's Church. The whole school, and families, walked in procession with the Easter crosses made by the children, to participate in our Easter Service. The children placed their crosses on the altar at the start of the service.



Each class then retold part of the Easter Story. Chestnut Class started the story with the acting out of Jesus' arrival on a donkey. The crowd enthusiastically shouted "Hosanna" as Jesus proceeded, following a trail of palm leaves.

Oak Class then took over, narrating and acting out the story of The Last Supper.



Elm Class shared their art work depicting Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

Beech Class completed our retelling by celebrating Jesus' resurrection. They created some amazing moving cave pictures and a fantastic banner.



A big thank you to Mother Joan, members of the Church community and all our families who attended our Easter Service.

This term saw our first family lunch time. **Chestnut Class** and children from **The Nest** enjoyed the company of their families as they shared delicious packed lunches and hot school dinners. The children very proudly showed their families how to collect their lunches, including using the self-service salad and dessert tables, and how to tidy up after themselves once they had finished their meal.



## Tesco Stronger Start

Our next application for the Tesco Stronger Start campaign in Tesco, Brandon runs until **30th June 2024**. Remember to tell your friends and family and ask them to help us. The winning group receives a £1,500 grant and this will go a very long way to establishing the gardening club at school.

The token collection is growing in store and Mrs Colberg has a box in the office if you shop at another branch and collect tokens that you would like us to take into Brandon. I have been reliably informed that if you take a child (preferably your own!) to the store they will give you lots more tokens. I also know from doing the Club shopping that the self-service areas have boxes of tokens that you can help yourself to!



The clothing company Sea Salt, donated a beautiful window display to us this week. The flowers have been used to brighten up the school library, Chestnut Class and The Owl Room.



This term we unveiled the amazing collection of sports equipment for outdoors and PE lessons, that were ordered using the sponsorship money from last term's Sports for Schools event. As you can see from the pictures, the £1400 that was raised was very well spent and extremely well received by the children! A huge thank you to all our families and friends who contributed to this.



## Chestnut Class

Last term the children have explored the theme "Growing and Changing". They used the class text "Jack and the Beanstalk" to create story maps and character descriptions of Jack and the Giant, including some great use of adjectives to describe the characters.



In Maths, we have been exploring the composition of numbers up to 10. We have been identifying that 5 can be made up of two numbers; 0 and 5, 1 and 4, 2 and 3, 3 and 2, 4 and 1 and 5 and 0. We sang '5 Little Speckled Frogs' and as we sang the song, we showed the number of frogs in the pool and how many that were on the log using our fingers. We used the numicon to show that 5 can be made in different ways.



The children have also learnt about mass, accurately using key vocabulary and associated definitions to identify when objects are heavy, light and balancing. They learnt how to use balance buckets to weigh everyday objects and sort them into "heavy" and "light" sets.

In our Primary Knowledge Curriculum theme of "Growing and Changing", the children learnt about trees and how they change throughout the four seasons. The children painted their own tree in the season of their choice and described what their trees looked like. They learnt that a botanist is someone who studies plants and looks closely at how they grow and change. The children planted their own cress seeds. We were very excited to watch them grow!



In Art, the children have been learning about Vincent Van Gogh, Lowry and Hundertwasser. They used a variety of different medium and materials to create their own interpretations of each artists' work through painting Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night", Lowry's matchstick houses and people and model making of Hundertwasser's "Imaginary Houses".

## Beech Class

This term Beech Class has been reading "The Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling. The children have been delving into narrative writing, learning how to create an exciting and informative opening that includes a setting description, introducing the main characters, a hook to keep the reader interested at the beginning of the story, and the introduction of a mini problem.

Alongside this, the children also produced some non-fiction writing, creating a factual report about our History topic from last term, the Tudors. We looked into how we structured a report, creating subheadings and paragraphs to direct the reader's attention to different pieces of information. We looked at how an introduction gives a brief summary into our topic, then examined how life in Tudor times differed from today, as well as focussing on the lives of the Tudor monarchs.



In Maths this term Beech Class have learnt about measurement. They explored measuring length and height using non-unit measurements before moving on to centimetres and metres. They developed their skills and understanding of scales in order to read rulers, tape measures and metre sticks accurately. We also found out how to measure mass and weight using both balance scales and weighing scales. This led to an understanding of the units of weight, such as grams and kilograms. The measurement unit was concluded with a study of volume and capacity, looking at how we measured how much a container can hold and honing our ability to read the scales in millilitres and litres.

Our Science topic this term was Materials and Matter. We found out that different materials contained different properties, which made them suitable for different purposes. The children investigated George De Mestral and discovered how he came to invent Velcro after noticing that burdock seeds were able to cling to his clothes and the fur of his dog due



to their shape. They found out how he had to study and test different materials to find the one with the right properties for his invention. We also looked at Velcro and a range of materials under a microscope. We then discovered that everything we can see is made from tiny things we cannot see called atoms.







# School Report



This term Beech Class focussed on Northern Europe, particularly the countries of Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark, some of which are known collectively as Scandinavia. We learnt about the human and physical features of each country, their capital cities and flags, as well as how being so far from the Equator affects the climate. We found out all about how people in Finland have adapted to live in such a cold climate through making changes to their clothing, homes, cars and lifestyles. The class wish that we could have more saunas in England too!

In Art, our topic was History Painting, which refers to paintings which show stories from classical history, mythology and the Bible. To explore the idea of history painting, the children looked at mythological art, and studied in detail the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. The paintings they studied range from frescos found at Pompeii in ancient Rome to 20th century paintings. They looked at how history paintings showed different settings and characters and explored how artists can show different characteristics or personalities in the way they draw. The children made a detailed study of the work of Picasso that shows the minotaur and have begun to create their own work in mixed media incorporating the minotaur and the maze.

## Elm Class

In English Elm have been exploring and writing a wide range of different English devices, including simple, compound and complex sentences and fronted adverbials, prepositional phrases and expanded noun phrases to add deeper description to their work. Based on our class book "Beowulf", the children have used many different skills to create well detailed recounts of the battle between Grendel and Beowulf.

In Maths, Elm have been exploring decimals and how they connect to money. They have also learnt about measurement and which to use depending on whether they are measuring the length, weight or capacity of objects. The children have also developed their skills of reading time, learning how to tell the time to the nearest minute on an analogue and digital clock face.

History has been one of Elm's favourite subject this term as they have been learning about English history starting with James I. The children have learnt about the gun powder plot and how Guy Fawkes and other Catholics wanted to blow up the Houses of Parliament because of how they were being treated. They went on to learn that Charles I was beheaded after the English Civil War which he started through many, many bad choices including not listening to Parliament for 11 years; fighting expensive wars and raising taxes higher to fund them.

Elm loved their "Fab Science" scientist visit. The children engaged in a wide range of experiments, including how to use air to create sound slow and fast movements; tuning forks to make water jump and ripple to physically see the sound wave, using a fork and coat hanger on string to feel and hear the different vibrations as they travel into your ears, and mixing different substances to make bubbling, fizzing and multi coloured potions. To finish off their experience, Elm enjoyed the results of a perfect mixture of Mentos in diet lemonade!

In Art, Elm have enjoyed building their Pantheons and used the skill of scoring to ensure their shapes are folded straight, levelled and glued correctly. The children demonstrated a great flair for creative things as they experimented with different ways to add features to their models, including creating slits and posting card through; using rulers and measurements to make sure all the pillars are the same and creating spirals and gluing card on to create a dome.

## Oak Class

We started the term with a bang, zooming straight into our learning and looking at how we could apply everything that had been learnt so far to continue to progress our knowledge and understanding. There were lots of changes for the children to get used to as well, but they coped with these admirably and didn't let these changes deter their focus and perseverance when it comes to being the best they can be!

In English, we looked at different sentence techniques to help develop our writing styles. We recapped on our learning from last term and started to put together essays about World War II, working hard to include all of the sentence techniques we had been reviewing. There has been an influx of relative clauses, parenthesis and fronted adverbials into the classroom and the focus on producing informative and detailed pieces of writing has been impressive! We then extended this to look at how we could write effective biographies. Our subject was Eva Ibbotson, the author of our class reading text "Journey to the River Sea". Once again, the children impressed with their focus on content and engaging sentence writing.

In Maths, we further developed our understanding of fractions, thinking about how we can add, subtract, multiply and divide, as well as finding fractions of amounts. We worked on applying our times tables knowledge to this as well as remembering all the different steps for the processes. Once we got to grips with the methods we needed to use, we had a look at how we could apply this knowledge to problem solving and reasoning questions.

In Art, we developed our sketching skills. We looked at Western African art, particularly that of the Bamana people. We have started to think about how we might create some cardboard relief sculptures of insects, using shape and line representation in the same way that this is used in the Chiwara headdresses worn by the Bamana people during their Chiwara ceremonies. We sketched out our insect ideas and will be breaking these down into the individual shapes contained within them so we can start to construct our relief sculptures. The artistry being demonstrated and the conversations about shape and colour choices have been really interesting.



History saw us delve into the Cold War, looking at the causes for the Cold War, the differences between communism and capitalism, the Arms Race and the Cuban Missile Crisis. We particularly thought about why the Arms Race and Cuban Missile Crisis were so significant and the impact they had not only on the Cold War but on the world as a whole. We discussed the development of both the atomic and hydrogen bombs and how the competition to have the most effective weapons drove the two superpowers of USA and USSR to create incredibly destructive bombs. The children had some really interesting thoughts about this, and it was great to have some in depth discussions around the topic.



In Geography, we looked closely at the different types of pollution and how they affect the UK. We created some posters showing the impacts of air pollution in particular and how we can reduce the amount of pollution that is sent up into the atmosphere.



In Science, we spent some time looking at how flowering plants reproduce. In order to do this, we had the opportunity to dissect some flowers and try to identify the male and female parts of the plant that allow it to reproduce effectively. We have also had a think about how some plants produce seeds and we looked at how fruit can also be produced to product the seeds and allow for effective dispersal.



In amongst all this amazing learning, our Year 6 children managed to squeeze in a visit to Kings Lynn fire station to take part in the Crucial Crew event. The children had the opportunity to take part in a carousel of learning and activities, which helped them understand how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations.



## The Nest

Last term our main project was "Growing and Changing". We started our learning by thinking about the four different seasons and changes over time. We considered what plants and animals need to grow, change and survive. We found out more about food and farming and how we grow and change over time. The children especially enjoyed planting their own cress seeds and made careful observations over a few days to see how their seeds changed.

In RE, we based our learning on our big question "Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter Garden?". We found out that Christians believe that Jesus died at Easter but came back to Earth to save or rescue people, that the cross is a special symbol, that Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week and Easter and that there are different symbols and customs at Easter to remind Christians of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Our class text was "Jack and the Beanstalk". The children especially enjoyed making stick puppets. They used their puppets to help them to re-tell the story and to act out their favourite parts. We thought about how the characters might be feeling at different parts of the story.

This term our project has been "Kings and Queens". We started our new learning by re-capping and finding out about the Royal Family. We found out more about King Charles III and that the crown of England is passed down through the Royal Family. We explored different palaces and recognised that a palace is a special building where a King or Queen lives. We learnt that the King's Guard protect the King and that Kings and Queens have a coronation ceremony. We finished this topic by finding out more about our government and learnt that our government makes choices for our country.



In RE, our big question was "What makes every single person unique and precious?" We have found out that Christians believe that everyone is precious to and loved by God. We learnt that Christians believe that the Bible contains stories about how God loves people, that God welcomes people and gives thanks to babies in special ways in Church and that Jesus' Golden Rule helps them to live the way God wants them to. The children especially enjoyed discussing things which are special to them. They drew pictures of some of their special things.



Cooking has continued to be one of our favourite sessions in the Nest. Our cooking since Easter has included baking bread – the classroom smelt delicious and the bread tasted good too! We have also made jelly where we practised our cutting skills to chop up different fruits to put in our jelly. The children especially enjoyed using cooking ingredients to make mud for our dinosaurs to play in. The recipe included cocoa powder so the children enjoyed tasting the mud too!



In Personal, Social and Health Education, our learning has focused on "Keeping Safe". We have thought about places where we feel safe, how we feel when we feel safe and some of the people who help us to feel safe. We have started to think about what we can do if we don't feel safe, the people who can help us and how we can ask for this help.





# School Report



We came back from the Easter holidays and welcomed lots of new children to preschool! They have settled in so well and we are enjoying having them with us.

In preschool we celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters and welcoming Mat from Brandon Library to come and read the children some stories.

We enjoyed celebrating Easter with lots of craft activities, an egg and spoon race and making Easter nests and Easter biscuits.

The children are enjoying caring for the seeds we planted and are excited to see them grow! We planted some strawberries, potatoes, carrots, onions and pumpkin seeds.

We celebrated Earth Day by learning about how we can care for our planet by picking up our litter, recycling and walking or going on our bikes or scooters when we can, the children enjoyed sharing these ideas with their families.

The children have been busy hunting for different mini beasts in the garden now the weather is warmer, we have learnt about life cycles of caterpillars, plants and frogs, which the children have found interesting.



Our family bingo and raffle fundraiser at the end of April was a great success, we raised a brilliant £371 which will be going towards a summer trip for the children. We want to give a huge thank you to all staff, committee members and parents who helped with preparations and on the day. A big thank you to local companies and parents who donated prizes and of course another big thank you to everyone who came along to support this event.



If you are looking for childcare for ages 2-4 and would like to be added to our waiting list, please contact the preschool on 07927 690968.

# The Harvest Centre

Since 2010 The Harvest Centre Christian Church, Weeting and its partner charity, Care For Kuffu, have had the privilege of a humanitarian relief work in Uganda, East Africa. The aim has been the transformation of the village of Kuffu. In Uganda rural poverty is quite extreme.



When the Harvest Centre and Care For Kuffu began to work in the village, there were 60 children in two classrooms made of flimsy reed and a corrugated tin roof, a pit latrine, a small admin building, and one acre of land. Now over the past fourteen years there has been a transformation. They now have electricity, bio latrines and a well providing running water. The school now has 250 children with 13 staff and 11 brick built classrooms.

There is also a metal work fabrication shop, a visitor's centre, a church building, a kitchen, a micro-bank and the most recent project is a clinic / health centre. Also 15 acres of land have been purchased which are used for the production of various crops to feed the school and provide the children and staff with one meal a day. Alongside this some livestock projects have also been started. There is a piggery, chicken farm and goats.

Each year a team from the Harvest Centre and friends go out to Uganda to visit Kuffu and take part in various building projects. Part of the annual visit is a medical day in which local medical practitioners are employed and medication purchased for free distribution and treatment of the local community. Last year 408 people were treated. Also last year there was a two-storey structure erected with the help of our team to house the chickens and goats.



Local businesses and individuals have given generously towards these projects in Uganda and for that they deserve thanks. Although much has been achieved there is still a long way to go.

If you would like to be involved in this project, or make a gift, or for more information, contact [theharvestcentre.com](http://theharvestcentre.com) or [careforkuffu.org](http://careforkuffu.org)

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## 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.



## Help someone smile, become a Befriender

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

Could you:

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- 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](mailto:volunteers@caringtogether.org)  
[caringtogether.org/befriender](http://caringtogether.org/befriender)





# CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## Art For Pleasure

As mentioned in the last edition of Weeting Magazine we had a workshop in pastels and surprised ourselves at how good the pictures we all produced, especially as it was the first time many of the members had ever attempted pastels. It took a few weeks to complete our pictures and we missed the last magazine. So above is one of our member's lovely picture of a hare in pastel.



We also had a workshop with Phillipa Parker demonstrating the techniques of decoupage. It was fun to try something different. Staying different, our next workshop, but this time with a paint brush in our hands, we will be painting on pebbles/stones. We have all been searching for suitable pebbles whilst enjoying the sunny weather.

Our group will be holding our annual exhibition in Weeting Village Hall on Saturday 20th July this year. The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be home-made cakes, tea and coffee on sale. Entrance is free and you are cordially invited to come and meet our members and see the work we produce, maybe it will inspire you to return to an old hobby or try your hand at painting or sketching.

We meet every Thursday morning 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at Weeting Village Hall. New members are always welcome. Our name Art for Pleasure means exactly that – we meet for the pleasure of painting and the company of like-minded friends.

Further details can be obtained from: -

Beryl Pountney, – Tel no. 01842 828750

## Brandon Day Centre – a special place to visit

At Brandon Day Centre, ensuring our customers enjoy their experience is really important.

We asked one of our customers to give us a first-hand account of a typical day spent at Brandon Day Centre and this is what she had to say ...

*"I am always ready for the minibus to collect me in the morning, which is usually before 10am. The minibus also travels to Lakenheath, Thetford and Mildenhall and usually I will have a drive round as I like to be collected early. We normally get to the day centre at around 11am.*

*The staff are marvellous. They always welcome you with a smile. They are willing to help and are extremely kind and thoughtful. If I ever had a problem, I know the staff would help me.*

*There are always two options for our lunch, but as I now struggle to eat too much, they try to offer me an alternative if the menu is not suitable to my needs.*

*The activities are fun and a good laugh. The staff have created a fishing game which was a good laugh, especially as I took my friend's fish who sat next to me. They also do bingo, kurling, horse racing, higher or lower and carpet bowls.*

*I love the entertainment here, it's excellent. I enjoy music and Hanks Shadow was amazing. Jo comes in*

*once a week to do chair exercises with us. She takes the time to get to know us all and is full of energy. It's good for my physical health.*

*On the two days I attend each week, I enjoy chatting to different people who have now become my friends. I'm so glad I come here, it's nice to get out with others. It's worth every penny and I look forward to coming every week."*



## BRECKLAND CATS PROTECTION

On a cold, wet afternoon in February, I had a call from a man who had found a kitten on farmland in Thetford. He brought the kitten to me, as we were not sure of his age, and I am the hand rearer for our branch, if he was really tiny. Kittens under 6 weeks old need hand feeding.

The poor kitten was very wet, cold and petrified, spitting and growling. He wouldn't let me dry him with a towel, without losing a finger or two, so I put him on a hot pad in a dog crate in my kitchen and let him dry out on his own. I gave him some food, which he promptly ate. I did manage to put him in a small box and then weigh him on my kitchen scales and was able to determine he was around 10-11 weeks old. So not a hand rear – he could feed himself and use the litter tray. The dog crate is not very big, just enough room for a warm bed and a litter tray. I had him in my kitchen, as I wasn't sure if he was a feral kitten, and he may have never been in a home before. He would need to get used to household noises, like the kettle, washing machine, phone ringing and me talking to him. So for the first 24 hours, I talked to him, giving him food regularly and picking him up in a towel, to save my fingers, as many times as I could, despite the hissing and growling.

I needed to move him to my pop-up pen so that he had more room to move around. This pen is about 4 feet and is circular, so more room for toys. It was then I noticed he was having difficulty moving around. He crawled on his front legs, dragging his body behind him. The poor boy couldn't walk or stand, but he managed to fall into the litter tray for toileting. Amazingly he had no accidents.

At the next convenient time, I took him to our vet in Thetford. I saw a lovely vet, called Jess and she examined him thoroughly. She couldn't find anything obviously wrong with him, his spine felt fine and his legs had the normal number of bones in them. She came to the conclusion that he had either suffered a spinal injury, affecting all 4 of his legs, or he had a neurological condition. She pinched the skin between his toes on his back legs, but he couldn't feel anything. He wasn't aware his legs were there. She blood tested him for Feline Aids and Feline Leukaemia, and fortunately they were both negative. She suggested that I start physiotherapy with him and showed me how to do bicycle movements with all 4 of his leg which I should do around 3 times a day.

So off we went home, me now worrying that if he didn't respond to the physio, or he wouldn't let me do the physio, he may have to be put to sleep. There's no life for a kitten who can't stand or walk. Fortunately, he let me do the physio and was even purring all the time! I decided to double up on the number of times I worked on him, hoping that things would improve. Fortunately, he did begin to respond to the treatment and when the vet saw him a week later, she was very pleased with his progress. However, she decided not to vaccinate him, as she didn't want anything to interfere with the physio. She wanted to see him again in 2 weeks.

By the time we went back 2 weeks later, the improvement in the kitten's movement was amazing. He could now walk around almost normally, but his back legs were still weaker than his front legs. The vet said he could now be vaccinated and microchipped and she would like to see him again in 3 weeks when he has his second vaccine.

At the time of writing this article, he is a different kitten. He now has his own room with lots of toys and spends hours playing and batting all the balls around, and he can climb the cat tower. (This is when we cracked open the champagne!) No one would know that he had such a poor start and also a poor outlook. We will never know how he came to be in that field on a cold, wet day, but we can only assume that he was dumped, because whoever had him, thought he would not be homeable. I am delighted with the result and would have been heartbroken if I had had to have him put to sleep. Digby is fully vaccinated and neutered, and he is now a lovely very purry little boy who has been found a great home with a family who live in Thetford. He has a new name – Bob.



If you need help or advice, or assistance with the cost of neutering, please call our helpline on 01842 810018.

Rita Thompson.



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# CLUB SPOTLIGHT



May 7th dawned bright, sunny and warm after many days of blooming cold and wet days, thank goodness. West Norfolk Aviation Society (WNAS) were up for a day out, well, afternoon anyway with a visit to the Sculthorpe Heritage Centre now settled in their new home in the old RC church on the former RAF Sculthorpe base. This wasn't any old trip, however, oh no, we were going to travel by bus, a 1952 AEC Regal Four or AEC RF as its apparently known in the trade.

Fortunately, one of our members is a member of the group responsible for this vehicle and he drove it beautifully. What an experience in time travel it was! For you technophobes, it has a 9.6 litre 6 Cylinder AEC horizontal diesel engine and a pre-selector gearbox, which meant no big gear lever, just a small one on the steering wheel that pre-selects the gear required. The actual change is made by operating the 'clutch' pedal which selects the pre-selected gear, if you see what I mean! Anyway, very clever technology and it seemed to work perfectly and very smoothly.

First up, literally, was a couple of steep steps, no kneeling flat platforms here thank you. Once on board, the bus was respectably quiet and pretty comfortable, cruising happily on the main roads at 45mph. The trip from Brandon to Sculthorpe was about one hour and we all settled happily into chatting about all things aviation.

Soon we were at our destination and a fine job they have done as well, having spruced up the old RC church with loads of interesting displays and memorabilia, parts of old aircraft, histories of various aircraft flying suits, Operation Jiu Jitsu (see the March WNAS report in Weeting Village Life) and even some old Air Traffic Control Tower bricks and glass for sale, - a subject close to my heart as a former Air Traffic Controller for 46 years. The Heritage centre was opened especially for our visit and included tea and some especially delicious cake, homemade by the curator's wife - lovely!

After about 2 and half hours it was time to go, so we all boarded the AEC RF (think I'm getting the hang of the terminology!) for the return trip. It only remained for us to fill the bus with diesel, about 10 mpg on average. We say thank you to our fantastic driver John. The picture opposite is NOT driver John but your 'stand in scribe' sitting in the driver's seat making 'brum brum' noises whilst pretending to be driving the bus - another bucket list item fulfilled!

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 Bowls Club between 7 and 9.30pm, where you will be guaranteed a warm welcome with tea, biscuits and light snacks provided. Check the website [www.westnorfolkaviationsociety.org.uk](http://www.westnorfolkaviationsociety.org.uk) to see what exciting topics await and to confirm we actually will be there and not on a trip to Sculthorpe by vintage bus. Come on, what have you got to lose?

Mark Burch, Stand In Scribe.



## Editor's Note:

The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published in September 2024.

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 16th August 2024**.

I look forward to hearing from you.



## 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!



**WEETING BOWLS CLUB  
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE  
IT'S OUR 50TH YEAR  
COME & JOIN US IN  
CELEBRATION!**

**SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024  
B.B.O 3PM  
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT  
WITH JERRY 8PM**

**SUNDAY 26TH MAY 2024  
LIVE MUSIC  
MARC JACOBS  
9PM**

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 27TH MAY 2024  
BOWLING OPEN DAY & TRIPLES COMPETITION.  
FREE ENTRY  
OPEN TO ALL  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME AND HAVE A GO.  
FLAT SOLED SHOES ONLY FOR GREEN ENTRANCE  
10AM - 5.30PM  
BAR OPEN FROM 11.30AM  
FOOD AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM 12.30PM**

£60 prize money  
for the triples winners

come and make some  
memories with us this  
bank holiday!

*Give it a Try*



After a few hiccups following a pesky rook attack on the newly restored green: A keen and helpful band of volunteers, under the instruction and supervision of our newly appointed grounds man, worked hard to get everything back on track. We are all looking forward to a wonderful season of bowling during this, our Golden

Jubilee Year. Celebrations begin in earnest over the late May bank holiday weekend.

Everyone is welcome to any or all of the outlined events. Monday's triples competition should be well contested. If anyone is interested in entering a team, they should contact Joanna Nordan, Club Captain on [jonordan@hotmail.com](mailto:jonordan@hotmail.com) with names of team members.

Please note that **flat-soled shoes** are an absolute necessity for admission



**HAVE FUN!**

**GET FIT!**

**WHY NOT JOIN**

**METHWOLD  
BADMINTON CLUB?**

THIS FRIENDLY BADMINTON CLUB MEETS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL IN THE CENTRE OF METHWOLD FROM 7PM ONWARDS.

OUR SEASON RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER TO APRIL.

WHY NOT COME ALONG, MEET NEW FRIENDS AND ENJOY AN ACTIVE EVENING PLAYING BADMINTON.

WANT MORE DETAILS?

Contact Jeff Millard on

01842 827428

**HOPE TO SEE YOU!**



## WEETING VILLAGE HALL

Well, here we are with nearly half the year gone already. As the saying goes, "time flies by when you are having fun" – or should that be when you are busy! Firstly, we have had a brand-new Fire Alarm installed, including new signs by the fire exits, with the main fire alarm board in the foyer – if anyone using the hall is in doubt as to how it works, please contact Angie Page, the Lettings officer.

By the time this magazine comes out we will have had the AGM on Monday 13th May. Hopefully most of the existing committee, as at time of writing this report, will be remaining, plus a few more with any luck. Remember, without a committee this hall cannot function and for all those clubs and groups who regularly use the hall it is an asset that has been in existence since the 1970's. We have always tried to keep the hire fees down to accommodate all the groups, especially those with only a few members. For all new residents in our lovely village of Weeting, there are several groups and clubs who meet regularly in the hall. Notices about their monthly events are on the notice boards around the village - (1) at the bus stop at the Junction of Hockwold Road; (2) on the right hand side of the entrance to the hall driveway; (3) beside the hall entrance door; and (4) in the hall foyer. There is a list of local clubs and organisations in the centre of this magazine, many of which meet in the hall.

Last month a few volunteers cleaned all the chairs and my goodness they did need a good clean! Thanks go to Angie Page, Eve Day, Margaret Lister, Carole Wilkins, me (Karen Scott) and of course our ever-present young man, Robbie Fairclough, who is always on hand to help us. Hopefully everyone will have noticed we have had a change around with all the large tables now stored down in the same area as the chairs whilst the small square tables are still in a corner on the stage. This is to help the cleaners – this all takes time and with only two of them doing it, they have precious little time to do much in between clubs and groups who use the hall.

Hooray, at last the hall driveway has now had a facelift, but ladies and gentleman, if you are using this, please respect the fact that it costs a lot of money every year to repair it and we cannot be held responsible for any damage done to your vehicles. There are signs stating that you use and park in this area at your own risk. Fingers crossed the driveway will last a long time.

In the meantime, I do hope you all have a good summer, enjoy the holidays and we look forward to meeting new people or introducing new groups and clubs into the hall.

Karen Scott - Treasurer

## 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



## MOBILE LIBRARY

13th June 2024

11th July 2024

8th August 2024

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 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 |

**Georgina Sims 07913 976786**

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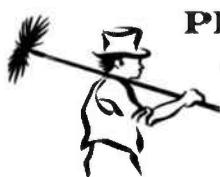
Mon: 4.00 - 9.30pm  
Tues - Thurs: Lunchtime Open: 12.00 - 2.00pm • 4.00- 9.30pm  
Fri & Sat: 12.00- 9.30pm • Sunday Closed

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Telephone: 07506 683354  
Email: iburris@phoenixecoplumbing.com  
Website: phoenixecoplumbing.com  
Phoenix Eco Plumbing



## Weeting Gardening Services

### Lawns & Hedges

**Ron Bloomfield**  
14 Glebe Road, Weeting  
Tel: 01842 812173





## WEETING SPEED RECORDER UPDATE

| Time Period<br>FROM       | Time Period<br>TO     | Position<br>(Direction facing) | Total Count<br>of vehicles | Speed Limit<br>mph | Vehicles within<br>the speed limit | Speeding<br>Violations |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>2024</b>               |                       |                                |                            |                    |                                    |                        |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> February | 9 <sup>th</sup> March | Peppers Close (W)              | 3029                       | 30                 | 2884                               | 145                    |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March     | 6 <sup>th</sup> April | Park View (W)                  | 30441                      | 30                 | 28052                              | 2389                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> April     | 4 <sup>th</sup> May   | Lynn Road (N)                  | 55738                      | 40                 | 37228                              | 18510                  |
|                           |                       |                                |                            |                    |                                    |                        |

### Quarterly Summary

|                                                                           |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Vehicle Count from 10 <sup>th</sup> February to 4 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>89208</b>  |
| Vehicle Count within the speed limit                                      | <b>68124</b>  |
| Speeding Violations within the village                                    | <b>21044</b>  |
| Violators as a percentage of the total vehicle count                      | <b>23.59%</b> |

## ?? Who's Who ??

### Weeting Parish Councillors

|                                 |              |                              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Cllr Ian Childerhouse           | 07747 794867 | ianchilderhouse@icloud.com   |
| Cllr Tom Childerhouse (V Chair) | 01842 811469 | tjchilderhouse@btconnect.com |
| Cllr Margaret Lister            | 01842 810467 | margaretlister11@gmail.com   |
| Cllr Mike Nairn (Chair)         | 01842 810212 | mikenairn871@gmail.com       |
| Cllr Sue Nairn                  | 01842 810212 | sue.nairn@btinternet.com     |
| Cllr Peter Nordan               | 01842 815638 | nordanp@hotmail.co.uk        |
| Cllr Rowena Read                | 07985 702940 | rowena71uk@gmail.com         |
| Cllr Bernard Smith              | 07985 902188 | bernardsmith7@btinternet.com |
| Cllr Carole Wilkins             | 01842 550919 | carolewlkns@sky.com          |

### Weeting Parish Clerk

|                   |              |                                            |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Mrs Pauline Angus | 07741 481956 | clerk@weetingparishcouncil.org.uk          |
|                   |              | 50 Brecklands, Mundford, Norfolk, IP26 5EG |

### Breckland District Councillor

|                        |              |                                    |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen | 07771 966457 | sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk |
| Cllr Robert Kybird     | 01842 753132 | robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk     |

### Norfolk County Councillor

|                   |              |                             |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Cllr Fabian Eagle | 07774 295510 | fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|

### Member of Parliament

|                     |               |                                                                                    |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs Elizabeth Truss | 020 7219 7151 | elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk                                                   |
| House of Commons    |               | website: <a href="http://www.elizabethtruss.com">http://www.elizabethtruss.com</a> |
| SW1A 0AA            |               | Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/trussliz">https://twitter.com/trussliz</a>   |

### Constituency Office

01842 766155



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

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## ★ Weeting All Star Performers ★

Hi everybody! Well, June is busting out all over, as the song goes. Hopefully we will have some lovely sunshine and you will be sitting in your gardens having a nice cool drink, when you read this great edition of Weeting Life.

WASPs are rehearsing for our next show, but, as all things never go exactly as you want them, we have had to make some changes to our dates for the Comedy Murder show **"Murder at the Grange"**. However, some exciting news - not only are we rehearsing for the 'Murder', but also doing another show. As you all know, this year Great Britain is celebrating the 80th year of the **D-Day Landings**, so we have got together with the **Brandon Choir** to put on a concert to include all those well-known songs that have been a part of our lives and which we hope you will all come and enjoy joining in to sing with us. Good old songs such as "Lambeth Walk", "It's a Long way to Tipperary" and "We'll Meet Again", just to name a few, in order to step back in time for one afternoon. So, put this date in your diary:

**Saturday 8th June** at Weeting Village Hall. Doors open at 2pm, show starts at 3pm, tickets £4. A raffle will be held at half time and, fingers crossed, we won't burn the cakes and biscuits from the '40s recipe we have found! As the hall will only hold a certain number of people, I would suggest you get your tickets before the day and you can get them from either Dee's Delight in Brandon High Street, or ring Carole on 01842 550919.

**"Murder at the Grange"** will be performed by the usual nutty crowd from WASPs (in case you are new here it stands for Weeting All Star Performers) and, as all our regular visitors will tell you, yes, we are, but this is done for fun to make you laugh, so come and join us at the village hall on:

**Friday 5th July** - doors open 6.15, show at 7pm.

**Saturday 6th July** - doors open at 1.15pm, show at 2pm, and

**Saturday 6th July** - doors open at 5.45, show starts at 7pm.

Tickets £5 for adults £4 children and OAP's. These are available from Dee's Delight or Carole on 01842 550919.

Just to make you enjoy coming to the Weeting Village Hall, we are holding another **Craft Show** on **Saturday July 13th** at 10am with lots of lovely crafts to see and admire and hopefully buy. Food will be available in our kitchen from Angie and her gang and a raffle of some of the things from the stalls - so you might even win one!

Now onto the forthcoming season. We hope to start rehearsing for our Winter Pantomime in September and, with that in mind, I am looking for some youngsters. To join us. We have room for some new faces aged between 7 - 14 years for children's parts, but we are always open for anyone over that age up until we start rehearsing as I can always add more characters to the script.

I hope to arrange a date to have auditions one Saturday in early September and as soon as one has been arranged, I will put it on Facebook etc. and possibly in the next edition of this great magazine.

Hope to see you all at the **D-Day** show in June and the comedy in July.

Have a great summer - see you all around our lovely village.

Carole



**Virtually Norfolk WI** is celebrating its third birthday and to mark the occasion has changed its logo with the addition of a somewhat cheeky Heron or Hanser if you speak Norfolk. Membership is rising and with our association with the Virtual Group of WI's, our horizons are widening.

"Working with the Ghosts at Hampton Court", as told by

Sarah Slater, was fascinating and included Catherine Howard desperately trying to find the King! Future delights ... The true cost of fish and chips to how to become a Roman Empress. There is now the opportunity to attend the National Annual Meeting via Zoom and Virtually Norfolk's Garden Party complete with cake, tea and conversation at a very local venue!

For all further details, joining, having a taster session - please contact Hazel on [virtuallynorfolkwi@gmail.com](mailto:virtuallynorfolkwi@gmail.com)

## Weeting History

Several years ago there was a fairly active group called the Weeting History Group that met monthly, headed by Gerry and Alma Moore. The couple did a lot of research into Weeting's illustrious past and some of its residents and compiled several books and documents as well as a huge collection of photographs and villager's memories.

Unfortunately, the group is no longer active, although the collection still exists and is in good hands. However, lately there has been a surge of interest in the village's past history and Val Grass, who has lived in Weeting since a child, has set up a Facebook group called Weeting History. She has access to many photos, documents and memories of the village and would be pleased for people to join the group, either just to read the posts or to contribute their memories, photos, etc.

## WEETING PARISH COUNCIL ... continued

Ann E Morgan - April 2024.

It is August 1949 and the question of the use of the hut was still ongoing and no further progress had been made over the level crossing, but it was suggested that a letter be sent to the Traffic Commissioners. A decision was made to rescind the proposal to meet every three months to an agreed two months. Application to Norfolk County Council by the Divisional Surveyor was to be made to classify the condition of the Weeting to Brandon footpath as war damage and the Chairman confirmed that strong opposition had been made to the proposal that the Hall should become a Borstal Centre! (*Borstal Prisons were an experimental juvenile prison system set up in 1902 and officially abolished in 1982*) and, whilst it was not agreed the Parish Council should write to their MP Mr S Dye, (*Labour politician, MP for South-West Norfolk, who died in a road crash in 1958*) a special meeting would be convened if deemed necessary.

Refuse was still being dumped by tenants but as they could not increase collections, it was agreed that if dumping continued, the Council would be compelled to prosecute and introduce heavy penalties. Eastern Electricity's quarterly bill of £1.10.3d was agreed and it noted the total number of Electors on the Roll was 265.

(*The minutes are now running to two pages on a regular basis*) At the October meeting, it was noted the footpath had been designated "war damage" and would be repaired by the State and that the Rural District Council were negotiating to install their own cesspool. It was confirmed that in view of strong protests, the proposal to use Weeting Hall as a Borstal Institution had been dropped. The light and drain at the Station was again brought up with the thought the drain needed a bigger pipe. By December, it was noted the drain was felt to be satisfactory and the start of the bus service was imminent. Allocation of the new houses being built would be considered by the Parish Council and recommendations made to the RDC.

1950 opened with the first meeting of the Parish Council on the 31st January - Mr Knight still in the Chair with Mr Malt the Clerk. It was confirmed that work on the huts at Weeting Hall had started as had the bus service to Bury St Edmunds. The Chairman noted that a further six houses had been allocated to Weeting. The next part of the meeting was held in committee and after much discussion, ten names were listed with one reserve (*who may or may not be related to a member of our current Parish Council!*). By the March meeting, there was the first reference to allotments as the tenants of the Swedish houses were not in favour of the ground between them being used for the purpose. Mr R Parrott offered a site for the additional six houses and a request for a meeting of local parish councils to consider Civil Defence arrangements. (*This was a time of heightened tensions, the Cold War and the further development of the hydrogen and atomic bombs.*) Unfortunately, it was noted that the bus service might have to be withdrawn because of lack of use.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in April when Mr Knight was re-elected Chair, Mr Malt, Clerk. Matters raised ranged from the nuisance caused by smoke from a local factory to a leaking tap at the rear of a tenant's house. The Clerk presented the accounts for the year, Precept Income £20.0.0d and expenditure £18.11.4d. and it was decided to make enquiries about a playing field between the Council Houses. This was later turned down as it was already leased out and also access to cesspools.

At the meeting in June 1950 it was confirmed the smoke nuisance had been referred to the Sanitary Inspector (*the title has evolved over the years, Inspectors of Nuisances, Sanitary Inspectors, Public Health and now Environmental Health Officers*). The Chairman advised the six additional houses in Weeting should be built and there were problems with the ladies' lavatory at The Hut, Weeting Hall which would be "attended to" and a complaint that tenants were using excessive amounts of water and only paying domestic rate. (*The mind boggles!*)

By September, the Chairman confirmed that work had begun on the six council houses held up due to shortage of bricks. Questions were raised on past concerns and a new request that the recently completed path to Brandon should allow cycle use. However, the proposed monthly refuse collection had been shelved by the RDC but would be reconsidered later. There was a complaint that Polish personnel were getting preferential treatment over British at Weeting Hall. This was discussed and the Chairman advised this was a matter for the Ministry of Health who were obliged to house the Polish personnel in more hygienic accommodation. It was agreed a protest should be made and the Chairman asked to take this up with the RDC.

In December, Eastern Electricity said that the extension to the lighting in the village should be postponed for six months. The increase in Council House rents was highlighted - the Chairman saying that it was the RDC ambition to make council housing self-supporting. Hopefully, arrangements could be made to light up both the telephone kiosk by the station and the one in the centre of the village. The Chairman noted there had been no allocation of Old Age Pensioner's parcels and in future the Council should be informed before issue. It was agreed to get the views of the Parish in relation to the forthcoming 1951 Festival of Britain. (*Celebrating the centenary of the 1851 Great Exhibition which was held in the purpose-built Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London*).

The Annual Meeting was held the following April where Mr Knight was again re-elected as Chairman. (*Meetings now seem to have reverted to four times per year although there is no mention of this in the minutes and no editions are missing*). The Chairman noted that rates had gone up and would do so in the future, so consideration of additional lighting was again postponed. There was considerable discussion of the fact that the water supply had been cut off without prior notice and the precept would be increased to £10.0.0d per annum.

We have now reached July 1951- the question of the unexpected cut off of the water supply had been resolved, it had apparently been an oversight. The RDC had now agreed to EIGHT collections per year in all areas. The question of the Survey of Public Rights of Way Act was then raised. There were fifteen listed and it was finally agreed that members of the Parish Council would "walk" them as the survey required. Amongst those listed - Botany Bay, Mount Ephraim to Northwold Road and Sunnyside to Mundford beside Emily's Wood. (*But they were exhausted - do we still do this?*)

**Reply from present PC Chairman - "No, we don't! Anyone volunteering???"**



# ✂ Summer Gardening ✂

In the blink of an eye, spring has rolled into summer. Although it doesn't feel like we had much of a spring it was so wet, cold and windy. However, don't worry if you are behind on previous years, the plants will soon catch up, although if anything I'm sure most of the hardy plants in our garden have flowered much earlier this year? Funny though, my favourite flowers at this moment in time are the daisies in our 'lawn' they are so beautiful, a carpet of white and yellow and full of pollinating insects - a benefit of 'no mow may'. My other favourite is the wisteria growing over the pergola at the front of the shop, it's been stunning this year. For those of you wondering we think we planted it around 20 years ago!

Now those routine tasks of deadheading and watering take priority. You will find caring for your plants a bit different this year now that compost is all peat free. Water little and often, always check by poking your finger in the soil to see if the compost is damp lower down as peat free composts can look dry on top when actually there is plenty of water below the surface. Smaller pots can be lifted, as can hanging baskets by gently placing your hand at the base of the basket and lifting upwards. You'll be able to tell how much moisture is available by how heavy they are.

Plants in peat-free compost might need feeding more often, make sure to follow the manufacturers instructions. Lots of fertilisers are now labelled "specially formulated for peat-free compost". You might see small mushrooms growing on the top of your pots. This isn't anything to be concerned about, it's a natural part of the composted bark rotting, simply pinch them off and pop in your compost bin.

## Here's my Top Tips For Summer Gardening:

- Summer prune stone-fruit trees (pruning now prevents silver leaf disease)
- Sow seeds of biennials including sweet Williams, forget-me-nots and wallflowers for flowering next spring.
- If any of your hanging basket plants have become leggy trim the excess away, to encourage new bushier growth.
- Pinch outside shoots from cordon tomato plants.
- Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds.
- Regularly pick vegetables such as cucumbers and runner beans to keep them cropping.
- Apply a high potash fertiliser to tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and summer annuals to keep them producing fruit and flowers.
- Pest-watch. Be vigilant, early treatment will prevent infestations.
- Deadhead your roses if they're repeat-flowering types. Otherwise, leave the seed heads on for decoration.
- Stake tall perennial plants to prevent wind damage.
- As new shoots grow, use soft ties to train climbing plants such as honeysuckle and clematis to their supports.

However, In Summer the most important job to do is to enjoy your garden, heady scents, glorious colours, an abundance of fruits and vegetables and hopefully more sunshine. What could be more enjoyable and satisfying than surveying the results of your hard work throughout the year?

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc(Hons)

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## Picture Puzzle

Below are pictures of ten objects which are found in almost every home, photographed in close-up and from unusual angles. Can you identify them?  
Answers on page 14.



1

2

3

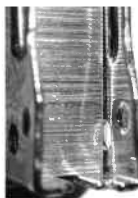
4



5

6

7



8

9

10

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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.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

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# Village Shop & Post Office

A very warm welcome to Sugu, his sister Suganthi and brother-in-law Sathish who have recently taken over the Londis shop and Post Office in Hereward Way.

Manager, Sugu, will be organising a refit inside the premises in the next few weeks, but has stressed that the shop and Post Office counter will remain open during this. The refit will enable him to introduce extra lines, so please give him your support. Village shops are becoming rarer and we are very fortunate to have one that offers such a comprehensive selection of our daily needs.

Don't forget that you can use our Post Office for most of your banking needs such as paying in cash or cheques, withdrawing cash and paying bills etc..



## New customers welcome at Brandon Day Centre

If you or someone you know is feeling isolated and would like to make new friends, our caring and professional team is waiting to welcome you to Brandon Day Centre where we support adults of all ages, including those with a physical disability or living with dementia, in a safe and homely setting.

You can enjoy a full and stimulating day of activities (including the use of a digital interactive screen with games, music and films), as well as regular live entertainment.

Staff are always on hand for those needing help with personal care, and you can enjoy a relaxing bath/hair wash in our specially adapted bath. Refreshments are provided throughout the day and lunch includes a nutritious two-course home cooked meal, with all dietary requirements catered for.

Door-to-door transport is available for those living in Brandon and the surrounding areas, who have no other means of getting to the centre.

Before attending the first time, we arrange an assessment visit, which gives us the chance to understand your needs, likes, and dislikes and an opportunity for you to ask questions/share concerns.

We are currently open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

To find out more, call Michelle Jarrett, Day Centre Manager on **01842 819777**, email [daycare@empanda.org.uk](mailto:daycare@empanda.org.uk), or visit our website at [empanda.org.uk/daycare](http://empanda.org.uk/daycare).



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- 1 - Soap dispenser..
- 2 - Brush.
- 4 - Roll of Sellotape.
- 6 - Wooden clothes peg.
- 8 - Sherry bottle cork.
- 10 - Open stapler (exposing staples).
- 3 - Sieve.
- 5 - 13amp plug protector.
- 7 - Toast rack
- 9 - Garlic press

**Answers to Picture Puzzle on page 13**



# Rector's Report

On March 25th this year we celebrated a milestone at St Mary's. The whole of Weeting school, children, staff along with parents, grandparents, friends and parishioners gathered in the church for the school's Easter service.



What a joyful occasion. It's the first time that I remember being able to accommodate all the children and families in the church at the one time and this of course was possible because there are no pews in the nave. The children processed from school to the church carrying their beautifully



decorated palm crosses which class by class they laid on the altar before taking their seats on the floor of the nave. Adults were easily accommodated using the chairs recently acquired by the PCC.



Each class presented part of the Easter story starting with Chestnut class with their paper palm leaves and Jesus and Donkey and finishing with the most amazing banner created by Beech class which I promptly asked if St Mary's could borrow as our altar frontal for Easter Day. Elm and Oak classes filled in the narrative of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion. They finished with the whole school singing Lord of the Dance.



Dr Hardie was rightly proud of the children and staff on this historic day. It was amazing to see the church full to the brim with the sun shining through the windows. This is hopefully the first of many such visits to St Mary's by the children and families of Weeting school. To see the church live after so many months of being shut down is an absolute joy.

The children's palm crosses are now strung between the pillars of the nave and make a colourful display as well as being a reminder of this historic occasion for St Mary's and Weeting school.

## Next phase of work at St Mary's

I have spoken to Geoffrey Hunter who is head of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and invited him, along with Holly Robinson who has been so incredibly helpful to us in securing the grant from Historic England to undertake the surveys to come out to advise us about the best way to plan the reordering of the nave so that the space can remain flexible for multipurpose use. I'm immensely grateful to Tom and David Childerhouse for their patience in continuing to store the pews and a decision regarding the pews will need to be made very soon by the DAC so that Tom and David are not inconvenienced by storing pews for a lengthy period. The PCC is meeting to discuss this in early May and to arrange a date for a meeting with the DAC.

Repairs to the interior ceiling of the porch will take place as soon as the contractor becomes available.

I will be able to provide more information about a timetable for ongoing works in due course.

## Summer celebration

We will have an 'Open afternoon/evening' on a date to be advised in June or July with plentiful refreshments – bubbly, tea, coffee, soft drinks, nibbles and of course cake to celebrate the reopening of St Mary's. This will provide an opportunity for village people to come and have a look at the work that has been done as well as seeing the work that will still need to be done to undertake all the repairs recommended by the Historic England survey. I'll also invite local press and others from Historic England and the various Grant bodies and especially our local supporters and fundraisers who have been part of the process of enabling the church to reopen.

This event will be advertised on social media as soon as a date has been agreed by the PCC. Everyone in the village is welcome and warmly encouraged to come and see what is happening in St Mary's.

On **Pentecost Sunday** [20th May] St Mary's will host a Benefice Eucharist so that people from across the Benefice can see what has been done at St Mary's and join together in a joint service of celebration followed by refreshments. The service will be an informal Eucharist to which all school families are warmly invited and hopefully we'll have some children to take some active parts in the service.

As the days lengthen and the weather hopefully becomes warmer let's enjoy all that summer has to offer.

Every blessing,  
Rev'd Canon Joan Horan - Rector St Mary's Weeting



# Driving A Steam Roller

John Holledge

I have always loved the sight and sound of steam vehicles, road rollers, locomotives and road traction engines. One Easter weekend we visited our daughter, Elizabeth, when she lived in Wainscott, Kent. When we arrived, she told me that the local vicar that she knew not only had a car but also a 12ton Aveling & Porter steam roller called MOBY DICK, built in 1913, that he was going to steam up the next day and he had offered to take me for a ride around the dockyard in Chatham.



The following day we drove down to the historic dockyard on the Medway River, arriving at this enormous wooden building – the biggest of its kind in the country, possibly in the world. Inside were stored large boats, vintage cars, lorries, railway locomotives and rolling stock, five steam rollers, two fairground engines and various military vehicles and weapons.



We made our way down the road inside the building where the vicar had already lit up the furnace that was slowly warming up the boiler. After instructions, I got busy polishing the brass fittings with a gallon can of Brasso and a sack of polishing cloths and then helped with the greasing and oiling up. It is amazing how much there is to do!

After about an hour, the vicar said we had got enough steam up and we were ready to go. He drove the roller out of its bay and onto the dockside, where I was invited to climb onto the footplate. The first thing one notices is there are no foot controls – all hand operated and HOT! "Ok, off we go", said the vicar and he showed me what to do to get going. I selected forward mode, slowly opened the throttle and the roller began to lumber away with a loud hissing noise. "Blow the whistle!", he said, so I did, and the noise was deafening! The canopy filled with steam and I could not see anything. People watching covered their ears as we drove across the dockyard to the main gate, stopping at the main road which was full of traffic. "Drive on", he said, "and blow the whistle. Give them a big one!" It was like Moses parting the Red Sea! Cars moved over to make room for us as we trundled down the main road towards Chatham Marina. We came up to a large roundabout where we had to stop, only steam rollers have no brakes as such, only a parking brake. In order to stop you have to close the throttle and pull the reverse lever.

While waiting to join the traffic, a car drew up alongside us and the near side windows were wound down so that the children could look at the roller. As we moved off, I blew the whistle – the children nearly jumped out of their skins, screamed and the windows were closed PDQ!

On arriving at the Medway Marina we stopped too sharp and ploughed up the tarmac just a bit! We stopped outside a restaurant where we bought the vicar a lovely lunch to thank him for making my day while the rest of the family had driven down in front of us. The other customers thought it was Fred Dibnah that had turned up! After lunch we had a great ride back to the dockyard where we parked and cleaned out the fire box.

Later, we went round to the rope works to see manilla ropes being made, mainly for sailing ships. The eighteenth-century building is a quarter of a mile long and the machine travels along rails, twisting the rope threads as it goes along, with the operator riding his bicycle alongside it. There is also a warship, a submarine and a helicopter on display in the docks together with many industrial steam locomotives, some of a very peculiar design, but all in working order.



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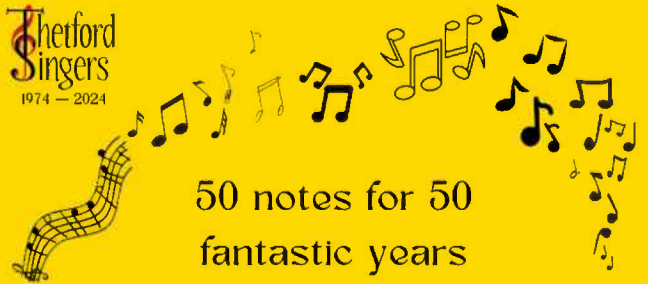


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Our Spring concert featured a professional orchestral ensemble in a Thetford Singers performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and 'Magnificat'. Our aim is to provide high-quality concerts in Thetford and in so doing to support the positive mental health and well-being of our local community.

Our Summer concert will be a celebration of 50 fantastic years of singing and will include our junior section Thetford Voices and local schoolchildren.

Our sponsors will be listed in our Summer concert programme and will receive two complimentary tickets to the Summer concert 2024.

For further information please contact [hilarylevan1@gmail.com](mailto:hilarylevan1@gmail.com) secretary for Thetford Singers.

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Membership is £35 a year and under 16's are £15 a year.

You can shoot for one time as a guest before membership is required.



## Parish Council Update

We would like to welcome Rowena Heal to our Parish Council Committee following the resignation of Clodagh Drewry, whom we thank for all her sterling work with us over the past few years.

The Village Hall drive has finally been repaired, although the entrance to it from Saxon Place needs some infilling. However, this is the responsibility of Breckland District Council who have been made aware of the problem.

You may have noticed the strange item that has appeared in the area beside the school where the old Playgroup building used to stand. This is a swift tower, providing accommodation for these lovely birds. We have quite a flock that regularly come to Weeting during the summer and we hope that some of them will enjoy their new hotel. This was financed thanks to our County Councillor, Fabian Eagle. The tower also has a swift birdcall to help attract them to it.



The flagpole on Parrott's Piece has a brand new Union Flag, as the other was an old one that had been flying on the Chairman's own flagpole for over a year. We have also obtained a St George's flag that we had flying in April and will be hoisting the Norfolk Flag on Norfolk Day later this year.

The wooden swing set on the play area is in need of replacement. Recently, the supporting link on one of chains broke and, after careful inspection, it was noticed that the other links were badly worn and would have broken fairly soon. As the apparatus is probably almost double the age of its intended lifespan, we are now in the process of seeking an alternative, as the company that made the original equipment went out of business soon after we obtained it. Also, we are of the opinion that metal framed equipment is more substantial and would therefore be safer and longer lasting.

Some residents have been asking about our decision to remove the fencing that had surrounded the play area. Many of the wooden panels had rotted and were frequently being kicked in by people with nothing better to do, thereby exposing nails and screws that could have been dangerous. The multiple repairs had created a patchwork that was only a temporary fix at best and more likely to cause harm than be a help; therefore removal was necessary. In fact, there is no legal requirement for a fence to be provided at all and those of you who have lived in the village for some time might remember that the playground was originally sited on Parrott's Piece with no fencing between it and the main road. However, we are researching what fencing would be possible to place between the play area and the Village Hall car park to stop children crossing over. This fencing would need to be maintenance free, resistant to vandalism and in line with RoSPA's (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) recommendations. Just to give you some idea - to enclose the **whole** play area would probably be in excess of £20,000.

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2024

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