



WEETING VILLAGE LIFE

September 2024
Edition 47

Weeting Steam Engine Rally & Country Show 2024

Wow, what a show, the weather was kind to us this year, if anything a little too hot, but we can't complain and people certainly flooded in from all over the country! We had another great weekend this year, following on from the success of last year, even though we had rain in 2023!



We'd like to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers, exhibitors and traders and to those of you who came along and supported us by attending over the weekend, we couldn't put on the show without you all, thank you.

With well over 10,000 people visiting the village of Weeting for our 2024 show, we certainly help to put our lovely village on the map! We can only apologise for the traffic delays, we do our best in getting all vehicles off the public road and onto site as quickly as possible, and we are already working on solutions to help improve this issue for next year.



We'd like to give a big thank you to Weeting Saxon Football Club, and a couple of other villagers for all their help with putting up fencing before the event and for helping with the take down afterwards. Another thank you goes out to Weeting Weenies, the Church and Friends of Weeting for all their help within The Hub, helping to keep children entertained for free over the rally weekend, and with supporting the tractor trailers rides.

These village groups will receive donations from the rally, for their help in supporting us and in doing so, creating stronger community links that are sure to continue year after year.

The rally has been running since 1968 and is now a massive annual event within the village, we are 100% committed to involving the community more, if any of you would like to volunteer your help, either before, during or after the event, please get in touch with Kate, the rally organiser who will be glad to hear from you.



We are already starting to plan for 2025, work never really stops! We look forward to seeing you all on Friday 18th, Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July 2025. Follow us on Facebook and our website to keep up with the latest news. www.weetingrally.co.uk

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 or Susan Mann 07783 009606



Dates for your Diaries

Two important fundraising events towards on-going repairs at
St Mary's Church, Weeting



On Sat 16 Nov 2024, 7.00pm
At Weeting Village Hall

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

Editor's Contact Details:

Sue Nairn
Sixpenny Tithe
Park View
Weeting, IP27 0QD



01842 810212

wvl@btinternet.com





School Report



As we come to the end of another school year all of the staff would like to say a huge thank you to the children, families and community for supporting us as we continue to build on the great provision we have here at Weeting Primary School. Some of the highlights from each class include:

Chestnut

In Literacy, the children have studied a range of traditional tales. They particularly enjoyed exploring the fairy story "Little Red Riding Hood", especially finding about the characteristics of "good" and "bad" characters! The children used adjectives to describe their paintings of the characters



Red Riding Hood and the Wolf.

They also explored a West African folk tale called "Anansi the Spider" and discovered what happened to Anansi and how his sons helped him. The children then used egg cartons, paints and pipe cleaners to create their own Anansi spiders.



Beech

As part of our Design Technology, cooking unit, the children learnt how to make a variety of dips and how to cut and chop

vegetables to make crudites. It was lovely to see how many of the children tried their creations even though they were unsure at first. It was also great to see so many adults visiting us too.



Elm

In Art, the children mastered the skill of cross stitching. The children demonstrated an excellent ability to tie knots and thread a needle, as well as following directions from their own design instructions. They displayed great enthusiasm towards changing colours and changing their designs in order to keep the pattern symmetrical.



Oak

One of the highlights of the term was the children's trip to Bletchley Park. I was so proud of how well the children represented the school, with several of the Park's staff commenting on how respectful the children were and how interested they were in finding out about the work carried out by the women and men who worked there.

There was huge excitement when the children found the memorial wall commemorating all of those who had worked at Bletchley Park and immediately recognised the brick dedicated to Alan Turing, the man who played a huge part in learning how to decipher German messages using the Bombe and Enigma machines.



The children explored the Mansion used to gather messages from Europe and the huts where the different code breaking teams worked.



They were amazed to discover that over 75% of the people working at Bletchley Park were women and that those who worked there had to sign the Official Secrets Act because of the sensitivity of the work. They learnt that they would tell their friends and families that they were "doing boring paperwork" and many of those working here never told anyone about their contributions to the war effort. This has become a favourite phrase in and around the school!

The day ended with a code breaking workshop, where the children learnt how to read ciphers and listen to morse code to help us stop a spy from stealing the secrets of Bletchley Park.

The highlight of this part of the visit was using an Enigma machine that had been built and used during the Second World War. The children were amazed

to discover that this machine was worth £500,000 and treated it with great care as they found out how it was used to encode and decode messages.



The Nest



One of the highlights for the children is their weekly cooking sessions.

The children have learnt not only cooking techniques and skills, but how to work together to create some delicious



and tasty delights, ranging from cheese straws to meringues!

Birch Breakfast Club and Apple After School Club

In Creative Club at Apple After School Club the children transformed the paper mâché sculptures they made into some amazing landscapes which included deserts, forests and cities.



Inspired by the book of rhymes "Commotion in the Ocean", Book Club saw the children create jellyfish and octopus. These wonderful creatures started to appear all over school!

Weeting Primary School Expansion

I am pleased to announce that at the end of last term, the Committee of Little Saints Preschool and the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT) completed the transfer of Little Saints Preschool into Weeting Primary School.

From 1st September 2024 we are looking forward to the children, families and staff joining our Weeting family. The children will become part of Acorn Class, completing our family of tree names.

This merger goes a long way to ensuring that the village school remains in a sustainable position and provides us with a secure future, in which we are able to offer education to the youngest children in our village.

Year 6 Celebrations

It was a hugely emotional end of year for our Year 6 children and families as they celebrated the end of their time at Primary School. I know that they will all flourish as they move onto their next exciting adventures at High School.

Their families were treated to an amazing performance of "I'm An 11-Year-Old Get Me Out Of Here" on Thursday. The children took on 52 roles in total with many of them having 2 or more roles. They came together to act and sing and make us laugh and reflect on what it is like to be escaping primary school! A huge thank you to Ms Shaw and Miss Crawford who have led the rehearsals and scenery and prop making sessions, which led to such a professional performance.





School Report



Weeting Cup

The Weeting Cup is awarded to a Year 6 child who demonstrates each of our school values: creativity, friendship and perseverance. This year, Charlie Venning, was the recipient of this award. Staff commented on Charlie's perseverance in all his subjects, his caring of the younger children and the school environment, and his passion for all things



Leah Blake Memorial Award

Leah loved art and this award is presented to a child who shows an enthusiasm and passion for this subject. This year we were delighted to present Isaac Mowbray with this award. Isaac has shown throughout the year a great eye for detail in all his work and a love of learning about artists and their work, incorporating elements into his own pieces.



Trinity Partnership Sporting Events

Last term we launched our Trinity Partnership Sports competitions, organised by Mr Dissington. It was wonderful to welcome teams, and their families, from both Duchy of Lancaster and The Norman School to Weeting for a Dodgeball tournament and then visit The Norman School for a Football tournament. The action was fast paced and all teams were given lots of encouragement, not just by their own friends and families, but friends and families across our Partnership.



Steam Rally

What a fantastic end to the term with a whole school outing to the Steam Rally. It was a really spectacular site as all of us walked across to the Rally Field! The children had an extra special, VIP treat just for them. Mrs Stroud had organised a Meet and Greet event for the children to meet her group of heavy horses.



Keep Fit

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

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- ✓ 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.



The Friends of Weeting School had a busy couple of months leading up to the Summer holidays. It's always a hectic time for us but we managed to complete all planning and events successfully.

Back in May we purchased leavers hoodies for the year 6 children to take on their residential trip. A big thank you goes to Hyrum and Marcia at The Jolli Craft Shop who kindly donated their time to design, personalise and print all 16 hoodies. They were a big hit with the children!



In June we assigned a colour to each class and asked parents and children to donate an item of that colour to make rainbow hampers. In return the children were able to come to school dressed in that colour for a non-uniform day. Mrs Colberg kindly sold raffle tickets from the school office, raising £158 and the winners were drawn during the celebration assembly on Friday 28th June. Well done to Clair Shipp, Herbie Gould, Kerri Mann and Seb Sanderson.



We asked the year 6 children to vote for the leavers disco theme, with Tropical coming first .. Glow in the dark was a close second! The friends gathered together for a night of crafts and decoration prep. On the night of the disco we set up a VIP area complete with mocktails and a buffet for the leavers. They each received a personalised pass and a Lei on arrival.



Around the field we had a sweet shop and an ice cream station too which proved to be rather popular. Friends, parents, children and staff also had great fun in the selfie station!



Overall, it's been a fantastic year and I would like to say a big thank you to parents, staff and the children for all of your support. A special thanks also goes to the Friends for all they have done over the past 10 months. Without you all events like the above wouldn't be possible.

We will be looking for additional members to join the team from September and will be holding an AGM on Thursday 12th September 2024 after school. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see lots of you there.

Nicci Dyer

Chair of The Friends of Weeting School



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!



Norfolk Day

You may have noticed a different flag flying on Parrot's Piece for a few days in July. In case you wondered what it signified, it is the official flag for the County of Norfolk and it was hoisted in order to mark **Norfolk Day**.



Norfolk Day takes place on the 27th of July. Celebrated annually, this day is dedicated to celebrating all things Norfolk, showcasing the rich history, culture, and natural beauty of this unique county in England. It's an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to come together and appreciate what makes Norfolk special, from its picturesque landscapes to its vibrant communities.

The celebration first started in 2018, initiated by local media and supported by residents and businesses across the county. The day is filled with events and activities that highlight Norfolk's heritage, including fairs, exhibitions, community gatherings, and local food and drink tastings. It's a time to celebrate the county's contributions to agriculture, arts, and tourism, as well as its historic landmarks such as Norwich Cathedral, the Norfolk Broads, and Sandringham House.

The focus is also on promoting local businesses and encouraging people to support their community. From exploring charming market towns to enjoying the stunning coastline, Norfolk Day offers something for everyone. This day serves as a reminder of the pride and love that the people of Norfolk have for their county, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

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 or 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:

- 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

Art For Pleasure

We have had an exciting couple of months, firstly sketching and painting a project from the Leisure Painter magazine and then preparing for our art exhibition in Weeting village hall. The exhibition was held on the Saturday of the steam engine rally; there were many amazing paintings on show which were well appreciated by the visitors attending.



Just for fun, one of our members demonstrated "painting on pebbles". In preparation we first spent a few weeks looking for suitable "pebbles". Those of us visiting the beach were spoilt for choice. As you can see from the above photo the results were varied and interesting.

The project for August was to bring an object from home and draw it, then paint it in an abstract design using a media of your choice.

If you have always wanted to try your hand at drawing or painting, we meet every Thursday morning at Weeting Village Hall 10 am to 12.30 pm. The cost is £3 a session, which includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

New members are always welcome, first session is free of charge. 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: 01842 828750



Well, the Garden Party went well, the weather was glorious and my next-door neighbours kindly loaned and more importantly erected two large gazebos that were a god send in the sun.

Being virtual, there are little opportunities for meeting together in person – Zoom and all that. Last week I indulged in armchair Yoga online, but I digress. Although some of our members are house-bound or do not live in Norfolk, we opened it to the traditional WI's and had over thirty people here.

The second half of the year will see the Virtual Festival Weekend full of different sessions and run by the East York Roses and Cheshire Cypercats ... I believe I am reciting limericks! As the year hurtles by, we should be hearing of a Regal Journey and about the mystery of the bones under the carpark.

We "meet" on the fourth evening of the month at 7.30 pm and also have regular "tea" and gossip sessions in the afternoon with Hazel.

For further information or to book your free taster session please contact Hazel at virtuallynorfolkwi@gmail.com

Ann Morgan



W.A.S.P.'s



Hi everybody, I don't know about you, but I must admit I think the minutes are getting shorter! Here we are again in September, and it seems I was writing the newsletter for the June edition only last week.

Well, the WASPs have had a very busy time through the Spring and Summer and are already getting together for our Christmas show. What did we get up to? Well, we rehearsed through the early Spring months for our Summer Show called "Murder at the Grange", which was a follow on from last year's "Murder at the Manor". Then in May it was suggested that we put on a special show to celebrate D-DAY on the June 6th, but as our show was scheduled for the same week, we changed that to the first week of July instead.

The D-DAY show was held on Saturday June 8th and it was received by a large audience with great applause. Everyone who appeared in it enjoyed it immensely - so much so that we have decided to put on a similar show next May to celebrate VE day. We were joined in the D-DAY show by a group from Brandon's HAPPY TO SING Choir and we hope that they will be with us again in our next show. All the old favourite war songs were sung and the audience had their ration book song sheets so that they could join in as well.



Costumes included the Andrew Sisters, Army, Navy and Air Force uniforms as well as Nurses, Land Army, and ladies in their lovely wrap around pinnies and head scarves. A great afternoon enjoyed by all who came.



Then on the first week of July we held our Murder Mystery and again all who came had a thoroughly good time. If you missed it, it was a fun show with our two resident Policemen, PC World and PC Plodd, causing havoc as usual. Again, nobody guessed who had "done it" and the Pink Panther enjoyed running through the audience.



However, I did get a smacked wrist because I did not check the dates and on the that same day in July there was: Motor Racing, Tour de France, Tennis at Wimbledon and of course the World Football Event, so we lost a few of our regulars!

Our next event is our Autumn Quiz Night and this will be held in the village hall on Saturday September 28th. Cost £7 per person, six to a team and bring your own plates etc. as this includes food at half time as well as a raffle. Please contact me as soon as possible as we do normally have a full house.

Our Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Saturday November 23rd with, as usual, lots of lovely items made by our talented neighbours, so do not forget to come and get that extra special card or gift.



If you fancy joining the WASPs, which stands for WEETING ALL STAR PERFORMERS, then contact me and the telephone number below and use that to book your Quiz team as well.

Carole – 01842 550919



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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

West Norfolk Aviation Society - July 2024



Once again the club found itself devoid of a scheduled speaker but, thanks to RAF Marham and another of its one-time protégés, the 'show went on' thanks to the resourcefulness of our Chairman, Chris Halliday, ex- armourer, and now, accomplished raconteur, humourist and modeller. He again proved that 'home-cooking' can sometimes surpass the performances of the professional caterers of comedy and stage craft. Not only did his job require that he equip aeroplanes with bombs and bullets but he also provided their crews with survival equipment, in the form of: rapid egress for Americans and fast escape systems for the British; commonly known as ejector seats. Chris was cautious to mention that whilst his delivery was aimed at fact, anecdotal influences were introduced to add flavour to the moment; the aeronauts in attendance added more to this effect. One time member of our esteemed crew, Chuck Pettit of Crown Road, Mundford, now deceased, flew Mirages and Phantoms in the Middle East and survived a skirmish thanks to, the now famous Martin-Baker ejection system. He proudly displayed the certificate he was awarded on his office wall.



Equally proud was Chris who accompanied his presentation with a home-grown simulator; Mr Martin and Mr Baker would have been impressed by this Flintstone-Robinson creation. Comprising mainly of wood, string, elastic, cloth and toilet roll tubes all of which cross represented seating, leg straps, bungee cord, upholstery and rocket motors; not forgetting the sheepskin posterior comforter. Flippancy aside, Chris did display a few genuine trophies from his past, like: explosive canopy release mechanisms, anti-guillotine sensors, and barometric control sensors to prevent pilots from exploding should they try to exit at the wrong moment. Flippancy returning, Chris further demonstrated the simulation of an ejection using a puppet on a string. The picture shows the drogue, the chute, the seat and the pilot together being deployed above his head.

On the subject of catering we once again thank honorary stewards of the Mundford Bowls Club, Val and Len, for looking after us so well.

Find out more at: www.westnorfolkaviationsociety.org.uk
Nigel Tooth

Editor's Note:

The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published in December 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 15th November 2024**.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Weeting Bowls Club

In this, our jubilee year at the bowls club, we have played hard and partied hard. Back in May we hosted a long weekend of celebrations including a barbecue, karaoke, and live music by Marc Jacobs, culminating in a whole day of bowls on the May bank holiday. Competing for a prize pot of £60, ten teams entered from rival clubs. Playing on a much-improved green, we were proud to host such a convivial and friendly competition. Participants were very complimentary, and we went on to play many of them again in our league matches, which take place twice a week throughout the season.



Club competitions have been progressing well. With 108 singles matches and 30 pairs games to play over the summer our bowlers have been kept busy. We are now looking forward to our presentation evening later in September when the club championship winners and numerous other awards will be presented.

By the end of September, we expect to complete the installation of the new kitchen which has now been purchased and is being held until work can commence.

As the bowling season draws to a close the social committee are delighted to offer regular social events, to which all are welcome.



Karaoke with Jerry takes place from 8.00pm on the first Saturday of every month.

Upcoming live music events featuring -

Steve Lee vocalist – Saturday 31st August 8.00pm

Blue Thunder –Saturday 21st September 9.00pm

Karen Bell – Friday 18th October 8.00pm



Themed nights are also very popular

Country & Western night -
Saturday 28th September 8.00pm



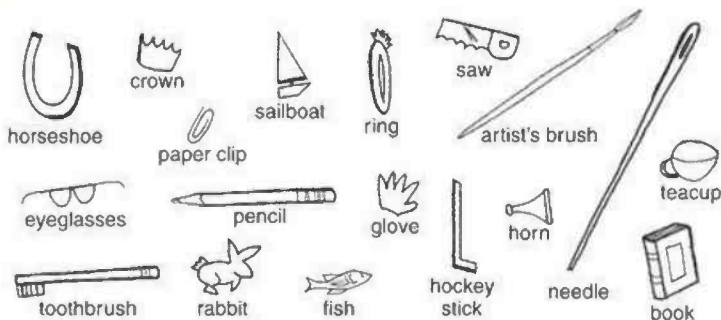
Bingo and Meat Raffle on Sunday 15th September 8.00pm

Mrs J Nordan (Bowls captain)

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!

Picture Puzzle



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

5th September 2024

3rd October 2024

31st October 2024

28th November 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

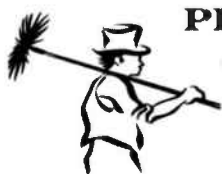
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Lawns & Hedges

Ron Bloomfield
14 Glebe Road, Weeting
Tel: 01842 812173



GEORGE'S Fish Bar

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

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
2024						
4 th May	1 st June	South Park (S)	115304	30	99009	16259
1 st June	29 th June	Peppers Close (E)	5825	30	4835	990
29 th June	27 th July	Park View (E)	39151	30	33465	5686

Quarterly Summary

Total Vehicle Count from 10 th February to 27 th July	160280
Vehicle Count within the speed limit	137309
Speeding Violations within the village	22935
Violators as a percentage of the total vehicle count	14.3%

?? 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
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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
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Member of Parliament

Mr Terry Jermy House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk
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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 3rd Thursday 10:30 - 3:30pm
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 – 1952 - 1953

The opening meeting for 1952 saw the precept increased by £5 per year, the village having little chance of allocation in the current building programme, with three families on the waiting list. Power was being connected to the new council houses and the matter of unsightly buildings being built there was being raised with the Sanitary Inspector! (*the mind boggles*).

Food parcels from Canada arrived in the village by April and were for deserving cases of Old Age Pensioners. Council elections were set for the 9th of May and a review took place of the last three years' improvements including the new bus service (*and I quote*) "even if the villagers don't make use of it".

The Annual Meeting in May saw councillors sworn in with Mr Knight re-elected Chairman. Flush lavatories for the council houses were discussed as was whether rates and rent were adjusted to compensate for their lack. (*Interestingly*) A request to increase the refuse collection from the current SIX weekly interval to monthly was to be raised with the Rural District Council (RDC) and it was suggested there would be an additional six council houses built.

By August it was agreed that the land behind the Swedish houses contained septic tanks so was unsuitable for the children's playground, no change could be made in the refuse collection dates, and Norfolk County Council said they had no money to tidy up the verges. The annual precept was agreed at £20.00. The (*thorny*) question of providing flush toilets for the pre-war council houses was again raised and in the November meeting which *appeared to have a sewerage bias*. It was questioned whether the cesspools at the Ministry of Works houses could be emptied by the RDC as the Office of Works were no longer prepared to do so. *A direct quote from published minutes* – "In reply to Mr Kent regarding the letting of huts to Poles, the chairman stated that Mr Newell and himself were representatives of the Rural District Council and could recommend a tenant and that English people had first consideration" and it was agreed that the council would meet in committee to discuss allocation of new council housing. After considerable discussion apparently, Messrs. Gedge, Goss, Grass, Kent, Newell and Trevarton were agreed upon with Mr Hovell as reserve – *No ladies I note*.

This was the year that George VI had died.

By 1953 the question of the flush toilets was still not resolved, nor who emptied the cesspools but £4.12.6d had been collected for the King George VI Memorial Fund. The local Red Cross Branch were congratulated on their flood relief actions (*1953 East Coast Severe Floods*).

Coronation Celebrations were discussed as was the condition of the roadway called The Chase but the unsightly condition of the Pit that had been used as an unofficial refuse dump (*could be something to do with six weekly collections*) was of concern and would be brought to the Sanitary Inspector's attention.

By May '53, Mr Malt, the Clerk, appears to have lost his typewriter and we have 18 closely handwritten pages of minutes which are challenging. However, it was confirmed that the RDC would be taking over the management of Weeting Park and most of the houses in the village, with plans for laying on water and power to a majority of the houses and providing a children's playground. It was agreed that increases in rent could be introduced to cover the costs.

July saw the question of the Chase again raised and it was confirmed that this had been held up by the illness of the Surveyor. Complaints were made about the state of the roads and paths which had been due to the retirement of the regular roadman. The delays at the level crossing were further discussed and an application for the extension of the speed limit from the Railway Hotel to the Catholic Church on Weeting Road and Mr Beckham's garage on the Mundford Road. (*Is this Brandon Auto Electrics?*)

By November 1953 the RDC had advised they were unable to replace the regular roadman to work in the village but outside roadmen would increase their presence. The Chairman reported the village could expect more houses in Weeting in the next housing programme – 6 x 3 bedroomed houses and 4 x 2 bedroomed bungalows, the latter for "old people" or those married without family. Completion was in sight for purchasing part of the Park for private enterprise housing. Plans were also in place to purchase the existing sewage works which should cater for the whole of the Village and the RDC were negotiating with Mr Parrott for the site.

Ann E Morgan

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 it's 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.

Strange As It May Seem -

The following are all anagrams:

DORMITORY
PRESBYTERIAN
ASTRONOMER
DESPERATION
THE EYES
THE MORSE CODE
SLOT MACHINES
ELECTION RESULTS
SNOOZE ALARMS
A DECIMAL POINT
THE EARTHQUAKES
ELEVEN PLUS TWO
ANIMOSITY
MOTHER-IN-LAW

DIRTY ROOM
BEST IN PRAYER
MOON STARER
A ROPE ENDS IT
THEY SEE
HERE COME DOTS
CASH LOST IN ME
LIES – LETS RECOUNT
ALAS! NO MORE Z'S
I'M A DOT IN PLACE
THAT QUEER SHAKE
TWELVE PLUS ONE
IS NO AMITY
WOMAN HITLER

Autumn Gardening

I'm hoping that Autumn is an 'Indian summer' to help ripen off the summer harvests and to be able enjoy some time outside!

If you want your garden to look good in spring, then all the preparation is done in the autumn. The first thing to do is plant spring flowering bulbs. Spring bulbs can provide colour from January right through to June! Most bulbs are best planted in September whilst the soil is warm, but tulips can be planted right into December if the ground isn't frozen.

When planting in borders or large raised beds aim to plant in groups or at least 6 bulbs. Typically 25 – 50 bulbs are needed to make an impression.

- Dig a hole wide and deep enough for your bulbs. Plant most bulbs at two to three times their depth. For example, for a bulb measuring 5cm (2in) high, dig a hole 10-15cm (4-6in) deep and sit the bulb in the bottom of it
- Place the bulbs in the hole with their 'nose', or shoot, facing upwards. Space them at least twice the bulb's own width apart
- Replace the soil and gently firm with the back of a rake. Avoid treading on the soil as this can damage the bulbs
- If the ground is moist watering is not critical. Otherwise, water straight after planting.

Planting in pots you can pack the bulbs in, creating layers which the Dutch call "Lasagna planting". Start with your largest bulbs, usually tulips, at the bottom of the pot, add a layer of compost, followed by Daffodil bulbs, then your top layer will be small bulbs such as crocus. This gives you a much longer show of colour than just having a single type of bulb in a pot.

Both traditional lawns and those that are more wildlife friendly will benefit from some extra care and attention in early autumn to get them into good shape for next year. Start by scarifying, (raking) the lawn to remove thatch (old grass clippings, moss and other debris) from the soil surface. Work in one direction, then the other. Your lawn may look a bit patchy and rough afterwards, but don't worry, it will soon recover and in the longer term will look and grow better as a result. Add the thatch to your compost heap. Next task is Aerating (or spiking), this improves the movement of air and water among the grass roots, helping the lawn to withstand periods of drought or waterlogging. The simplest way is to spike with a garden fork, going down as deep as you can and wiggling the fork to widen the holes. Then you'll need to top dress to fill the holes, a mixture of three parts topsoil to six parts sand spread across the grass and brushed in. Finally apply an autumn lawn fertiliser. Autumn lawn feed encourages root growth through winter, rather than leafy growth. Apply following the manufacturers instructions and water in if it doesn't rain. Autumn is also a good time to convert a lawn, or part of it, into a wildflower meadow, by sowing seeds and adding plug plants and bulbs. There's no need to feed a lawn where you're encouraging more wild plants to grow. Autumn lawn care is physically hard work so you might want to use mechanical methods on large lawns!

Other Top tips for Autumn:

- Clip conifer hedges. If you leave this too late any new growth will be damaged by frost.
- Sow seeds of mizuna, mustard, rocket and winter hardy lettuce.
- Plant evergreen shrubs whilst the soil is still warm.
- Plant winter flowering pansies & violas in tubs & baskets.

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc (Hons)

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WEETING VILLAGE HALL

Well, hello again. Where has this year gone? It's gone so fast I can't believe we are in September now. Hope you have all had a good year so far – was going to say summer, but I think we all blinked and missed it !!!

Quite a few of the clubs have been on holiday since the end of June and due back in September, always a quiet time for the hall which puts a strain on our finances, especially after all the expense we have had to fork out since the beginning of the year – Fire Alarm system, new glass in the door leading to the stage thanks to some youths throwing stones at it, also had to have one of the high windows repaired as the winder to open and close it had got broken somehow.

We are now going to have more CCTV cameras installed in and around the hall covering all sides of the hall, both car parks and the football premises – hopefully this will help cut back on some of the vandalism that has been occurring – we cannot keep fixing and repairing all the damage these people cause.

In the meantime, do look out for the posters that the various groups put out advertising events that they are putting on here in the hall – we do have two quizzes coming up, one at the end of September and one in October. At the end of November there will be another Craft Fayre and of course the WASPS will be doing their Christmas Show in December.

Also, we are always open to welcoming new clubs/groups to the hall. We do have various time slots available, for example. Monday afternoons, Tuesday daytime, Thursday afternoon – so if anyone has any bright ideas that can fill these days on a regular basis please let us know – speak to Angie Page in the first instance as she is the Lettings Officer and always has her diary with her. (01842 814147)

So take care in the meantime, keep safe and well and hope to see you all at one of our events soon

Karen Scott - Treasurer

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.

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

John Harris

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Fly Tipping versus Litter Picking

Are you aware that fly tipping is an offence and you can be heavily fined as a result?

It is not uncommon to find bags of rubbish left near the bottle banks or dumped on the roadside. On just one day in mid-August there were 4 green sacks of garden rubbish left on the corner of Peppers High Hill as well as a suitcase and bag of assorted items wedged between the bottle and clothing banks. Rather than leave bags and boxes around, please dispose of them in your own waste bins for collection as usual, or take them to a local recycling centre, such as the one in Thetford, but remember that this will be closed on Wednesdays from now on. If you have large items, such as furniture, fridges, washing machines etc., please contact Breckland District Council as they have a collection scheme for these. Whatever you do, always check the credentials of anyone offering to dispose of items for you. If they are not registered collectors, they are likely to not only charge you, but also fly tip your rubbish. If this rubbish is subsequently traced back to you then you will be heavily fined as well.



The chutes on the clothing banks will only function if bags of items are small enough to fit into them. Forcing a large bin sack into them only jams it and then no one else can deposit anything, so please use smaller bags. The clothing and bottle banks are emptied regularly and the weights of the collections are added up annually. This is converted into a financial return awarded to the Parish every year and we can put it towards the many projects on our 'To-Do' list, such as play equipment, new pathways, as well as general maintenance and repairs.

Litter picking is very laudable if residents want to try to help to keep the village looking clean and tidy, but disposal of these pickings must be done correctly. The last thing the Parish Council want to do is to stop would-be Wombles, but we do have Hi-Vis vests, pickers, bag hoops and, importantly, the proper bags provided by Breckland District Council that you can use and we can explain how, when and where to place them for collection. We have one regular Womble who can be seen most days out running with his green Breckland bag in hand and he is officially acknowledged by Serco who collect it. Please contact any of the councillors listed on page 9 if you would like to arrange your own Wombling session.



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Come and join us at Brandon Day Centre

We currently have spaces and look forward to welcoming new customers.

If you, or someone you know is feeling isolated and would like to have fun and make new friends, or you are a family carer looking for some much-needed respite from looking after a loved one, Brandon Day Centre might be the perfect solution.

To find out more about Brandon Day Centre and the services we offer, why not get in touch.

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 Brandon Day Centre
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Rector's Report

I hope you are all relieved to be enjoying some sunshine during these school holidays after the dismal start to summer that we had. Though there have been some uncomfortable days/nights, I do hope that many of you had the opportunity to visit the coast and enjoy the decent weather if you were having a 'staycation'. It won't be long now before the new school year resumes and I'll be looking forward to spending time with the children and staff in classroom activities as well as in Collective Worship. I'll be excited to welcome the school and families back to the church during the new term, not only in the run up to Christmas but at other times as well.

Church update:

The **porch ceiling** has been repaired and we're about to have the walls limewashed which will brighten up that space and make it more welcoming. That work should be finished within the next month.

Last month we had a visit from Geoffrey Hunter the Head of the Diocesan Advisory Committee in charge of repairs and updates to church buildings and Holly Robinson who is the Advisor for Heritage buildings in the Diocese. It was a really helpful meeting with some sound advice re how best to pace and fund the restoration work advised by Historic England as well as looking at the important features and fittings in the church and how best to preserve them. They also looked carefully at the space with a view to possible installation of a loo and small kitchen area as part of future planning. They also suggested that we consider working with English Heritage to 'twin' the church and castle ruins and having a history display in the church along with a loo that could be accessed by visitors to the castle. This may open different funding opportunities for the future.

The PCC have decided that we need to proceed with having the advised work on the drainage system completed as soon as possible. I'm hoping that some grant money will be available to cover at least some of the cost of this work as soon as the Diocese gives us Faculty permission to proceed. This will resolve the current damp issues and arrest further damage due to damp.

Steam Rally:

The PCC and other parish volunteers really enjoyed the opportunity to support the Hub at this year's Steam Rally.

Up-coming events

The PCC has booked the village hall for two fundraising events this Autumn which we hope will be well supported by the village.

5th October: "Harvest" themed Barn Dance, Weeting Village Hall.

16th November: Quiz Night with great food and a bumper raffle, Weeting Village Hall.

Please keep an eye on **social media** and **posters** around the village giving details of both these events and do support us. The Quiz has always been enjoyed by both villagers and people from surrounding villages. There is the added bonus of a plentiful choice of a warming supper and mouthwatering deserts.

Christmas:

This Advent the PCC has decided to launch a **Christmas Tree Festival** in St Mary's. Village organisations and individuals are invited to decorate a Christmas Tree in the Church and there will be a competition for the best decorated tree in adult and child categories. Given our attention during the recent Olympics on all the countries of the world that were competing, this year's 'theme' will be "Countries of the World". Choose a country and decorate your tree with as much imagination as you can: flags, national costumes, foods, festivals, animals, sports etc. In addition to the displays of the trees there will be a raffle, crafts, tombola and Father Christmas will arrive both days. Hopefully the line dancers and handbell ringers may come and perform. This will be held on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December, times to be advised and will conclude with a Carol Service on the Sunday evening. It is so exciting to be able to host this event in Church once more. The Angel Festival back in 2021 was a great success and we're hoping that this Christmas Tree festival may become an annual village event to be enjoyed by everyone. Do start thinking about your trees – the PCC will be contacting village organisations, the shops, school, pub etc very soon to let you know more details. Individuals are also more than welcome to decorate a tree and enter the competition.

I hope that the start of the new school year will go smoothly and we can enjoy the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' in the lead up to Christmas. It will be great once more to celebrate Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday in the Church and I look forward to seeing many of you for the various seasonal services and events in the lead up to Christmas.

Every blessing,

Rev'd Canon Joan Horan - Rector



Holiday in Southern Ireland

John Holledge

In June 1971, my friend, Paddy McLoughlin, suggested that we should take a holiday in Ireland in horse drawn caravans. We thought this was a good idea, so we asked family members if they would like to join us and they said they would love to come.

There were 11 of us altogether; myself, my wife, Patricia White, Carol White, Sylvia White, Linda Torka, Paddy, John Brooks, David Palmer and my two children, Elizabeth and Nicholas. First, we had to find a vehicle suitable to take us there. David's brother, Tony, had an old Commer 12-seater minibus, but it was in a poor state of repair. Tony said if I could get it running and give it a coat of paint, we could use it free of charge. We went to St Neots, got it going and drove it back to mine, did all the repairs and painting and got it running very well.

It was agreed that the four men would take it in turns to do the driving – ha ha! On the day, I did all the driving, first to Anglesey and then from Dublin to Cork – all the way except for the wet bit in the middle! The next day we arrived in Blarney at the home of Joe O'Reilly's horse drawn caravans. We found our



caravans, were shown how to care for the horses, how to harness them to the vans and were supposed to be given half an hour of tuition – ha ha again! The nice man asked who was going to drive and there was a deadly silence. "You will do" he said, looking at me. "Jump up on the driving seat" which I did. He said, "pull to the left to go left and to the right to go right, pull back on the reins to go back and shout 'Whoa' to stop," and with that he took off his hat, slapped the horse on his bottom and shouted, "have a happy holiday sir!" The huge cart horse was called Jeff and the other horse pulling the second caravan behind me was called Socks. I released the handbrake and we were off! Jeff charged through the gate and down the road at great speed, with me trying to slow him down with "whoa, whoa Jeff", but no deal. He kept up this speed for over a mile before slowing down with Socks and the other caravan close behind. Each leg of the journey was about 15 miles, so they had to slow to a fast walk, which was much better for all concerned.

That evening, we pulled into this field where a man opened the gate for us and showed us where to park and unharness the horses before he led them to a field just behind the park. We all had something to eat and then off to the pub (children included) where there was an accordion band playing, plenty of Guinness and we were told the 'Little People' would be in soon. We thought this was a joke, but, sure enough, this family of midgets (*i.e. person of small stature*) came in and really brightened up the place with their singing and piano playing. Eventually, we went back to our vans, ladies in one and men in the other and that was our first night in Ireland.

The next day, catching the horses was an experience. They did not want to be harnessed up, but they did want their breakfast, so a little craftiness was needed to get them, but it worked. We had our breakfast and set off again and walked nearly all the way with the girls making sandwiches for our lunches. Everywhere we stayed we were met with kindness - Macroom, Bandon, Garratstown, Dublin, Kinsail, Blarney, (no, we did **not** kiss the Blarney stone – too dangerous), Inchageela and Ballingearry. The roads were very quiet and other tourists did not realise we were on holiday too, frequently asking if they could take pictures of us, thinking we were tinkers.

One day, Jeff was not very well, so we walked him very slowly and the others got worried because we had fallen behind. They got set up and waited in a farmer's field. We were going up this steep hill to the farm when down the hill came Paddy on a bike with only one pedal and no brakes! He ended up in the hedge as it was the only way he could stop! That night we walked across fields to a pub, had a few drinks before starting to walk back, when a car stopped and gave us a lift. It turned out to be the farmer that owned all the land around us and his family had been fishing, so when we got back to the caravan, we all cooked fish on the barbeque.

Another day, when the girls went shopping, they saw a lovely big chicken and the shopkeeper asked them if they wanted to buy it. They would have loved to but said they had no way of cooking it, so the lady said, "if you come back at six o'clock I will have it cooked for you." They did and bought chips on the way back to the caravans – lovely with fresh baked Irish bread. Most of the roads were lined with huge Fushia bushes – it was fantastic.

We named our house Inchageela because the lady whose park we stayed in there took our son's clothes into her house as he was a baby and she said they needed to be washed and rinsed well. Such lovely people. We went horse riding and walked for miles and it only rained once in 15 days. If the horses stopped, you knew it was because they wanted a drink, but as we had not had any experience with horses before, we did OK. Lovely holiday, beautiful memories – I would recommend it to anyone.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Well, it's been a busy couple of months since our last report and we've enjoyed a number of



sporting compact and 50 all-round shoots at the club as well as our Weeting Pre-School cup where our income from the shoot is donated to the school. We had a lovely response from the children as a result.



We are a really friendly little club with the emphasis on enjoyment for all and this is highlighted from the very successful Weeting Steam Rally air rifle range set up that we hold each year.

We had a fantastic 3 days at the rally



with over 500 people coming along and trying their hand on the air rifles. There were some very impressive scores and our two High Gun winners on the Saturday and Sunday shot brilliantly.



We also had the pleasure of entertaining our rally raffle winners on Sunday 4th August at the club where they enjoyed a family day shooting various disciplines. Both winners had a great afternoon's sport and again shot well given they



were new to clay pigeon shooting.

Well, that's our update for now although keep an eye out on our Facebook Page as we are busily looking into setting up an air rifle range at the club as well very soon. We'll publish the details just as soon as we can, but in the meantime will continue with our clay pigeon schedule for the rest of the year.

WGC Committee

New Swings in the Park

The Parish Council have recently replaced the children's swings on the Jubilee Field as the old wooden ones were becoming worn out with broken chains and a wobbly frame.



The new set are metal framed and should last at least 70 years. They comprise two standard seats and another for children with disability issues in order to enable them to join in the fun and sensation of swinging to and fro.

Although all the play equipment is checked annually by ROSPA and, more frequently, by members of the Parish Council, if anyone notices a problem, please report it quickly to the Parish Clerk (see Who's Who on page 9)

BRECKLAND CATS PROTECTION

Did you know that cats and dogs can be blood donors to other cats and dogs? For cats the criteria to be a blood donor is that the cat must be between 1 year and 8 years old and



weigh at least 4kg. They should preferably be in indoor cat, otherwise they must be Feline Leukaemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus negative and up to date with their vaccines and flea and worm treatment. They must never have been outside the UK and not be on any medication. They must be of good temperament and easy to handle. They will undergo health checks for heart murmurs and haematology and biochemistry blood samples will be taken for analysis to make sure they are completely healthy.

In cats there are 3 different blood groups – A, B and AB. Most domestic cats are group A, along with all Siamese cats. Pedigree cats are predominately group B.

To take the blood, the cat will be sedated and the blood will be taken from a vein in the neck. About 55ml of blood is taken, and then exactly the same amount of electrolyte solution will be administered to the cat, to protect its blood pressure.

For dogs the same criteria as for cats apply for them to become blood donors. 1 – 8 years old, weigh more than 25kg, be up to date with their vaccinations and flea and worm treatment, not be on any medication and never to have been outside the UK.

There are 2 blood groups in dogs - DEA1 Negative and DEA 1 Positive. 30% of dogs are negative so they are the universal donor as negative blood can be given to positive dogs, but not the other way round. Large dog breeds are used, especially Greyhounds. Other breeds used are Dobermans, Boxers, German Shepherds, Retrievers, Airdale Terriers, Weimaraners, Lurchers, American Bulldogs, Pointers and English Bull Terriers.

The reason a cat or dog may need a transfusion are numerous. Some of the more common needs for a transfusion are, anaemia, ruptured spleen, surgery when there is a large blood loss, rat poisoning, as this causes internal bleeding, trauma, such as road traffic accidents, sepsis, cancer, kidney disease, infections and auto immune problems. The red cells of blood cannot be stored for longer than 35 days, and then in a temperature-controlled fridge. However, the plasma part of the blood can be taken off and stored in a deep freeze for up to a year. The plasma contains all the clotting factors and is used for animals who have a problem with their blood clotting. There are few transfusion centres in the UK for animals, so most vets keep a list of dog or cat donors and call on them when there is an emergency. As in humans, dogs and cats can give blood every 3-4 months. If you would consider your dog or cat to be a blood donor, speak to your vet.

For advice or information, or if you require help with the cost of neutering, please call us on 01842 810018,

Rita Thompson.

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